# Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Report 2021/22

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 April 2021-March 2022.

## 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:** 6855.57 (31st March 2022)

**1d. Metrics used by the body:** *Drop down options are not relevant, so nothing noted.*

**1e. Overall budget of the body (£):** 478,350,000 These are net figures.

**1f. Specify the report year type:** Financial (1st of April 2021 to 31st of March 2022)

**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.
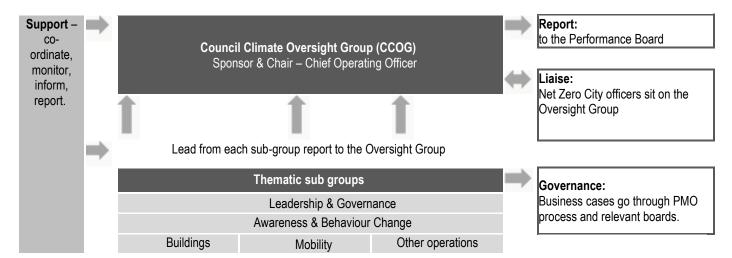
## SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

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

The Council structure comprises of:

- Resources
- Customer
- Operations
- Commissioning
- Within each Function are Clusters, all Functions have a part to play in considering climate change through their decision making and operations in line with corporate policy and risk management. Plans, policies and strategies and their progress during this reporting period were reported to the Committee structure, predominantly Council, City Growth and Resources and Operational Delivery and signed off by a Senior Manager of the Council, as required. A relevant committee also receives the statutory Climate Change Report.

**Council**

Oversight, monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the **Council Climate Change Plan (CCCP) 2021-2025** have been established. An Oversight Group led by the Chief Operating Officer 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, and from the Net Zero (City) Delivery Unit. In addition, it includes the theme leads for the 5 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 which were approved in February 2022.

The Routemap direction was driven by a Net Zero Leadership Board, chaired by the Council with membership of various external organisations.

The Delivery Unit co-created the 6 enabling strategies. These cover the priority themes, and a different organisation led the development of each one.

Following approval of place-based climate plans and to support implementation, a review of city governance for mitigation and adaptation is taking place. This is to meet the committee decision, 28 February 2022: Instructs the Chief Officers - Governance and Strategic Place Planning to work with the members of Aberdeen's Net Zero Leadership Board, Delivery Unit, the Local Resilience Partnership and other groups as appropriate to develop city climate change governance structure/s appropriate for meeting the aims of the Route-Map and Aberdeen Adapts Framework, and report back to a future Council meeting, no later than the next annual update on the Routemap and Adaptation Framework.

**City – Community Planning Partners**

The Aberdeen Community Planning Partners have oversight and delivery of the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The Sustainable City Group sits under the governance for the plan and 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.

- **Performance Board** – Following approval of the CCCP in March 2021, progress reports for the CCCP are monitored by a dashboard and shared with the Council's Performance Board.
- **Risk Board** – during this reporting period the risks register included:
  - o '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.
  - o 'Place' – the 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 those for climate, takes place every 6 months.

- **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.

**Internal Audit**
A Council internal audit on climate change was completed in this period and the findings reported to Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee in June 2021. The audit was to provide assurance the Council is taking appropriate measures to comply with statutory requirements on climate change.

**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 corporate climate risk register, service plans, business cases and development management consultations.
- The 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 now incorporated into the committee reporting template and the accompanying Report Authors guidance document has been strengthened. This was approved in the reporting period to be implemented in April 2022. Authors are now required to identify and state any positive or negative impacts on the environment arising from the report. For example, outline impacts on carbon emissions, waste, water, natural environment, air quality and adaptation, which could affect the Council's net zero targets and biodiversity commitments.
- 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.
- Carbon Literacy Training was introduced to Elected Members and Senior Managers and covered mitigation and adaptation. The programme of training is set to continue in the next reporting period.
- Emissions management (Council) and wider sustainability work across the council is reported annually through the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI).

**Other**
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 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. They also are obliged to comply with the corporate Buildings Performance Policy. This work is done on an ongoing basis. The Energy Management Team is responsible for overseeing collation of energy consumption data.

- Internal waste is managed by many 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. The IT Helpdesk and Transformation Team, 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) is reviewed on a cycle and is reported to the Full Council.
- The Flooding and Coastal Management Team have responsibilities in assessing flood risk and flood risk management schemes. The teamwork 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** | The Council's Commissioning Intentions are aligned to the stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Council's strategy framework. Changes to the intentions for 2021/22 reflect a strengthened alignment of the intentions to support the Council's priorities of Energy Transition and Net Zero carbon emissions. Through the 2021/22 planning process, each of the proposed intentions were reviewed to ensure that every opportunity was identified for the commissioned services to support these Energy Transition and Net Zero priorities. A number of additions and revisions have been made on that basis. Overall, this assessment shows that 52 intentions are identified as having a positive benefit (directly or indirectly); 38 have a neutral impact; and no intentions identified as having a negative impact. |
| **Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-2026** | One of the 15 stretch outcomes for the plan is addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. A refresh of the LOIP was approved in July 2021 and includes an update on emission targets. |

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

**City**
**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.

In February 2022 Council Committee approved The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap to set out a pathway towards Aberdeen becoming net zero by 2045. It is a collaborative piece driven by the Net Zero Leadership Board, 6 high level net zero enabling strategies were approved at the same time covering:

- Mobility
- Buildings & Heat
- Circular Economy

- Energy Supply
- Natural Environment
- Empowerment

**Adaptation**
- **Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework** was refreshed and approved in February 2022 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 **Council Energy and Climate Routemap** was approved at Urgent Business Committee in May 2020. The Routemap outlined work towards producing a new climate change plan (highlighted below) with a refreshed focus on the Council's climate change intentions for Council operations and infrastructure.
- 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. It covers 5 main themes:
  - **Buildings** - reducing energy demand, transitioning to renewable energy and low carbon technology, increasing resilience of Council buildings and improving standards.
  - **Mobility** – transition to zero emission fleet, with an expanded EV charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure. Reducing emissions from staff travel. Considerations of climate adaptation for transport infrastructure.
  - **Other Operations** - upgraded streetlighting, increase in nature-based solutions, a reduction in waste generated from Council buildings and operations, a reduced carbon footprint from our catering.
  - **Leadership and Governance** – improved data and climate risk management, incorporating climate change into Council practices and decision-making processes, strategic resource allocation.
  - **Awareness and Behaviour Change** - staff are aware of the Council's climate action and commitments, increasing staff understanding on climate change; and where necessary, upskilling to support actions.

**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 5) | 2018-2023 | Outlines housing strategy approach and includes the strategic outcome: Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets. |
| Energy efficiency | **Property Asset Management Framework** | | Includes the objective: Assets will be environmentally and economically sustainable. With indicators for reduction of carbon emissions; reduction in energy consumption per year; total cost of core property costs; number of oil based heating systems – target of zero; maintain water consumption at 2010/11 levels; number of operational buildings connected to district heating |

| Energy efficiency | **Property Asset Management Policy** | | Key principles include: reducing carbon emissions from our properties. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Other | **Condition and Suitability Programme** | 21/22-23/24 | 3-year programme for the condition and suitability works on the Council's non-housing property portfolio. Around 35% 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** | Phase 1 - for 2021/22 | 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** (only available via the intranet) | 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) | | Discusses 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** (LDP) | Adopted January 2017 | 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 Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2020) and Delivery Programme was approved by Full Council March 2020 |
| Land use | **City Centre Masterplan** (Executive summary, page 9) | | 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 | **Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan** | 2020-2040 | Includes the aim - take on the urgent challenges of climate change. |
| Land Use | **Open Space Strategy** | 2011-2016 | Covers open space across the city, assists with climate adaptation. Recognise the economic, environmental, and social value of open spaces. Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity. Ongoing open space audit which will feed into the review of the Open Space Strategy. |

| Other – nature conservation | **Nature Conservation Strategy** (page 4 and 15) | | Biodiversity, which 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 (20/21) 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** (page 25) | 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 | **Socio-Economic Rescue Plan** | 2020/21 | Approved at Urgent Business Committee in June 2020. The plan includes outcomes for green and active travel |
| 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. |
| 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** (Page 2) | 2011 | Actions to improve air quality in Aberdeen. 2020 Air Quality Progress Report. |

**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. Build on the City-Wide effort to collaborate on the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 strategies, approved in February 2022.
2. Continued delivery of over 100 projects in the Project Register for the Council Climate Change Plan, in support of the Council's net zero targets.
3. Develop robust internal systems for data collection and monitoring of emissions.
4. Work towards an approach to The Scottish Government's The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES) to reduce energy demand and decarbonise the heat supply of buildings.
5. Review and publish the Local Transport Strategy, a guide the planning and improvement of the local transport network over the next five years.


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

N/A


**2h - Supporting information and best practice.**

- Progress included the development and approval of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and six priority themes and enabling six strategies.

- 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 to build long term city resilience.

- The Council is in the first year of implementation since approval of the Council Climate Change Plan approved in March 2021. Ongoing progress is taking place to work on a Project Register of over 100 projects being taken forward under 5 thematic sub-groups. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity. Further projects to embed climate change in Council systems and processes are being progressed through the Plan.

- Various awareness raising events and presentations relating to climate were provided to senior management and staff including:
    - A webinar presentation regarding Net Zero Aberdeen was held during Climate Week North-East (CWNE) relating to Climate.
    - The priority scoring project assessment matrix for the Condition & Suitability Programme was modified to score on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation, ensuring projects which contribute significantly will likely be included in the Programme.
    - A "Green Workplace" area of the staff intranet was established at the start of 2021, has grown to provide information, education, practical tips and ideas and opportunities for staff to get involved in the climate change and wider sustainability agenda.
    - A programme of Green Champions is now established to help disseminate information across Council Clusters. The number of Green Champions has risen from 30 to 63.

# 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 | tCO₂e | |
| **Year 1 carbon footprint** | 16/17 | 17,704.90 | 18,347.31 | 3,173.58 | 39,255.00 | tCO₂e | 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 | tCO₂e | Changes in emission factors and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint. Biomass from wood chips has been included as a scope 1 emission source because it is not 100% renewable. |
| **Year 3 Carbon Footprint** | 18/19 | 17,015.18 | 12,176.07 | 1,899.20 | 31,090.45 | tCO₂e | 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 | tCO₂e | 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 | tCO₂e | 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 | tCO₂e | 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. |

**3b – Breakdown of emission sources.**

| Emission Source | Scope | Consumption Data | Units | Emission Factors | Units | Emissions (tCO2e) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) | 3 | 27,287,017 | Kwh | 0.01879 | kg CO2e/kWh | 512.7 | Usage through corporate assets. Consumption higher than 2020-21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. Includes Fleet electricity usage from charging points. Includes estimated 40% of electric vehicle charging points for co-wheels using Council supply. |
| Grid electricity (Generation) | 2 | 27,287,017 | Kwh | 0.21233 | kg CO2e/kWh | 5,793.9 | Usage through corporate assets. Consumption higher than 2020-21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. |
| Natural Gas | 1 | 64,939,527 | Kwh | 0.18316 | kg CO2e/kWh | 11,894.3 | Usage through corporate assets. Consumption higher than 2020-21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.  This is lower than 2019-20 (pre covid) consumption. The winter was warmer than 20-21 and therefore gas consumption did not increase as much as electricity consumption. |
| Gas Oil | 1 | 256,787 | litres | 2.75857 | kg CO2e/kWh | 708.4 | Usage through corporate assets. Consumption higher than 2020-21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and change in emission factor. |
| Water Supply | 3 | 202,307 | m3 | 0.11000 | kg CO$_2$e/m$^3$ | 22.3 | Usage through corporate assets.  Consumption higher than 2020-21 due to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. |
| Water Treatment | 3 | 192,191.65 | m3 | 0.23000 | kg CO$_2$e/m$^3$ | 44.2 | Usage through corporate assets. Figure is 95% of water supply. |
| Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) | 3 | 12,946,381 | Kwh | 0.01879 | kg CO2e/kWh | 243.3 | From Street Lighting. Not all consumption captured due to update report approval by SSE not available at this time. |
| Grid electricity (Generation) | 2 | 12,946,381 | Kwh | 0.21233 | kg CO2e/kWh | 2748.9 | From Street Lighting Not all consumption captured due to update report approval by SSE not available at this time. |
| Average car - unknown fuel | 3 | 399,587 | km | 0.17148 | kg CO2e/km | 68.5 | From car hire |
| Average car - unknown fuel | 3 | 474139.3 | km | 0.17148 | kg CO2e/km | 81.3 | Gray fleet – essential user |
| Average car - unknown fuel | 3 | 402607.4 | km | 0.17148 | kg CO2e/km | 69.0 | Gray fleet – casual user |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rail (national rail) | 3 | 96,914 | passenger km | 0.03549 | kg CO2e/passenger km | 3.4 | |
| Car – petrol (average | 3 | 9,019 | km | 0.17431 | kg CO2e/km | 1.6 | Co-Wheels car club information.  All mileage information taken from Co-wheels telematics. |
| Car – hybrid (medium) | 3 | 8,438 | km | | kg CO2e/km | 0.9 | Co-Wheels car club information. All mileage information taken from Co-wheels telematics. |
| Car- diesel (average – unknown engine size) | 3 | 141 | km | 0.16843 | kg CO2e/km | 0 | Co-Wheels car club information. All mileage information taken from Co-wheels telematics. |
| Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km | 2 | 15283.2 | Km | 0.04826 | kg CO2e/km | 0.8 | Co-Wheels car club information. Estimated 60% from supplier. 40% included in building electricity.<br>Due to system limitations unable to report 24958.4 km (FCEV) |
| Long haul flight (economy class) | 3 | 83,400 | passenger km | 0.14787 | kg CO2e/passenger km | 12.3 | |
| Short haul flight (economy class) | 3 | 93,100 | passenger km | 0.15102 | kg CO2e/passenger km | 14.1 | Short haul & domestic combined |
| Paper and board (mixed recycling) | 3 | 50.2 | tonnes | 21.29357 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 1.1 | Data available from 21st August - 31st March available due to a change in contractor. Previous months extrapolated |
| Organic food and drink composting | 3 | 34 | tonnes | 8.95070 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 0.3 | From 3R Schools. Provided by a report from the waste contractor |
| Organic food and drink composting | 3 | 225 | tonnes | 8.95070 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 2.0 | From corporate premises increase in consumption due to increased use of assets due to lifting of COVID 19 restrictions |
| Garden Waste | 3 | 29 | tonnes | 8.95070 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 0.3 | From corporate premises. First year added to total carbon emissions. |
| General waste to landfill | 3 | 0 | tonnes | 467.04580 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 0.0 | From corporate premises: Residual waste has been bulked and transported as refuse derived fuel since June 2017 rather than landfilled. |
| Mixed recycling | 3 | 312 | tonnes | 21.29357 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 6.6 | From corporate premises (including glass). Increase in consumption due to increased use of assets due to lifting of COVID 19 restrictions. Based on scheduled regular uplifts so data does not include bulky uplifts. Use volume to weight conversion factors. |
| WEEE (Mixed) Recycling | 3 | 5 | tonnes | 21.29357 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 0.1 | IT provided information from contractor |
| General waste to landfill | 3 | 139 | tonnes | 467.04580 | kg $CO_2$e/tonne | 64.9 | 3R schools. General waste to landfill provided by a report from the waste contractor. |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mixed recycling | 3 | 42 | tonnes | 21.29357 | kg CO$_2$e/tonne | 0.9 | 3R schools. Mixed recycling provided by a report from the waste contractor |
| Diesel (average biofuel blend) | 1 | 1,313,775 | litres | 2.51233 | kg CO2e/litre | 3,300.6 | Used within fleet services, increase in consumption due to increased use of operations due to lifting of COVID 19 restrictions. |
| Petrol (average biofuel blend) | 1 | 27,980.00 | litres | 2.19352 | kg CO2e/litre | 61.4 | Financial data used to calculate estimate consumption within Fleet services. |
| Grid electricity (Generation) | 2 | 0 | kWh | | kg CO2e/kWh | | Fleet consumption data unavailable due to Charge Place Scotland system limitations. |
| Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) | 3 | 0 | kWh | | kg CO2e/kWh | | Fleet consumption data unavailable due to Charge Place Scotland system limitations. |
| Biomass chips | 1 | 492,970 | | 0.01513 | kg CO2e/kWh | 7.5 | 140,000kg of woodchips consumed for the biomass. |
| Homeworking emissions | 3 | 24 | % | 0.30000 | kg CO2e/FTE/annum | 493.6 | Estimate based on % of staff working from home during the pandemic. FTE not available. Headcount figure provided. 40% decrease due to staff returning to place of work due to lifting of COVID19 restrictions. |
| **Overall Total Emissions** | | | | | | **26,159.1** | |

## 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 | | | 492,970 | | 140,000 kg/ of woodchips consumed for the biomass plant. |

## 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 | 40% | 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?

Included in the Council Climate Change Plan is an action to progress a carbon budget for the Council, piloting the methodology 2021-22. A carbon budget pilot took place for fleet (assets and plant) in 2021/22, the carbon budget pilot year, targeted fleet assets and explored ways to apportion the carbon budget at Council, function, cluster and service level. Aberdeen City Council approved the approach to carbon budgeting for the Council in February 2022 and an overarching carbon budget for the period April 2021 – March 2025.

Taking learning from the pilot the report also set out the timeline for a phased roll out of the carbon budget, targeting high sources of emissions e.g., assets (energy) in 22/23.

Timeframes and processes for data collation are being accelerated to ensure carbon data is accessible to inform the Commissioning Cycle/ budget setting process. Monthly updates on progress with the carbon budget is provided to the Climate Oversight Group and interim data is due to be shared through the Performance Board. The approach is:

- Targeted: to high emission sources, addressing complexity of data.
- Allocated: to relevant Clusters/ Operations based on their scope to influence.
- Informed: data on carbon saving, actions, pressures shared.
- Phased: refined and rolled out as data flows improve.

Climate change is embedded in core business systems.

- Climate change is integrated across Corporate, Cluster and Operational Risk Registers requiring monthly progress updates on control actions by risk owners and regular review by the Risk Board.
- Audit Risk and Scrutiny Committee, received a report in June 2021 on an internal audit in relation to Climate Change which was undertaken to provide assurance that the Council was taking

appropriate measures to comply with its statutory obligations in addressing climate change and that progress was being monitored.

- Committee report templates ask for information on climate/ environmental risks and a new Environmental Implications section was approved for the Committee Report template in March 2022, 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) has been modified 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 report will be published on Sustainable Scotland Network website (alongside previous years) with a link to view via Aberdeen City Council Climate Change website pages. A word document will be submitted to the newly formed Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee and will be available publicly.
- Furthermore, an infographic highlighting a breakdown of progress towards emission reduction targets which will be published on the Aberdeen City Council website and internally on the staff intranet 'Green Workplace' site.
- Climate Change Target appears in the Community Planning Partners LOIP and further information can be found in The Council Climate Change Plan and project register on the Council Climate Change webpage.
- The use of Corporate Social Media platforms to be confirmed.

## 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**

| 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Continued Street lighting LED Replacement Programme** | Aberdeen City Council | 17/18 | actual | 7.5 m | - | 7 | Electricity | 352 | 17,000 | no | 70% completed as of 31st March 2022 |
| **Dual Fuel conversion (Hydrogen)** | Innovate UK, Transport Scotland, HyTrEc2, Energy Transition Fund, Fleet Services | 21/22 | | 180,000 | - | 5 | Diesel | - | n/a | no | Three further H2ICED (Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine) waste vehicles were added to the Council fleet (12tonne, 18tonne and 26tonne) |
| **Electric vehicle charge point rollout** | Transport Scotland, Energy Saving Trust (Scotland), Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), Civitas PORTIS EU funded project | 12/13 | - | £92,000 for 21/22  £315,000 for 2020/21  £810,000 since 2012 | £75,000 | On-going | Petrol Diesel | - | - | no | Chargepoint installation organised by the Council 133. This includes 16 for the car club only and 37 for fleet. Public 79 |
| **Heating Controls (BEMS)** | Aberdeen City Council | 21/22 | - | - | - | 1 | Gas electricity | | | unknown | Upgrade of heating controls in 2 schools. AHU upgrades in 1 school and kitchen canopy controls upgrade in 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | - | - | | | | | school plus other minor works |
| **Fleet Replacement Programme** | Aberdeen City Council | 21/22 | Estimate | As committee paper | - | - | Petrol Diesel | - | - | no | Added 49 low emission vehicles to the Council's Fleet. 3 Refuse Collection (RCV) (Dual Fuel conversion Programme – Hydrogen) 1 Refuse Collection Electric, 1 Refuse Collection Hydrogen (HECTOR),14 Electric Vehicles (LCVs) (grant funded),1 Welfare Mini - Buses Electric, 12 Electric vehicles (LCVs) (Fleet purchase),1 Compact Sweeper Electric, 16 Euro 6 vehicles |
| **Condition & Suitability Programme** | Aberdeen City Council | On-going | Estimate | As committee paper | - | - | Electricity Mains gas, oil, water | - | - | - | Implementation of building energy efficiency measures through maintenance and upgrade programme |

**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 | 145.35 | Replacement lighting system at Marischal College |
| Electricity | tbc | Lighting replacement - lit signs and bollards |
| Electricity | tbc | Phased Intelligent Street Lighting Programme |
| Natural gas | tbc | New Connections to District Heating: Muirfield Primary School, Len Ironside Centre, Fullerton Court, Murray Court, and Clifton Court. |
| Other heating fuels | tbc | Miltimber Replacement Primary school, including District Heating Connection. |
| Other heating fuels | tbc | Project Doric- fabric first approach to test the potential for fabric improvement in social housing and installation of zero carbon technologies |
| Waste | 0 | |
| Water/ sewerage | 0 | |
| Business Travel | tbc | Grey Fleet reduction (use of employee-owned vehicles) |
| Fleet transport | tbc | Continued fleet replacement programme – transition to electric, hydrogen & hybrid vehicles |
| Fleet transport | tbc | Full hydrogen and electric refuse collection vehicles |
| Fleet transport | tbc | Conversion to dual fuel refuse collection vehicles |
| 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 | | | |
| Service provision | Unknown | Increase | Assets and operations as Covid restrictions are eased. |
| Staff numbers | | | |
| 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

### Project Doric

Project DORIC is a consortium-based approach to tackling social housing decarbonisation established under the BEIS Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Demonstrator programme. The project is match funded between BEIS and SMS, with BEIS providing CAPEX for retrofit upgrade (fabric first) and SMS providing investment for low carbon technologies (Solar PV and battery storage).

The objectives are to adopt a fabric first approach to test the potential for fabric improvement in social housing in combination with the installation of zero carbon technologies to make significant reductions in social housing carbon emissions as part of the UK national target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. BEIS have approved this project to deliver fabric retrofit measures alongside the deployment of solar PV and battery storage to 50 houses as approved by the PCR in November. The reduction of scope was driven by the limited time within the demonstrator funding scheme to deliver the measures, taking into account Covid restrictions in 2020/21.

The expected deliverables:

1. Achieve significant energy demand reduction in dwellings by applying a whole house retrofit approach that is compliant with PAS 2035 (and a reduction in fuel bills) and EPC improvement from band D to band C or better.
2. Achieve a significant cost reduction for the approach selected within the lifetime of the project, and provide evidence on the sources of cost reduction.
3. Support green jobs and utilise local supply chains to contribute to economic stimulus post-COVID
4. Safely treat an appropriate number of dwellings to demonstrate achievement of cost reduction in a replicable manner.
   Provide evidence on replicability and scale-up of approach in future projects
5. Ensure the improvement of health, comfort and well-being of occupants and mitigate any unintended consequences.
6. Provide evidence of performance evaluation post retrofit.

### Streetlighting Programme

Since 2016 the Council's Street lighting team have been carrying out a refurbishment process to convert the existing lighting in the city to LED. In addition, a phased approach to install an intelligent street lighting system is taking place enabling controls, dimming, and remote monitoring of faults.70% is complete as of 31st March 2022

### Fleet transition

Phase 1 of the Fleet Replacement Programme 2021/22 reflects the Council's Net Zero ambition to work towards de-carbonising its in-house Fleet. This includes a hydrogen refuse collection vehicle through the HECTOR project – Hydrogen Waste Collection Vehicles in North West Europe. Pilot is on-going.

In addition, 3 hybrid RCVs have been added to the fleet in the reporting year.

Market engagement, including demos and awareness of industry developments to ensure best fit for asset replacement are ongoing Fleet optimisation plans in place to reduce consumption of diesel and transition to electric and hydrogen vehicles. 8% of Council fleet is now low emission.

### Car Club

Council staff have access to low carbon vehicles through the Car Club. In 2021/22, 10 vehicles were available and 16 new charge sockets were installed for exclusive staff use.

25,472 km were covered using Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and 24,958.4 km using Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV). The Car Club plays an important role in reducing non-essential travel and grey fleet miles. The Car Club contract was retendered in November 2021

### Connections to district heating

Connection of 3 public buildings to District Heating in 20/21. Improved data flow has resulted data for District Heating, allowing better tracking of the energy mix and transition to low carbon energy.

### Housing Programme

The vision of the Aberdeen City Council Housing Programme is: "To create sustainable integrated communities and places, delivering affordable homes designed for life, which meet citizens current and changing needs, supporting the wellbeing and resilience of our tenants." The new

build programme is delivering 2,000 additional council homes in conjunction with developers.  283 flats at Wellheads in Dyce completed in 21/22 connecting to an onsite CHP energy center providing district heating (connected to communal heating within the site). Aberdeen Heat and Power (AHP) will be billing tenants and operating the heat network. AHP will be deploying smart meters and app for tenants to manage their heat usage and this data can be used to enable early intervention for maintenance and also help early social intervention to alleviate fuel poverty, working in conjunction with SCARF. The site is designed with cycle storage and EV charging points provided, water saving included, good public transport connectivity and is variable needs compliant.  Further sites are under construction.

**Condition and Suitability Matrix**
The priority scoring project assessment matrix for the C&S Programme was modified to score on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation, ensuring projects which contribute significantly will likely be included in the Programme. In 21/22 project outcomes saw 13 poor condition doors and over 330 windows replaced, over 3,000 sqm of poor condition and poorly insulated roofs repaired at 3 Council premises. These actions support emissions reductions by improved thermal fabric and climate resilience by reduced risk of water penetration. Replaced roofs U-Value* significantly improved from 0.42 to 0.15. Furthermore, 6 schools received toilet replacement or refurbishment and now include water saving measures, which reduces demand on water supplies.  A 5% increase of projects contribute positively to improving the environmental performance of the Council's assets (30% in 20/21 to 35% in 21/22).

## 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. Climate risk entries in the Council Corporate Risk Register in this reporting period included:
- '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.
- 'Place' – the 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.

In addition, Climate risks have been identified by Cluster and were integrated in relevant Cluster and operational level Risk Registers in 2021.
*Actions support Capability Framework – UC2A (Develop understanding of risk and vulnerability), and UC2B (Consider how you organisations functions might be affected by climate change).*

**Informing Aberdeen Adapts**, 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.
*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 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** are being developed and expected to be published in December 2022.
- 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 proposed **Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2020.** 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 adaptation in the city. 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** was then approved by Full Council on 3 March 2021, with 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.
  Governance for the Council Climate Change Plan is fully established, building on the development of a core group that had met since 2019. A first full meeting of the **Council Climate Oversight Group** took place in July 2020 and has met monthly thereafter, this is led by the Chief Operating Officer. 5 thematic sub-groups were also established creating a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation, leads for each of these groups are in place. A Teams channel for this work has been set up to allow the exchange of information. Progress with the plan is also monitored on a quarterly basis by the Council's Performance Board and will be presented annually to Council committee.
  *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** on a monthly basis. Deep dives on Corporate risks including those for climate take place every 6 months.
  The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing risk management on behalf of the Council and for receiving assurance that the Extended Corporate Management Team (ECMT) are effectively identifying and managing risks. In February 2021 the **Corporate Risk Registe**r 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 operate a Duty Flood Officer rota, checking SEPA Water Levels for the Rivers Dee and Don 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.

- The Council is a participant in **the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group**, using the Benchmarking Tool to assess progress against the Capability Framework. A visual of Council progress against the Capability Framework using the Benchmarking Tool is included in the **Council Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025**.

Adaptation is embedded in many Council and partnership policies and strategies including:
- The **Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2017)**, includes policies on:
- Greenspace network – policy NE1 (p67)
- Trees and woodlands – policy NE5 (p72)
- Flooding, drainage & water quality - policy NE6 (p74)
- Coastal planning – policy NE7 (p77)
- Low and zero carbon buildings & water efficiency – policy R7 (p87)
- Renewable and low carbon energy developments – policy R8 (p89)

- **Supplementary guidance** on open space & green infrastructure (p71) and flooding drainage and water quality (p75) with arrangements for Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland, Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Impact Assessment, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), Regional SuDS and Waste and Foul Drainage.
- **Supplementary guidance** on open space & green infrastructure (p71) and flooding drainage and water quality (p75) with arrangements for Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland, Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Impact Assessment, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), Regional SuDS and Waste and Foul Drainage.
- The **Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2020)** and Delivery Programme was approved by Full Council in March 2020 and public consultation ran for over 14 weeks from 20 May to 31 August 2020. The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2020) was submitted for the Examination in Public in July 2021, with the Examination commencing in November 2021. The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2020 assesses policies against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (p14-15). The Proposed Plan 2020 includes policies on:
  - Green and Blue Infrastructure – policy NE2 (p50)
  - Our Water Environment – policy NE4 (p56)
  - Trees and Woodland – policy NE5 (p58)
  - Low and zero carbon buildings, and water efficiency – policy R6 (p71)
  - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments – policy R7 (72)
  - Heat Networks – policy R8 (p73)
  - Energy Transition – policy B5 (p101)

- Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority published the **Strategic Development Plan 2020**. It includes the objective: "mitigates and adapts to the effects of climate change and changing weather patterns"
It acknowledges risk from flooding and storm surges, and increased risk is expected due to changing and more unpredictable weather patterns, extreme weather events and rising sea levels. As well, that "new development should not adversely impact on water quality either during construction or at operational phase. Wherever possible new development should contribute to developing and enhancing blue / green networks and habitat improvement."
It includes in targets: To avoid having to increase the amount of water Scottish Water are licensed to take from the River Dee, as a result of the new developments proposed in the Plan."

- Aberdeen City Council produces and maintains **emergency plans** in conjunction with the **Local Resilience Partnership** members, including the emergency services and other agencies. This is to address specific potential emergencies which may affect the Grampian area as a whole, such as flooding.

- 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 2011-2016**, 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, planting native and wildlife friendly species. This strategy will be updated following the Open Space Audit review, which as part of the Aberdeen City Open Space Audit, a public consultation was carried out in February and March 2022. This consultation asked members of the public that live, work, or visit Aberdeen to provide their opinions on open spaces within the city. The consultation was carried out in two parts, one of which sought the general views on open spaces across the city, and the second which allowed users to select open spaces which are important to them from an online map and give feedback on specific spaces. The consultation which closed on the 20th of March received a total of 1,363 responses and will add community value to the audit. Work is now ongoing to analyse these responses.

- 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:
  - o To ensure that the transport network is as resilient as possible in case of flooding from extreme weather conditions. (P28)
  - o To contribute to Aberdeen's carbon emissions targets and develop climate resilient infrastructure. (P43)

- **The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (NELFRMP) and North East Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.** The plan contains the statutory duties that the Council will be required to undertake for the Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022. 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 Plans 2022-2028** are being developed and expected to be 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.

- **Aberdeen City Council Business Case** - 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) 2016 – 26** includes the stretch outcome for adaptation: 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, with key improvement measures against these drivers. (P37) ACC Committee Report templates requires reports to demonstrate links to the LOIP.

- The Aberdeen City **Council Delivery Plan 2021-22** was approved at Full Council on 10 March 2021. This sets out key deliverables and Commissioning Intentions to support delivery of the LOIP. These include the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts; to manage and expand a safe, healthy tree stock; improve resilience to flooding and ensure the safety of the environment. The aim is to encourage community resilience and increase signposting to preferred partners; and to increase community participation in winter maintenance and other resilience issues.

- **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."

**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**

- Webinar on the Council Climate Change Plan (mitigation and adaptation) was given to staff during Climate Week 2021.

- A staff webinar was held on 16 February 2022 and a public webinar for Climate Week North East was held on 24 March 2022. These covered place-based mitigation and adaptation, including information on the refreshed version of Aberdeen Adapts.

- **Carbon Literacy Training** funded by the Scottish City Alliance and The Improvement Service was started to be introduced to Elected Members and Senior Managers and covered mitigation and adaptation. The programme of training is set to continue with further cohorts to be released.

- An area of the **staff intranet** "Green Workplace" is now embedded to share information knowledge and skills. It features a dedicated page to the plan. Operational Theme Leads recorded 60 second video clips to showcase coming theme actions to engage staff, which includes adaptation in the Other Operation theme. This intranet page will continue to be developed over the coming year.

- 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 enabling the public to report blockages or damages.

**Building Adaptive Capacity**

- The **Council Climate Change Oversight Group** continues to meet monthly, which has oversight of the actions being delivered by the 5 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

- A growing network of 63 **Green Champions** is now established to help raise awareness to staff throughout the Council and wider. Various activities include Climate Week, behaviour change challenges, workshops, lunch and learns. In December 21, a session was held to inform Green Champions about the completion of The **Maidencraig Flood Management and Wetland Scheme** which aims to slow the flow of water in the Den Burn, allowing it to temporarily flood across the boggy area of the Den of Maidencraig, if required, during storms. This reduces flood risk downstream.

- Adaptation and mitigation are now embedded into a range of processes and procedures as part of work under the Leadership and Governance Group, for the Council Climate Change Plan. A new Environmental Implications section was added to the Committee Report template alongside a risk section which seeks report author input on climate/ environment risks. In addition, Committee Report Authors Guidance was updated, this included climate adaptation. A staff webinar on changes to the committee template, including these was given on 28 March 2022.

**Deliver Adaptation Action**

- The Council was a partner in the EU project **BEGIN: Blue-green Infrastructure through Social Innovation project (2016-2021)**. BEGIN is focusing on developing an approach to climate resilience for cities that mimics nature's potential to deal with flooding. One of Aberdeen's pilot projects was the Maidencraig Flood Management and Wetland Scheme which has been completed.
  The scheme aims to slow the flow of water in the Den Burn, allowing it to temporarily flood across the boggy area of the Den of Maidencraig, if required, during storms. This reduces flood risk downstream.

- **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.

- Aberdeen City Council is part of the **EU SCORE project** (Smart Cities + Open data reuse), using data to improve flood protection. The Council with partner University of Bradford worked on the citizen science development trial of a smartphone app with the community of Peterculter, which aimed to allow residents to use their local knowledge and let the Council know when waters are rising or there is flooding in their area. The app trial was investigated as part of work on the project, with the app developed and led by the University of Bradford. There has been installation of smart technology such as, real time sensors and cameras, dashboard for live data viewing, as well as improved flood models. Sensors give more accurate information on water levels at points in the city. This data will be beneficial to development officers, designers, and planning officers in identifying sustainable development actions. Additionally flood risk response can be more targeted as officers can assess risk remotely to sensor sites.
  *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)*

- The priority scoring matrix for assessing projects for potential inclusion in the **Condition & Suitability Programme** was modified in 2021. Projects are now able to be scored on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation. This ensures projects which contribute significantly to those factors will likely be included in the Programme. The C&S Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 is underway.

- **Tree Planting.** Schools and community groups planted oak trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative and Aberdeen's First Wee Forest was planted, led and managed by woodside Primary School. It is Aberdeen's first and only Wee Forest and is the most northerly of all Wee Forests in Scotland. Work is taking place to map out green space for further tree planting for 22/23. **The Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan** was drafted during the reporting period and a public consultation launched from 24th November 21 – 31st January 2022.

## 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 | Flood Wardens are in place in several areas of the city. 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 in place for areas most vulnerable to flooding by 2023, leading to resilience plans in place across all areas of Aberdeen by 2026". 2 Community Led Resilience Plans have so far been developed. |
|---|---|---|
| **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 Plan (NELFRMP) for Cycle 1 was approved in 2016. The plan contains the statutory duties that the Council will be required to undertake during Cycle 1 of the Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022. 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. The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028) are being developed and expected to be published in December 2022. The Flood Risk Management Plans were published in December 2021. (https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/) |
| | 1.2.1.1 Community Planning | The Council produced a **Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** approved in December 2019. An **Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan 2021-2026**, was approved in March 2021 |
| | 1.2.3 Resilient Buildings | Information on home energy savings in Aberdeen can be found at **https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/housing/home-energy-efficiency/home-energy-savings** and on the Energy Efficiency Aberdeen website **https://www.savingenergyaberdeen.co.uk/** Condition & Suitability Projects are scored on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation. Projects which contribute |

| | | significantly to those factors will likely be included in the Programme. |
|---|---|---|
| **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. A public consultation was launched 1st – 28th November 2021. 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 was approved in March 2021. Increase in 8 EV chargers installed for up to 16 vehicles installed for dedicated Council use. Further Public charging sites have also been installed. Further work is taking place to transition the Council's own fleet through the Fleet Replacement Programme. Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy public consultation launched from 14th November – 4th October 2021. Draft strategy to be published in late 2022 |
| **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 **Regional Land Use Partnership** being piloted to help develop the approach to land use in support of our green recovery and transition to net-zero. |
| | 3.1.2 Forestry | **Expanding Forests and Woodlands programme** of tree planting on Council owned land. Following a public consultation 24th November 2021- January 31st 2022, the Strategic Tree & Woodland Implementation Plan is to be published in 2022. In partnership with local communities and sponsors, over 20,000 trees were planted including 500 street trees. |
| **Sub-Outcome 3.2:** Scotland's manufacturing, services and wider economy are informed and adaptable to climate change | 3.2.4 Building Premises | The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (NELFRMP), was approved in 2016. The plan contains the statutory duties that the Council will be required to undertake during Cycle 1 of the Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022. The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028) are being developed and expected to be published in December 2022. The Flood Risk Management Plans (2022-2028) were published in December 2022.**https://www2.sepa.org.uk/frmplans/** |
| **Sub-Outcome 4.2:** Scotland's devolved supporting systems are resilient to climate change | 4.2.2 Water | The Council has a **Sustainable Growth Agreement** with SEPA and Scottish Water, the City Blueprint Aberdeen planning has mapped potential areas for blue-green infrastructure. Options appraisal to follow. |

**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).**

- High level information on climate risk is included in the **Council's Corporate Risk Register**, this gives details on the overarching strategic impacts causes and controls. The Risk Board is provided with monthly updates on progress with climate change action 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.  The most recent **Biodiversity Duty Report** was produced by the Council in December 2020. It includes information on climate change related challenges for biodiversity over the next three years.

- A review of current and future flood risks for the city took place for the **North East Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022.** The plan covers the North East Local Plan District and is reviewed at 6 yearly intervals. The plan for Cycle 2 is ongoing.

**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.

- A Project Dashboard has been established for the **Council Climate Change Plan.** This is updated on a monthly basis by project leads, with project summaries provided to the Oversight Group by theme leads. Progress reports to the Council's Performance Board are submitted as required. Project milestones have been added and initial indicators have been developed for the plan and these will be further developed as implementation progresses.

- The **Risk Board** is provided with monthly 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 Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group and reviews adaptation progress annually against the **Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework** using the benchmarking tool a summary 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. An Improvement Charter has been established for community resilience. Progress updates are provided monthly.

**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. To ensure the refreshed Aberdeen Adapts aligns with the ongoing development of Net Zero Aberdeen which covers place-based net zero activity, approved in February 2022.
3. Progress with the development of cycle 2 of the North East Flood Risk Management Plan. The Council budget in March 2022 allocated funding for flood protection including grants, flood scheme and sensors.
4. Finalisation of the options appraisal and preferred option decision regarding the completed mapping of blue green infrastructure opportunity sites as part of a Sustainable Growth Agreement project with SEPA and Scottish Water.
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.**

The Council uses the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Tool to assess annual progress against the Capability Framework for a Climate Ready Public Sector. An annual summary of progress and key areas to address is produced annually to share with relevant staff.


## SECTION 5 - PROCUREMENT

**5a - How have procurement policies contributed to 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. The 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 for Aberdeen.  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 in our procurements and national frameworks call offs.

**The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS)**
Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council.  2017-2022 Joint Procurement Strategy fully 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 delivery of "ethical and sustainable value for money solutions that support the operational needs and wider strategic aims of the councils and the communities they service to further local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible." This converges 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.  Communication in this manner leads to climate positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance explains not all sustainability measures are 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.  **Example Climate Clause 2021-2022**

**Zero Waste Scotland Specification Development (Category and Commodity)** guidance is promoted.  Sustainable procurement measures achieved in the specification regarded as "community

benefits" and procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing.

Sustainability tools are promoted in policy and guidance: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping.   As with procurement strategy, linkages to The Scottish Model of Procurement; The **National Performance Framework** and Local Outcome Improvement Plans.
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) or **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.)
To simplify, 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.

## 5b - How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties?

- The following is illustrative of procurement activity i) delivering a reduction in CO2 ii) improving energy efficiency and iii) incorporating meaningful sustainability criteria:

- **Construction –** follows industry terms/best practice (NEC3, SBCC ICE etc), Building Standards/Building Performance polices.  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 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 opportunities increased.

- **Sensor Network–** Illustrative of proactive approaches to adaptation. Full potential of strategic deployment of sensors supporting early intervention in the context of flood prevention under consideration. Peterculter flood warning project includes gauges and app in trial phase with testing to complete. Additional flood prone locations are being assessed to implement the use of CCTV and gauges in partnership with SEPA

- **Managed Print Contract** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire) From original estate of over 5,000 unmanaged print devices (2016), contract systematically eliminated use of small, inefficient desktop printers requiring regular consumable replacement and rationalised to under 50% by 2018 to ENERGY STAR® power saving models.  Supported by a Print Policy driving duplex and mono print as default with imperative to scan and move paper to digital to reduce resources and eliminate waste.  Outcomes include reduced print volumes averaging 10% year on year, with estimated 270M fewer sheets of paper used since 2016 (the equivalent to 32,393 trees). Xerox Sustainability Calculator reports a 30% reduction in:  Energy: (annualised BTUs), Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Annualised Pounds GHG) and Solid Waste (annualised Pounds SW.)  From 2018 - 2022 CO2 emissions from electricity have reduced by approximately 13% and from paper by 50%.  Contract ensures all removed devices governed via WEEE compliant processes.  Used consumables managed through the Xerox Green World Alliance programme to recycle – minimising environmental impacts/maximising opportunities to positively contribute to the global circular economy agenda.

- **Energy from Waste** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire /Moray Councils) Construction of an Energy from Waste plant working towards fulfilling Zero Waste Plan requirements with the facility targeted to be operational by 2023. Facility aims to provides a long-term solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the NE of Scotland and will provide a viable solution for residual waste that will generate significant, wider benefits e.g electricity generation and heat for local residents as a sustainable means of reducing fuel poverty. Forecasts indicate 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. Forecasts show around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water will be produced.

- **Torry Heat Network -** Work commenced in March 2022 to construct first phase of a new District Heating System for the community of Torry. Heat will be supplied by the energy from waste plant to dispose of non-recyclable waste from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils.  Work comprises a heat distribution facility and installation of 3.7 miles of underground pipes. Anticipated 300 homes + 5 Public Buildings will be connected to the 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. Phase 1 Project will deliver carbon savings of at least 32,700 tCO2 over a 40-year period, thus making a significant contribution towards Aberdeen's climate positive aspirations. 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.

- **Fuel Cell/Hydrogen//Electric Vehicles**– in the reporting period, new EV charge points made operational at Frederick Street. Provision increased to 3 x rapid chargers + 5 x fast chargers with capacity to charge 15 public vehicles and 1 car club vehicle at once. At Craibstone Park & Ride, replacement of 4 x fast charge units with new fast charge units, each capable of recharging 2 vehicles at once.  Additional charge points procured 2021/22 currently being installed:1 x rapid charger at Virginia Street car park, 1 x fast charger at Summer Street car park and 1 x additional rapid charger and 2 x additional fast chargers at Craibstone Park and Ride – each capable of recharging 2 vehicles at once.  Total charge points listed here. In partnership with Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils, collaborative "Pathfinder initiative" funded by Scottish Futures Trust initiated. Initiative has allowed a consultant to be procured to explore alternative business models for future delivery of public EV charge points. Initiative may ultimately involve collaboration with partners across the private sector to further expand the EV network at pace, harnessing expertise/funding.

- Via **Car Club**, additional hydrogen cars made available to the public. In addition to x 3 Toyota Mirais, x4 additional Mirais offered to the public. Car Club contract retendered in 2021/22 (3+2 years) "Enterprise" commenced operations on 1st June 2022. As previously, contract offers: i) ability to operate a PAYG car club to the public and organisations from designated bays ii) management of 10 exclusive use "managed pool cars" for staff iii)  ability to be part of "Development Management" process for new planning applications e.g. membership and provision of cars are options for mitigating the need for parking spaces in new developments.  Three further H2ICED (Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine) waste vehicles were added to the Council fleet (12 tonne, 18 tonne and 26 tonne) alongside the UK's first fuel cell electric waste truck as part of the Interreg North West Europe HECTOR project. A comprehensive fleet review was also published to establish potential H2 demand and electric vehicle uptake. The findings of the review are linked here

- **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.
  In the reporting period, ACHES dispensed more than 1,715 kg of hydrogen over 845 refuelling events servicing both the Council fleet and public vehicles. Several tube trailers were also filled during this period enabling bus demonstration projects in Northern Ireland and Inverness to begin.

- **Hydrogen Hub** – On 11 March 2022, the Council and bp signed an agreement to form a joint venture partnership that will deliver a scalable green hydrogen production, storage and distribution facility in the city powered by renewable energy.  The Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub is to be developed in three phases in response to growing demands for hydrogen.  Phase one, which involves delivery of a green hydrogen production and transport refuelling facility powered by a solar farm, is targeting first production from 2024, delivering over 800 kilograms of green hydrogen per day.  Future phases could see production scaled up through further investment to supply larger volumes of green hydrogen for rail, freight and marine, as well as supply of hydrogen for heat and potentially export. This expansion would be enabled by the expected increased availability of local renewable energy sources, including developments that emerge from the ScotWind offshore wind leasing round.  The Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub programme will support Aberdeen City Council's ambitions to create a climate positive city and build inclusive growth through supporting hydrogen supply chain

development, skills and training, and wider community benefits.

- 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. **Water** – intelligent water management programme for reducing usage with associated reduction in CO2.

## 5c - Supporting information and best practice

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 continued to be challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. Climate Friendly criteria options (including appraisal of carbon calculator tools) 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/processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.   In the reporting period, four specific commodity areas identified for specific action to minimise the Council's carbon footprint in: i) Food ii) Building Maintenance Materials iii) Road Maintenance and iv) Office Materials

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.  An **Example Climate Clause 2021-2022** 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 and CPSS instrumental in the development of an ambassador programme. Contributions also made to the Climate &Procurement Forum and Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce "Circular North-East" initiative.

Despite continued impacts of Covid19, significant community benefit outcomes were secured in the reporting period as per  Procurement Annual Report for 2020/2021 Guided by our **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy**, 2271 community benefit outcomes imposed or delivered during 2021/22 (including over 3360 Community timebank hours imposed/567 hours delivered.)  In regulated contracts, the community benefit inclusion rate was 94% and 100% in respect of fair work criteria.
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 FY2022-2023 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects reviewed on a continuous basis. Systems options will be reviewed with a view to adopting a system to monitor, measure and report on community benefits, Fair Work, sustainability/climate outcomes achieved.

**Go Awards Scotland-** CPSS were finalists in three categories in a ceremony held on 19 April 2022: Social Value Award – City Region Deal Gigabyte Framework (outright winner) COVID-19 Outstanding Response Award - (Finalist) and Procurement Team of the Year (Finalist).

**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 Senscot 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**) - Following a rigorous application process commencing in the reporting period, Aberdeen City secured recognition as a Silver, Sustainable Food Place in June 2022. In partnership with other internal/external stakeholders, CPSS supported the procurement strand of accreditation requirements. The award recognises 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. 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 Environmental 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 Environmental 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
- Co-Wheels
- Travel
- Fleet
- Energy

Work is being carried out to identify areas for improvement in data collation for the Climate Change Report. The Climate Change Report 2021/22 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 2021/22 has not undergone peer validation due to time and resource constraints.

**6c – External validation process**

The Climate Change Report 2021/22 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.*