

Net Zero, Environment & Transport Committee Annual Effectiveness Report 2022/2023



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1. Introduction from Convener

- 1.1 I am pleased to present the first annual effectiveness report for the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee (NZET). The annual effectiveness reports have been in place since 2017, following a recommendation made by CIPFA in their review of the Council's governance arrangements, namely that Committees review the extent to which they had operated within their Terms of Reference, through an annual report. The annual effectiveness report represents good practice in governance and also informs the annual review of the Council's Scheme of Governance, enabling officers to identify if any changes are required, for example, to the Committee Terms of Reference. The presentation of the annual reports was temporarily paused due to the disruption to committee meetings as a result of the pandemic, and then to allow time for the new committee structure to bed in following the local government elections in May 2022.
- 1.2 The Council is committed to meeting the challenges facing our local and global environments and playing our part in building a greener and sustainable city. That is why it is so important that we now have a Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee. The Council has a key role to play in the city's journey to a just energy transition; net zero climate emissions; and climate, nature and community resilience.
- 1.3 As a new Committee, there were no changes made to the NZET Terms of Reference as part of the 2023 Scheme of Governance Review, however we will continue to monitor them over the next year to ensure they remain fit for purpose.
- 1.4 I would like to thank the Committee Vice Convener Councillor Miranda Radley, Members, and officers for their contributions during the first year of the Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with them all next year.



Councillor Ian Yuill
Convener – Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee

2. The Role of the Committee

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

To monitor the delivery of all services and functions relating to net zero, the environment and transport; to scrutinise performance and approve options within set budgets to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes; and to ensure that the Council has robust arrangements for the delivery of the Council's environmental targets and the meeting of its related statutory obligations.

REMIT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee will:

1. Monitor the Council's compliance with its environmental targets, including its carbon budget, and statutory obligations, and any charters or memorandums of understanding which it enters, in relation to matters such as net zero, climate change, environmental sustainability, food growing and biodiversity.
2. Approve the annual Climate Change Report for submission to the Scottish Government.
3. Approve the Council's Climate Change Plan and monitor its delivery.
4. Approve the Council's Biodiversity Duty Report.
5. Monitor key performance indicators in relation to, and progress towards, the Council's decarbonisation pathway, climate adaptation and the 2045 target for zero carbon.
6. Consider environmental evidence and advice from the widest possible range of sources.
7. Oversee, and make decisions relating to, service delivery in respect of transport and roads matters, and approve options to improve/transform service delivery. This includes scrutiny of operational performance and service standards in line with the Performance Management Framework and considering recommendations for improvements where required.
8. Approve and oversee all transport and roads related policies, strategies, programmes, and projects.
9. Receive risk registers relative to its remit and scrutinise to ensure assurance of the controls in place.
10. Receive reports on inspections and peer reviews in order to ensure best practice and note any actions arising from those inspections and reviews.
11. Make recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee.

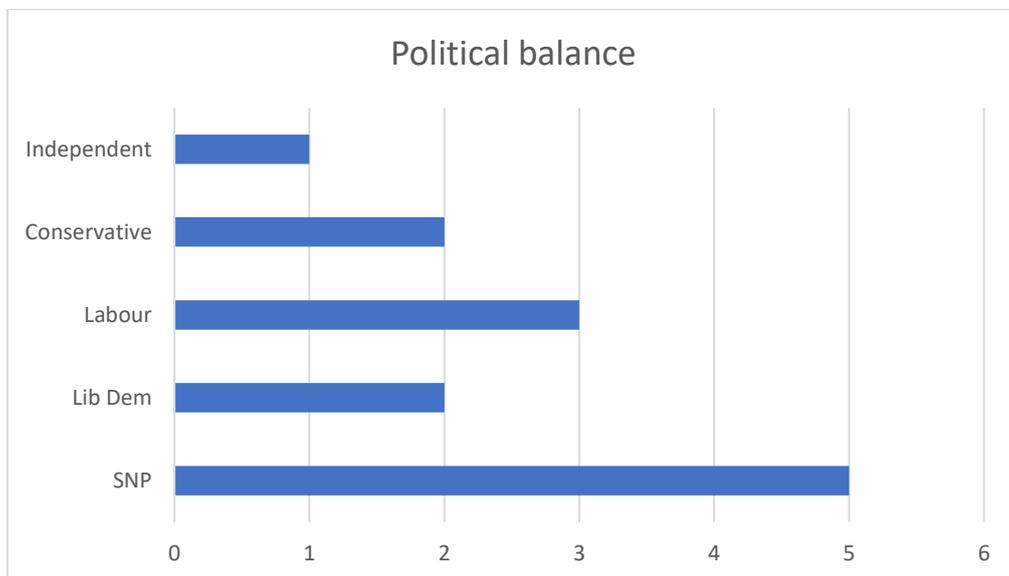
12. In undertaking its remit, ensure that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards.

Executive Leads: Director of Commissioning and Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning

3. Membership of the Committee during 2022/2023

3.1 The Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee has 13 members.

3.2 The Committee composition is presented below:-



4. Membership Changes

- 4.1 Councillor Kusznr was a member of the Committee until the March 2023 meeting. Following the change of committee places as a result of the May 2023 by-election, Councillor Lawrence became a member of the Committee from the May 2023 meeting onwards. Councillor Hazel Cameron was a member of the Committee until the special meeting of the Committee in May 2023, following which Councillor McRae joined the Committee from the June meeting onwards.
- 4.2 Following the meeting of Council in August 2023, Councillors Lawrence and Macdonald stepped down from the Committee and Councillors Bonsell and Crockett joined.

5. Member Attendance

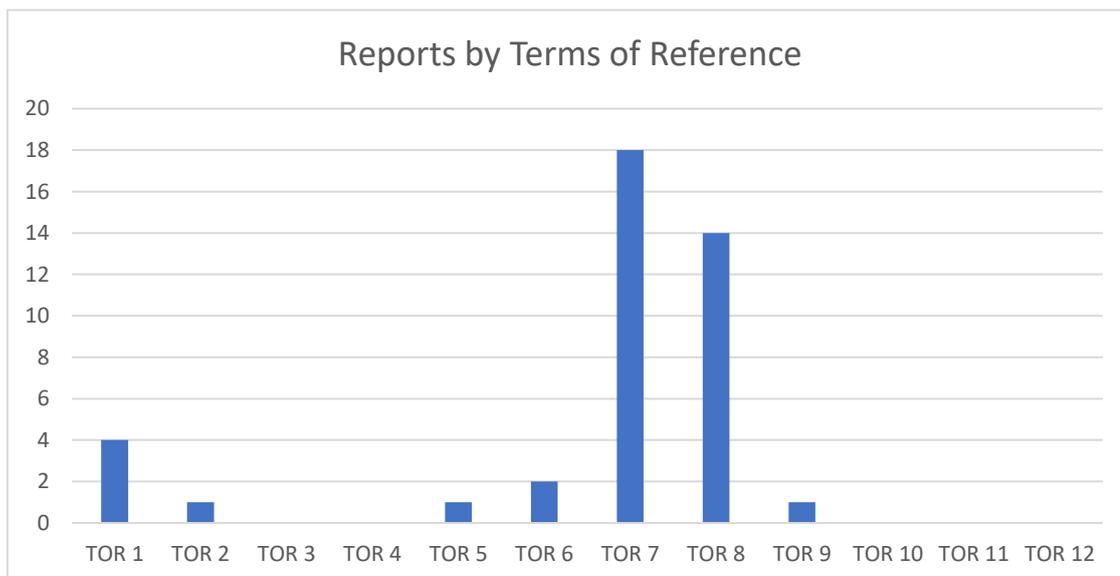
Member	Total Anticipated Attendances	Total Attendances	Substitutions
Councillor Nurul Hoque Ali	7	7	
Councillor Kate Blake	7	6	Councillor Crockett
Councillor Jennifer Bonsell	1	0	Councillor Lawrence
Councillor Hazel Cameron	5	5	
Councillor Barney Crockett	1	0	Councillor Grant
Councillor Lee Fairfull	7	7	
Councillor Emma Farquhar	7	7	
Councillor Dell Henrickson	7	6	Councillor Al-Samarai
Councillor Michael Hutchison	7	6	Councillor McLellan
Councillor Michael Kusznr	3	3	
Councillor Graeme Lawrence	3	3	
Councillor Sandra Macdonald	6	6	
Councillor Duncan Massey	7	7	
Councillor Ciaran McRae	2	2	
Councillor Miranda Radley	7	7	
Councillor Kairin van Sweeden	7	7	
Councillor Ian Yuill	7	7	

6. Meeting Content

6.1 During the 2022/2023 reporting period (14 October 2022 to 14 October 2023), the Committee had 7 meetings and considered a total of 29 reports.

6.2 Terms of Reference

6.2.1 The following chart details how reports aligned to the Terms of Reference (set out at section 2 above) for the Committee.



6.2.2 During the course of 2022/2023 the Committee received reports across a range of its Terms of Reference, with the majority relating to roads and transport issues.

6.2.3 There were no reports received under TOR 3 and 4, however these specifically relate to the approval of the Council's Climate Change Plan and Biodiversity Duty, both of which will be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

6.2.4 Similarly, there were no reports under TOR 10, 11 and 12. TOR 10 relates to reports on inspections and peer reviews, which tend not to be reported to NZET Committee. The Committee did not require to make any recommendations to the appropriate Committee(s) or Sub Committee(s) on matters affecting its remit where the authority to approve sits within the remit of another Committee or Sub Committee (TOR 11). TOR 12 relates to the Committee, in undertaking its remit, ensuring that it is acting within the budget set by Council and is supporting the delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes, commissioning intentions and service standards. The majority of reports to the Committee could be argued to fall under this TOR, however more specific TOR relating to for example, roads and transport or net zero were selected as the main TOR.

6.2.5 As the committee structure was reviewed in late 2022, very few changes to the Terms of Reference were made following the June 2023 Scheme of Governance review. Any

changes made were generally to provide clarity where required and ensure consistency between committees. The new Terms of Reference will continue to be monitored throughout the year, in preparation for the 2024 Scheme of Governance review, and consideration will be given to whether those TOR which have not been used in reports require to be amended.

7. Reports and Decisions

7.1 The following information relates to the committee reports and Notices of Motion presented to Committee throughout the reporting period, as well as the use of Standing Orders and engagement with members of the public.

	Total	Total Percentage of Reports
Confidential Reports	0	0%
Exempt Reports	0*	0%
Number of reports where the Committee amended officer recommendations	1**	3%
Number of reports approved unanimously	27	93%
Number of reports or service updates requested during the consideration of another report to provide additional assurance and not in business planner	1 report 3 service updates	N/A
Number of reports delayed for further information	1***	3%
Number of times the Convener has had to remind Members about acceptable behaviour in terms of the Code of Conduct	0	N/A
Late reports received (i.e. reports not available for inspection at least 3 clear days before the meeting)	0	0%

* There were no exempt reports presented to Committee, however there was one exempt appendix in relation to the Roads and Transport Related Capital Budget Programme 2023-2024.

** Three of the four recommendations were approved, but one of the recommended traffic schemes was amended by the Committee. This indicator relates to reports where officer recommendations were not accepted by the Committee.

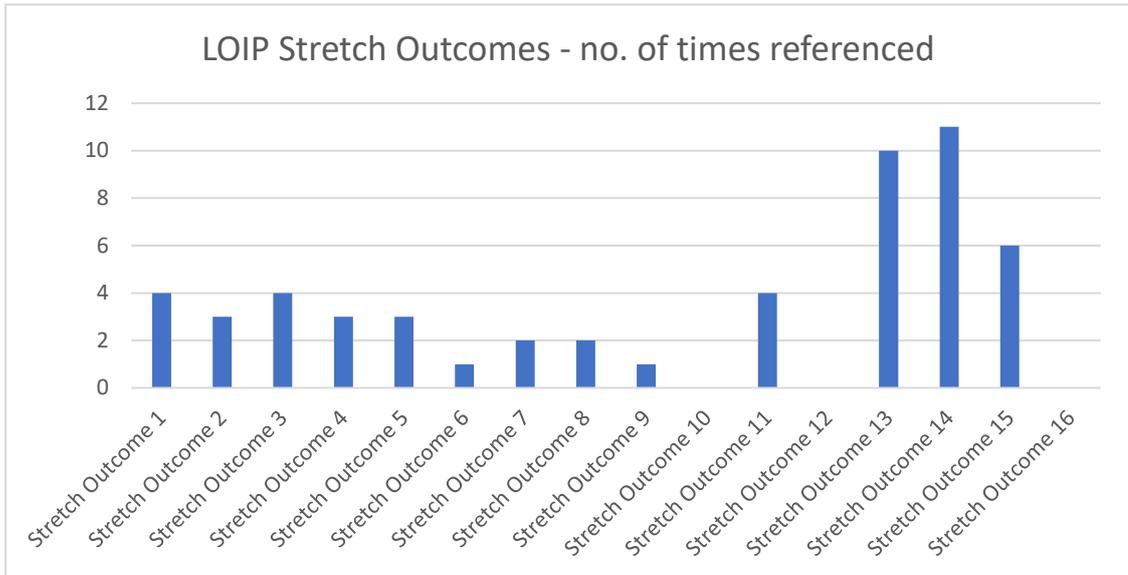
***The Bus Lane Enforcement report was withdrawn and considered at a special meeting

7.2 The additional report requested was an annual report on progress with the objectives of the Tree and Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan. The three service updates requested were in relation to bus patronage, the Reuse facility at Hazlehead Recycling Centre and an update on the progress with Bus Lane Enforcement Scheme projects.

Notices of Motion, Suspension of Standing Orders, Interface with the Public	
Number of Notices of Motion to Committee	6
Number of times Standing Orders suspended	0
Specific Standing Orders suspended	N/A
Number of deputations requested	0
Number of deputations heard	N/A
Number of petitions considered	0

8. Reports with links to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan

- 8.1 The chart below details of the 29 reports how each report linked to the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP Stretch Outcomes are appended to this report for reference at Appendix 1). As can be seen from the chart below, reports to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee had links to most of the stretch outcomes, with the exception of 10, 12 and 16.
- 8.2 Stretch outcome 10 relates to 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year; and stretch outcome 12 relates to Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland, therefore it is unlikely that there would be reports considered at NZET Committee which have links to those stretch outcomes. Stretch Outcome 16 was a new addition and therefore has not been mentioned to date in reports to this committee. There is however a wide spread across the other stretch outcomes, and as would be expected, most reports have had a connection with stretch outcomes 13, 14 and 15, which relate to climate change, sustainable travel, and nature.
- 8.3 Some reports considered by Committee this year have had no connection with specific LOIP stretch outcomes; these tend to be items such as the regular performance report, which do however still have a general impact on the outcomes of the LOIP by monitoring key indicators impacting on the lives of all citizens of Aberdeen and enable Members to assess the measures of already implemented and consider future actions which may be required to ensure an improvement in outcomes.



9. Training and Development

9.1 Training and development is always important to assist Members in performing their role on Committees, but particularly in this case as the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee was a newly established Committee for 2022.

9.2 Aside from the general induction training provided to Members following the May 2022 local government elections, the following has been made available to Members over the reporting period.

- A presentation at the first meeting of the committee on climate and environment
- Carbon Literacy training
- University of Aberdeen and NESCAN Hub 'North East Communities for a Just Transition' event
- Provision of a winter briefing session for 2022. This will be followed in 2023 with a joint winter/emergency planning/storm response briefing
- 'Our Climate, Energy and Just Transition Commitments' – a virtual session which explained the energy and climate priorities for the City and Council, including compliance obligations; the collaborative approach for the city through the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, 6 Strategies and Aberdeen Adapts; and detail on the Council Climate Change Plan
- A Climate Emergency Training for Biodiversity and Nature webinar
- Information from the Improvement Service was shared with Members in relation to the launch of a new Climate Emergency Checklist
- Members have been provided with access to the Green Workplace section of the Intranet, containing information on a range of environmental issues
- Engagement sessions for Members in relation to the development of the draft Local Transport Strategy

9.2 Service updates were also provided to Members throughout the year to provide additional information on topics which were not reported to Committee. These included:-

- Air Quality Progress Report 2022
- Updates on the Altens East Fire and the contingency arrangements and the rebuild progress
- Information on the Council's Building performance criteria to ensure that it is compliant with the Scottish Government's voluntary Net Zero Public Buildings Standards for all new build or significant refurbishment projects
- Aberdeen City Council contribution to Climate Week North-East 2023
- North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan publication
- Hazlehead Household Waste & Recycling Centre: Re-use Facility Update
- Recycling Improvement Fund Update on projects for which the Council has secured funding
- Strategic Active Travel Network Study

- An update on policy and legislative changes which would impact the Council's waste management services

9.3 Further development opportunities will be considered for next year based on Committee business throughout the year, Executive Lead proposals and Member feedback on what may be required to assist them in performing their roles.

10. Code of Conduct Declarations and Transparency Statements

10.1 0 declarations of interest and 14 transparency statements were made by Members during the reporting period. Information in respect of declarations of interest and transparency statements is measured to evidence awareness of the requirements to adhere to the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the responsibility to ensure fair decision-making.

11. Civic Engagement

11.1 During the course of the reporting period, there has been consultation with the public in relation to the following, prior to the reports being presented to Committee:-

- Aberdeen Cross City Connections - Active Travel Scheme Development
- A93 Banchory to Aberdeen Multi-Modal Corridor Study
- Consultation in relation to various Traffic Orders
- Consultation on the Aberdeen City Council Air Quality Action Plan

11.2 At the August 2023 meeting, the Committee further agreed that an eight week period of public and stakeholder consultation be undertaken in relation to the draft Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy (2023-2030) and its appendices and supporting documents.

12. Executive Lead to the Committee - Commentary

12.1 Over the last twelve months the committee has overseen a significant body of work, across a broad range of projects and topic areas. As a new Committee, focused around the steps the Council can and must play in addressing the twin crises of climate change and nature loss, it has been fantastic to see Members take the opportunity to delve into and consider important related issues on the Council's work on Net Zero, Environment and Transport.

12.2 The Committee has overseen and scrutinised important statutory and non-statutory reports outlining the Council's past efforts and future plans on climate and nature, including the Council's admirable tree and woodland response and recovery efforts following several severe storms. Also, exciting forward-looking plans to improve green infrastructure for communities, nature and climate resilience, such as the Denburn Restoration Project.

- 12.3 A key piece of work presented to Committee this year was the Place Based Strategy Framework (May 2023) which set out how the matrix of place-based plans and strategies fit together and relate to other strategies and plans prepared by the Council and its partners. This report provided excellent context for the subsequent reports on the Draft Local Transport Strategy and Roads Hierarchy which were presented to Committee in August 2023.
- 12.4 A significant range of transport projects have been overseen by the Committee this year, including progress on a range of public transport projects associated with the Scottish Government's Bus Partnership Fund. The Committee also has had an important role in overseeing and deciding on the Bus Lane Enforcement funding programme.
- 12.5 In addition to the added value through training and development approaches (ref. Section 9), in the year ahead Officers will continue to respond to feedback from Members of the Committee to ensure that reports are presented in an informative way to allow effective decision making to take place.

13. The Year Ahead

- 13.1 As mentioned above, the 2024 Scheme of Governance review will look at the operation of this committee over the last 12 months and take on board any amendments to Terms of Reference which may be needed.
- 13.2 In line with the NZET Committee Terms of Reference, the new Pupil Climate Change President will be invited to attend a meeting of the committee.
- 13.3 The business planner sets out a range of pieces of work which are due to come back before Committee in 2024/25 for consideration, namely:-
 - Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap & Aberdeen Adapts
 - Net Zero Aberdeen Partnership Leadership Board / Delivery Unit Structure
 - Aberdeen Cross City Connections - Active Travel Scheme Development
 - A93 Banchory to Aberdeen Multi-Modal Corridor Study
 - Aberdeen Hydrogen Integration – Governance
 - Place Based Strategy Framework
 - Locality Based Approach to Deliver Net Zero
 - Transport Delivery Programme
 - Road Safety Plan Annual Update towards 2030 casualty reduction targets
 - Annual Report - Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee
- 13.4 There will also be consideration of the outcomes of the consultation on the draft Local Transport Strategy.

13.5 Officers will continue to identify suitable training and information to share with Members throughout the year.

Appendix 1 – Local Outcome Improvement Plan Stretch Outcomes

Economy	
1.	No one will suffer due to poverty by 2026
2.	400 unemployed people supported into fair work by 2026
3.	500 people skilled/ reskilled to enable them to move into, within and between economic opportunities as they arise by 2026
People (Children & Young People)	
4.	95% of children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026
5.	90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026
6.	By meeting the health and emotional wellbeing needs of our care experienced children and young people they will have the same levels of attainment in education and positive destinations as their peers by 2026
7.	95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 & 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026
8.	83.5% fewer young people (under 18) charged with an offence by 2026
9.	100% of our children with Additional Support Needs/disabilities will experience a positive destination
People (Adults)	
10.	25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026
11.	Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026
12.	Rate of harmful levels of alcohol consumption reduced by 4% and drug related deaths lower than Scotland by 2026
Place	
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
Community Empowerment	
16.	100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026