

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Net Zero, Environment and Transport
DATE	09 September 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts: Annual Report 2024/25
REPORT NUMBER	CR&E/25/205
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	David Dunne
REPORT AUTHOR	Emma Murphy
TERMS OF REFERENCE	5

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the 2024/25 annual update to Committee on progress of collaborative place-based climate change work for Aberdeen; in line with the objectives of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the summary of key collaborative actions progressed between April 2024 and March 2025;
- 2.2 Endorse the content of the Appendix A – Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts: Progress Summary 2024/25.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Background

- 3.1 The [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) was adopted in 2022, setting a pathway towards the City of Aberdeen achieving net zero by 2045. It is supported by six key themed strategies of Mobility, Buildings and Heat, Circular Economy, Energy Supply, Natural Environment and Empowerment. The [Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework](#) (2022) was adopted at the same time, and presents the framework for Aberdeen in preparing for and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, themed Strategies, and Aberdeen Adapts Framework are planned for periodic review in 2025-26.
- 3.2 In February 2022, Council instructed the Chief Officer – Strategic Place Planning to report back on an annual basis on progress towards the objectives of both the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate

Adaptation Framework. Annual reports were brought to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport committee in 2023 and 2024 (see items 10.1 and 10.3 in 10. Background Papers).

- 3.3 Progress on key milestones in city-wide climate activity are included in the below sections. Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts are collaborative city-wide documents and are being co-delivered by a range of organisations. The Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts: Progress Summary 2024/25 in Appendix A, highlights progress on key actions collated from a range of collaborators across the city during the period April 2024 to March 2025. Specific highlights from the Council's actions contributing to this work are outlined in section 3.14.

Governance

- 3.4 The multi-stakeholder Aberdeen Zero and Adaptation Board met for the first time in May 2024. This follows refresh of the previous Net Zero Leadership Board approved by Council in February 2023. This refreshed board includes expanded membership with more balanced representation across multiple sectors including Energy, Skills/Industry, Further Education, Mobility, Built Environment/Infrastructure, Natural Environment and increased Third sector, Community and Youth representation. A list of organisations represented on the Aberdeen Zero and Adaptation Board, and summaries of all meetings are available for view online at the [Net Zero Aberdeen](#) microsite.
- 3.5 A second meeting of the Board was held November 2024, where a representative from the Net Zero Technology Centre was appointed as Vice-Chair. The third meeting of the Board was held May 2025.

Data, monitoring, and reporting 2024-25

- 3.6 The relatively new [Scottish Climate Intelligence Service](#) (SCIS) supports local authorities in Scotland with work towards achieving net-zero place-based emissions by 2045. They are providing capacity building and place-based data to drive collaborative climate action. The SCIS support includes provision of a data platform (ClimateView) to support cities with strategic development of their net zero strategies. This platform is currently being populated with data.
- 3.7 The Council have continued to engage with the SCIS throughout 2024-25. Between September 2024 and March 2025, Council officers attended five platform training workshops, three user group meetings, one-to-one sessions with SCIS Local Leads, and completed all independent work requirements as part of the SCIS recommended training and onboarding process for Local Authorities. A Council officer is also represented on the national SCIS Board.
- 3.8 The SCIS have collated Annual Emissions Inventory Report (AEIR) documents for all Scottish Local Authority areas. The AEIR for Aberdeen City is included as an appendix to this report, and provides an overview of area-wide greenhouse gas emissions for the period January–December 2021, as well as highlighting key insights and trends. SCIS suggest that the AEIR should be reviewed in conjunction with the Reference Sheet for a thorough understanding

of the data and report. These are included as “Appendix B – Annual Emissions Inventory Report (AEIR) 2021” and “Appendix C – Reference Sheet 2021 AEIR”. The AEIR highlights Stationary Energy (fuel use in buildings) and Transportation as the largest emissions sectors for Aberdeen City. Within the Stationary Energy sector, Residential Fuel use made up the largest emissions source (44%), and Natural Gas made up 53% of all Stationary Energy emissions. Within the Transportation Sector, on-road travel generated 95% of emissions, of which cars make up the largest emissions source (62%). The AEIR has been included in the Evidence Report for the next Local Development Plan. The SCIS have indicated that the next AEIR will be received in December 2025, and annually thereafter. The next AEIR will cover calendar year 2023 data, and include a comparison between 2022 and 2023 data.

- 3.9 The Council participates in the [Adaptation Scotland](#) Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network sharing knowledge with other Public Bodies around climate adaptation and resilience. The Council participated in a collaborative Adaptation Capability Framework (ACF) Task & Finish Group, established to lead a strategic update of the ACF. This culminated in the launch of an updated ACF and Benchmarking Tool in January 2025, replacing the existing tools which the Council uses to review adaptation progress.
- 3.10 The [MET Office Local Authority Climate Service](#) launched in October 2024. This website provides tools and resources designed to help Local Authorities understand climate risk in their area and support decision making. This includes a Local Authority Climate Explorer Tool, which can be used to generate high level non-technical summaries of climate projections for Local Authority areas. The MET Office Local Authority Climate Report for Aberdeen, generated October 2024, is included as Appendix D to this report. The report is a visual summary of the UK climate projections and highlights projected changes in climate, and projected sea level rise for the Aberdeen Local Authority area, and impacts the area may face associated with these changes. The MET Office Local Authority Climate Report has been included in the Evidence Report for the next Local Development Plan, and will be used to inform the planned refresh of the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation framework.
- 3.11 The draft [Environmental Standards Scotland Strategy 2026-2031](#) sets out Environmental Standards Scotland’s plans for the next 5 years. These include scrutinising local authorities’ delivery and reporting of their statutory climate change duties, and acting as the Independent Review Body scrutinising progress towards delivery of Scotland’s statutory targets for nature recovery (as proposed in the [Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Bill](#) currently before Parliament).

Summary of Progress 2024-25

- 3.12 A summary of 2024/25 city-wide climate change activity is shown in Appendix A - Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts Summary of Progress 2024/25. This contains key information highlighting collaborative work carried out by stakeholders across the city against the objectives of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap, the six themed strategies, and the Aberdeen Adapts Framework

during the 2024/25 reporting period. These are set out under headings of: Circular Economy, Buildings & Heat, Mobility, Energy Supply, Natural Environment, Adaptation & Resilience, and Empowerment & Communication. The highlights show project status between April 2024 and March 2025. Progress outside this timeframe will be captured in the 2025/26 reporting period.

This includes a highlight of Council actions including:

- Construction progressed on a new Bridge of Don Household Waste Recycling Centre, this modern facility has been designed with a purpose-built reuse shop, with completion expected August 2025.
- Reconstruction of the Altens Materials Recovery Facility, expected to be fully operational by the end of 2025, incorporated PV panels, allowing the facility to run partially on renewable energy. The facility has improved sorting, with optical sorters, and has been future proofed with a modular design allowing easier adaption to changing requirements.
- Partnership work progressed to deliver a new “Bike Hub” initiative for the repair and refurbishment of unwanted bikes for the Reuse Shop at Hazlehead Recycling Centre.
- Nineteen bright pink recycling bins for small electrical items were installed across Aberdeen, at community sports clubs and libraries, providing locals with easy, safe, and accessible options to dispose of unwanted electrical items. Three additional bins were toured around schools to help educate young people on electrical recycling.
- The Energy from Waste plant at Tullos was fully commissioned and began delivering heat to the Torry District heating network Summer 2024, providing low carbon heat to a number of public buildings as well as residential properties. Work is continuing to connect more buildings to the network.
- The Aberdeen Local Heat and Energy Efficiency strategy (LHEES) was developed, awaiting final approval from the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in September 2025. This will allow the Strategy and Delivery Plan to be uploaded to the Council’s website.
- The Finance & Resources committee, March 2025, agreed actions including a £19m investment in Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub (joint venture with bp to produce and distribute green hydrogen), and £9m to enlarge the electric vehicle charging network. Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils announced a project to install 570 new electric vehicle charging points across the north of Scotland by 2028 (including 190 chargers in Aberdeen), more than doubling the existing charging network.
- Cycle storage units were installed at Tillydrone and Seaton Multistorey housing blocks, further shelters are in final stages of installation at Aulton Court, Bayview Court, Beachview Court and Northsea Court.

- Fifty-one sedum roofed bus shelters were installed across the city, bringing the total to eighty-one shelters.
- Schools were invited to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in a pilot “School Streets” scheme, aimed at improving feelings of safety, reducing traffic volumes, and promoting active travel around pick up and drop off times.
- Environmental Services planted 41,879 trees since the Winter of 2022, more than has been achieved for many years. This included restocking woodland areas and green spaces affected by storm damage and planting on new areas of land identified as suitable for tree planting. The team worked in partnership with communities, including schools and businesses, as part of the tree planting programme.
- The Aberdeen B-Lines project, in partnership with Buglife, enhanced or better managed 12.24ha of habitat for invertebrates.
- The Council provided emergency power packs to Peterculter Community Resilience Group, Cults, Milltimber and Bielside Community Resilience Group, Bridge of Don and Danestone Community Resilience Group, and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership (ACHSCP).
- The Council continued to run a 75% 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. The grant has recently expanded to include commercial properties.
- Environmental Services continued to adapt and change the ways greenspace is managed and maintained. The service is managing more and more spaces for nature, supporting Aberdeen to become a greener, healthier city. This positive greenspace management mitigates against the impacts of climate change and supports biodiversity. The changes are common sense approaches such as reducing grass cutting, planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, boosting habitats for many species. The work is carried out in a way which does not exclude people and supports the urban environment.

Communication and Engagement 2024-25

- 3.13 A number of organisations and individuals have become signatories to the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge between April 2024 and March 2025. Current pledge signatory numbers are as follows; 111 signatories including thirty-five organisational signatories and seventy-six individual/household signatories. Key new signatory organisations in 2024-25 include; Community Planning Aberdeen, Aberdeen Performing Arts, and the Net Zero Technology

Centre. A full list of signatory organisations is available on the [Net Zero Aberdeen website](#).

- 3.14 The Council hosted a number of project placements, in summer 2024, for University of Aberdeen students undertaking the MSc Sustainability Transitions course. This included a project in relation to Place based climate action delivery models, “Delivering a place-based approach to climate change in Aberdeen”. The primary objective of this project was to examine delivery models for place-based climate mitigation and adaptation, identifying insights that Aberdeen can incorporate into its climate work.
- 3.15 Officers responded to a Scottish Government consultation on Statutory Guidance on putting public sector climate duties into practice, this guidance would replace and supersede the 2011 Statutory Guidance. The draft guidance set out the overarching principles and the high-level actions that all public bodies are expected to undertake in order to meet their statutory climate duties, and will be accompanied by a series of non-statutory topic supplements. Key high-level actions relevant to place-based climate work include; development of area-wide emissions plans, guidance on Local Authorities wider influence and collaboration on area-wide emissions, developing partnerships for area-wide work, and actions to adapt and become resilient to the changing climate (including climate risk assessment and adaptation planning).

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.
- 4.2 The Council actions outlined in 3.12 above are being funded through a combination of the Council’s revenue and capital budgets, as well as match funding from external organisations such as the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland, Nestrans, Cycling Scotland, etc. Officers continue to engage with a range of funding and partnership working opportunities to progress further Council actions.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Work towards carbon emission reduction targets under the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and adaptation goals under the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework contributes to the Council’s and other public bodies’ duties under Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The activities in this report will support monitoring and delivery of place-based climate actions. The publication of the progress summary will help to inform stakeholders on progress towards the delivery of city net zero targets and climate resilience activities as set out in the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.

7. RISK

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	Failure where the Council has scope of influence to contribute to place-based targets for Net Zero and adaptation goals.	Monitoring against the Work plan established for 2024-25.	L	Yes
Compliance	Failure to align with and contribute to the delivery of national targets/ programmes.	Monitoring and review of emerging legislation.	M	Yes
Operational	Failure to monitor progress.	Engagement in the development of climate project and scenario tools to support future improvements, and monitoring of national activity.	L	Yes
Financial	No direct financial risk.			Yes
Reputational	Failure to support place-based climate plans and targets.	Approved governance and participation in city-wide board. Council Core Co-ordination Group in place for place-based climate work.	M	Yes
Environment / Climate	Risk to the delivery of Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts.	Ongoing support for the delivery of collaborative place-based climate work programmes.	M	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2025-26</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement <u>Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</u>	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of the following aspect of the policy statement:-</p> <p>“We are committed to meeting the challenges facing our local and global environments and to do so will set and work to achieve ambitious objectives to play our full part in building a greener and sustainable city” and the related commitments.</p>
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026</u>	
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	<p>The proposals within this report support the delivery of two LOIP Stretch Outcomes:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>15. 26% of Aberdeen's area will be protected and/or managed for nature and 60% of people report they feel that spaces and buildings are well cared for by 2026.</p>
Regional and City Strategies	<p>The proposals within this report support the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap; Net Zero Buildings and Heat Strategy; Net Zero Energy Supply Strategy; Net Zero Mobility Strategy; Net Zero Circular Economy Strategy; Net Zero Natural Environment Strategy; Net Zero Empowerment Strategy; Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.</p>

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 [COM/24/091](#) – Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts: Annual Report 2023/24 (Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, March 2024)

- 10.2 [CR&E/24/282](#) – Climate Change Report 2023-24 (Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, November 2024)
- 10.3 [COM/23/129](#) – Net Zero Aberdeen Workplan (Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee, March 2023)
- 10.4 [COM/23/054](#) – Climate Change (Place) Governance Proposals (Council, February 2023)

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Net Zero Aberdeen & Aberdeen Adapts: Progress Summary 2024/25
- 11.2 Appendix B – Annual Emissions Inventory Report (AEIR) 2021
- 11.3 Appendix C – Reference Sheet 2021 AEIR
- 11.4 Appendix D – MET Office Local Authority Climate Report

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