Appendix 2 - Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Duties Report 2024/25
Required section

Public Bodies are required to complete an annual climate change duties report. Information is submitted on a set template. This report sets out the Council's climate change return for the period 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.

Boundary Information

Category		dropdown list
Owned estate	Are any buildings owned by the public body?	Yes
Managed services	Are building services managed on behalf of another public body that shares or leases space?	Yes
Leased premises -public	Are building services managed and provided by another public body?	Yes
Leased premises - private	Are building services managed and provided by a private landlord?	NA
Streetlighting	Are streetlights owned or operated?	Yes
Fleet and equipment	Are any vehicles or fossil-fuelled machinery or equipment owned or leased, excludes short-term or infrequent hires?	Yes
Refrigerants/ F-gases	Are there any air conditioning or refrigeration systems that require refrigerant gas top-ups?	NA
Medical gases	Are medical gases used?	No
Business travel - private	Do staff undertake business travel by private car?	Yes
Business travel - flights	Do staff undertake any business travel by plane?	Yes
Homeworking	Do staff work from home - including hybrid?	Yes
Supply chain	Are any goods or services purchased?	NA
Land use	Are more than 10 hectares of land owned or managed for public services provision, including for research or recreation?	NA
Waste services	Is the public body responsible for collecting household or municipal waste?	Yes

Yes – data is available and reported
NA – data is relevant but no data is available
No – category is not relevant

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: 7154.63 (as of 31st March 2025)
1d. Metrics used by the body: *Drop down options are not relevant, so nothing noted.*
1e. Overall budget of the body (£): 607 million. These are net figures.
1f. Specify the report year type: Financial (1st of April 2024 to 31st of March 2025)
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 emissions reduction through The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and six supporting 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?

Aberdeen City Council organisational structure includes 3 Functions - Corporate Services; City Regeneration and Environment; Families and Communities. Within each Function sit a number of Clusters. The Climate and Environment Policy Service sits within the City Regeneration and Environment Function and Strategic Place Planning Cluster, alongside services covering planning and transport strategy and programmes. City Regeneration and Environment Function works to make the city more prosperous and green and considers how neighbourhoods and buildings affect people's health, including the Council's work to achieve net zero. The function manages all capital projects from start to finish, as well as providing planning and building standards services, economic development, cultural services, and operational services. However, a wide range of additional Clusters will have responsibilities relevant to climate change. Cross-Council responsibilities are reflected in climate governance including:

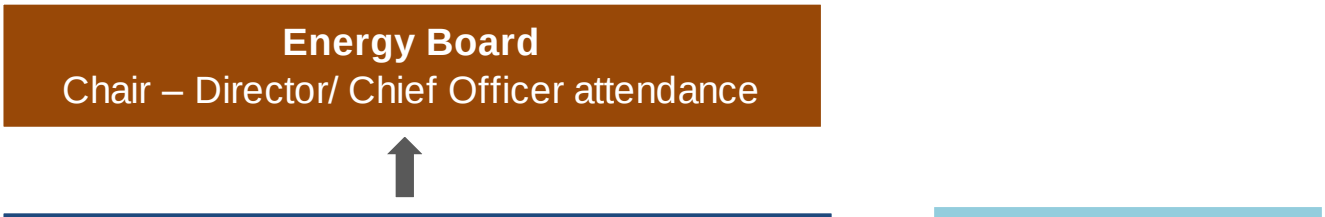
Committee

During the reporting period, the progress of various plans, policies, and strategies was communicated to committee, primarily to the Council and the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee. The statutory Climate Change Report was also presented to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee for review. Aberdeen City Council declared a climate and nature emergency in March 2023, emphasising its commitment to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. At its annual budget setting meeting on 5 March 2025, the Council Carbon Budget 25/26 was approved alongside the annual financial budget.
Key decisions made during the annual budget for 25/26 meeting include budget allocations for recycling, heat network expansion, energy-efficient street lighting, low-carbon transport: hydrogen hub, EV infrastructure, fleet upgrades, active travel improvements, food growing, flood prevention and coastal adaptation measures. These investments are part of a long-term effort towards achieving net zero and climate resilience.

Council

The Council's Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 outlines specific actions aimed at reducing carbon emissions and enhancing resilience to climate change. This plan sets emissions reduction targets for Council assets and operations and details the necessary steps to achieve these goals. A Climate Oversight Group led by the Chief Officer for Strategic Place Planning 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 officers from finance and education; as well as the theme leads for workstreams delivering actions under the plan and creating a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation.

During the reporting period an Energy Board was established. The Board has responsibility for the Council's carbon and net zero targets, providing strategic direction to the Climate Oversight Group, and monitoring the progress made by that Group. As indicated in the diagram below:



City

A multi-organisation Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board is in place. The Board provides strategic oversight and coordination for the delivery of both the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and the Aberdeen Adapts Framework. It brings together key public, private, and third-sector partners to ensure alignment, monitor progress, and support collaborative climate action across the city. Progress summaries published in May and November 2024 highlight the advancements made during this reporting period.

City – Community Planning Partners

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

- **Risk Board** – during this reporting period the Corporate Risk Register included a "Climate change - Place 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 the climate risk) takes place and relevant information in relation to horizon scanning is also reported.
  In addition, there are a number of climate risks identified at Cluster and Operational level including the Cluster level risk, Climate and Nature – Council compliance.
- **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.
- **Energy Board** – remit to consider internal and external factors to understand the current and future energy and carbon management issues and its potential impact on the Council and the place of Aberdeen. The Board will lead on the development of proposals for energy and carbon management initiatives, providing strategic direction and oversight of the implementation of these initiatives.

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 factors are incorporated into relevant risk registers, service plans, business cases, and development management consultations.
- Council has a statutory requirement to reduce emissions, adapt to climate change and address sustainability under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. In addition to integrating sustainability throughout the Business Case, in areas including risk, procurement, resources and finance, project managers should complete the Environmental Management section. This is to demonstrate they have fully considered any positive or negative impacts of the project on the environment; have highlighted any issues; and considered how these impacts will be managed.
- The Council is dedicated to reducing carbon emissions and enhancing efficiency through its Council Climate Change Plan. This includes measures to decrease carbon emissions from infrastructure and lower energy consumption across the council's estate. Following the Council Budget meeting in March 2025, all capital projects will be required to specify their expected operational carbon impacts.
- Environmental Implications are included in the committee reporting template and the accompanying guidance document for report authors.
- The Council Policy template and its guidance also address environmental considerations.
- Environmental factors are integrated into planning consultation responses, supported by regular cross-service meetings with Development Management and incorporated into development policy.
- An Environmental Impacts section was added to the Council Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) template during the reporting year.
- The Council Capability Framework outlines guiding principles and core competencies for staff, including indicators for climate change and nature loss. This ensures that climate and nature considerations are embedded in the annual staff appraisal process.
- Emissions management and broader sustainability efforts across the Council are reported annually through the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI).
- An internal Climate Change eLearning module, titled "Meeting Our Climate Change Duties," is in place allowing staff to learn at their own pace. 49 employees have completed it between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.
- A half-day interactive staff training course, "Taking Action on Climate Change," aims to provide participants with a deeper understanding of climate change science, policy, and practical actions for a sustainable future. Participants explore how climate change links to their role, and make commitments to implement climate action.
- Internal waste management is overseen by various officers, with responsibilities distributed among different functions as outlined in the Internal Waste Minimisation Policy. The Waste and Recycling Team is responsible for collecting waste and recycling containers from most corporate buildings as part of trade waste collections. Facilities management implements and provides waste and recycling services at main office buildings. The Digital and Technology Cluster manages the collection and coordination with external companies for the reuse and recycling of Waste Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE). Additional waste data is provided by relevant contractors.
- 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 2024/25	The Council's Commissioning Intentions are strategically aligned with the stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the broader Council strategy framework. For 2024/25 period, objectives • Grow the economy through investment, innovation, and skills development. • Support people and communities, especially children, families, and vulnerable groups. • Protect the environment by promoting sustainability and climate resilience.

	• Improve council services with better digital access, financial efficiency, and transparency
The Place Based Strategy Framework	Approved May 2023. Outlines place-based strategies within the Council and the interrelationship and interdependencies between them. Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts are indicated as tier 1 (key overarching strategies) in the Framework
LOIP-16-26-April-2024.pdf (communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk)	One of the stretch outcomes for the plan is addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. The LOIP indicates key drivers as Reducing emissions across the city through the delivery of Aberdeen's Net Zero Vision & Route-map; and Contributing to the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts by developing a bottom-up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them.

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.
- **Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap** was approved in February 2022 at Council and sets out a collaborative pathway towards Aberdeen becoming net zero by 2045. 6 high level net zero enabling strategies cover net zero priorities for the city.
  - Mobility Strategy
  - Buildings & Heat Strategy
  - Circular Economy Strategy
  - Energy Supply Strategy
  - Natural Environment Strategy
  - Empowerment Strategy

Adaptation

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 and goals to build long term city resilience. 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 **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. Current work programmes delivering the plan are progressing under various themes.

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		High-level objectives: To increase the choice of transport modes available to employees, Councillors and visitors to Council buildings.

	available via the intranet)		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 91)	2018-2023	Outlines housing strategy approach and includes the strategic outcome: Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets. The Local Housing Strategy is currently under review.
Energy efficiency	Property Asset Management Policy		Key principles include reducing carbon emissions from our properties.
Other	Condition & Suitability 3Year Programme	2024/25 - 2026/27	A 3-year Condition and Suitability (C&S) Programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 was approved in September 2024. This programme focuses on condition and suitability improvements for the Council's General Fund property portfolio. The total budget allocation for the three years, which was approved during the Council Budget meeting in March 2024, is £26.292 million.
Fleet transport	Fleet Replacement Programme Final.pdf	2021/22 - 2025/26	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. The purpose of the Fleet Replacement Programme is to ensure the Council maintains an optimum operating age profile of the Fleet to a maximum 7-year profile for Heavy Goods Vehicles and vans to 5-year profile which aligns with Operator Licence requirements to reduce risk. The programme also provides for the replacement of an assortment of other vehicles, mobile plant and small hand-held plant which is, generally, 3-years.
Waste Management	Internal Waste Minimisation Policy (only available via the intranet)		Sets policy for 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 | Aberdeen City Council	Adopted 19 June 2023	The Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023 includes policy on low and zero carbon buildings and on renewable and low carbon energy development. A wider range of policy information on the ALDP is included in the adaptation section. It will be used to guide decisions on planning applications alongside Aberdeen Planning Guidance and Supplementary Guidance. The ALDP 2023 incorporates changes established by NPF4.
Land use	Generation Aberdeen | Masterplans		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	Open Space Strategy	2011-2016	The Aberdeen Open Space Strategy 2011 aims to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity by promoting Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS), protecting open spaces for flood management, and planting native species. Open and blue-green

			spaces are vital for quality of life, providing health, wellbeing, economic, and environmental benefits, and fostering connections with nature. The Aberdeen Open Space Audit 2024 has been approved. Key findings include: • 82% of respondents want green spaces managed more naturally for wildlife. • 79% are satisfied with open spaces, particularly parks and woodlands. • Respondents emphasised that green spaces promote health and well-being, citing exercise, nature, and socialising as top reasons for use. • Quality indicators revealed that accessibility and attractiveness of open spaces scored the highest. The Open Space Audit supports blue-green infrastructure policies in the Aberdeen Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework 4. It plays a crucial role in protecting and enhancing open spaces for community use, recreation, and new developments. The audit also collected community views on the value of open spaces through a public survey. The audit will inform a future revision of the Natural Environment Strategy, guiding the planning and management of blue and green spaces for the benefit of people and nature in Aberdeen.
Other – nature	Nature Conservation Strategy (page 4 and 15)		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 – buildings	Building Performance Policy	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.
Other – various	Local Outcome Improvement Plan-16-26-April-2024.pdf	2016-2026	**Vision "A place where all people can prosper."** The LOIP aims to ensure everyone in Aberdeen, regardless of background or circumstance, has equal opportunities to thrive. **Key Themes & Stretch Outcomes (16 Total)** **Prosperous Economy** • Reduce food and fuel insecurity by 20%. • Achieve a 74% employment rate. • Promote fair work, skills development, and business creation. **Prosperous People – Children & Young People** • Improve early development, mental health, and educational outcomes. • Support care-experienced and vulnerable youth. • Reduce youth offending and ensure positive post-school destinations. **Prosperous People – Adults** • Increase healthy life expectancy by 5 years. • Reduce alcohol and drug-related deaths by 10%. • Reduce homelessness by 10% and youth homelessness by 6%. **Prosperous Place**

			• Cut carbon emissions by 61%. • Increase sustainable travel and protect 26% of land for nature. • Improve access to quality green spaces and community resilience. **Community Empowerment** • Ensure 50% of people feel able to influence decisions by 2026. • Promote inclusive participation, local leadership, and community-led change.
Other – economy	Regional Economic Strategy 2023 (investaberdeen.co.uk)	Approved 2015	The original Regional Economic Strategy (RES), setting out a 20-year vision for the North East of Scotland's economic prosperity through to 2035, was formally approved by Aberdeen City Council at its Full Council meeting in December 2015. Building on this foundation, a revised Regional Economic Strategy was developed and subsequently approved by both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils in December 2023. 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 - 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. Public consultation on the draft Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy 2023-2030, took place during the reporting period.
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 Electric Vehicles in Aberdeen over the next 5-10 years.
Other – air quality	Air Quality Action Plan	2011	Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) framework. It outlines the actions we will take to improve air quality in Aberdeen between 2023 and 2028. Progress each year is reported in an Annual Progress Report Air quality reports | Aberdeen City Council
Other - Procurement	Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026	2023 - 2026	Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Highland Council Joint Procurement Strategy for 2023-2026 approved and published (Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026)

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. Progress the refresh of the Council Climate Change Plan, with production of an updated Council Climate and Nature Plan and associated delivery actions;
2. Continued population of ClimateView Platform for the Council, to inform climate planning, and for Aberdeen, in liaison with the Scottish Climate intelligence Service;
3. Commence update cycles for collaborative place-based climate documents including Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and Aberdeen Adapts Climate Adaptation Framework;
4. Publish our third Local Climate Impact Profile, setting out the impact of weather on Council Services over a 5-year period from 2019; and
5. Produce a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan for the city.

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

The Council is part of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network and reviews adaptation progress annually against the Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework using the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Tool.

2h - Supporting information and best practice.

- The Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and the Aberdeen Adapts Framework are comprehensive city-wide strategies aimed at reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. These strategies were developed collaboratively. Various organisations and partnerships are responsible for implementing net-zero and adaptation actions in Aberdeen. To support these efforts, the Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board, which includes representatives from 16 organisations across multiple sectors and industries, convened in May and November 2024.
- Making a commitment to Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts, there are now 107 signatories of the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge – including 32 organisations and 75 individuals/households. Approximately one-third of the signatories are organisations and businesses, which consist of a mix of large corporations and smaller local companies.

Various awareness raising events and presentations relating to climate were provided to senior management and staff including:

- A "**Green Workplace"** area of the staff intranet continued to be expanded with new information and activities during this reporting period to provide easy access to information, practical tips, ideas and opportunities for staff to get involved in the climate change and wider sustainability agenda.
- In 2024/25, the **Green Champions** network grew from 80 to 89 Champions, taking part in 11 initiatives including, workplace food growing, food waste champions, repair what you wear workshops, active travel challenges, and activities to provide access to reusable period products in the workplace. Success stories of Champions are shared on the internal Green Champion Green Workplace page to promote, encourage and inspire further staff action. In addition, a city wide Champions Network meet quarterly to network, share and learn from each organisations own experiences of Green Champions. Organisations include the James Hutton Institute, University of Aberdeen, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership and Police Scotland.

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

		tCO2e				
Year	Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Comments

Baseline carbon Footprint	15/16	22,020.00	21,664.00	2,687.00	46,371.00	
Year 1 carbon footprint	16/17	17,704.90	18,347.31	3,173.58	39,255.00	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	Changes in emission factors and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 3 Carbon Footprint	18/19	17,015.18	12,176.07	1,899.20	31,090.45	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	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	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	25,929.3	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
Year 7 Carbon Footprint	22/23	15,575.1	9,153.5	2,775.5	27,503.9	Higher than 21-22 due to District Heating being added to reporting, temporary changes to some corporate waste disposal methods and a change in home working calculation by the Scottish Government.
Year 8 Carbon Footprint	23/24	15,716.1	9,404.9	2,513.5	27,634.5	Slightly higher than 22-23 due to UK electricity emission factors increasing 23/24 after a trend of reductions. District heating was added to more assets. Weather 5% colder than the previous year.
Year 9 Carbon Footprint	24/25	15,664.8	8,568.5	1,737.7	25,971	Decrease by approximately 6%, from 2023 -24.

3b – Breakdown of emission sources

Emission Source	Scope	Consumption Data	Units	Emission Factors	Units	Emissions (tCO2e)	Comments
Buildings							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	25,326,193	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	5,243.79	3% (145 tCO2e) reduction from 23/24
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	25,326,193	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	463.47	Usage through corporate assets.
Natural Gas	1	61,479,528	kWh	0.1829	kg CO2e/kWh	11,244.61	2% reduction from 23/24 to first full year of district heating at Tullos Community School and Greyhope School and Community Hub along with overall temperatures being slightly higher than 23-24.
Gas Oil	1	250,005	litres	2.75541	kg CO2e/kWh	688.87	Large increase at Duthie Park winter gardens due to ongoing issues with the biomass boiler, resulting in more heat required from the oil boilers.
Heat and Steam: District Heating	2	9,544,721	kWh	0.17965	kg CO2e/kWh	1,714.71	17% reduction from 23/24 due to 3 properties being connected to heat from the energy from the waste plant (August 24).
Heat and Steam: District Heating (transmission and distribution losses)	3	9,544,721	kWh	0.00946	kg CO2e/kWh	90.29	5% transmission losses.
Biomass	1	845,280	kWh	0.01074	kg CO2e/kWh	9.1	Ongoing issues with the biomass boiler at Duthie Park Gardens has resulted in less biomass being used.
Water Supply	3	213,324	m3	0.08	kg CO2e/m3	17.07	19% reduction compared to last year.
Water Treatment	3	202,657.8	m3	0.17	kg CO2e/m3	34.45	Usage through corporate assets. Figure is 95% of water supply.
Street Lighting							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	7,768,260	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	1,608.42	Further work on the LED programme has resulted -17% (362 tCO2e) decrease in consumption
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	7,768,260	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	142.16	From Streetlighting
Staff Travel							

Average car - unknown fuel	3	498,772	km	0.16691	kg CO2e/km	83.25	Staff travel car hire.
Average car - unknown fuel	3	462,498	km	0.16691	kg CO2e/km	77.20	Essential car users (grey fleet),1% (1.12 tCO2e) increase from 23/24
Average car - unknown fuel	3	677,619	km	0.16691	kg CO2e/km	113.10	Casual car users (grey fleet),1% (1.83 tCO2e) increase from 23/24.
Rail (National Rail)	3	457,262	km	0.03546	kg CO2e/ passenger km	16.21	49% (5.36 tCO2e) increase from the previous reporting year.
Coach/Bus		4,104	km	0.02717	kg CO2e/ passenger km	0.11	87% (-0.74 tCO2e) reduction from last year, as reported by suppliers.
Car – petrol (average)	3	37,070.4	km	0.1645	kg CO2e/km	6.10	Car club information.
Car – hybrid (medium)	3	9692.8	km	0.1149	kg CO2e/km	1.11	Car club information. Car Hybrid.
Car - diesel (average - unknown engine size)	3	161.6	km	0.16984	kg CO2e/km	0.03	Car Club distance covered in one diesel van – only diesel member of the Enterprise Aberdeen car club fleet
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery Electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	2	5329.15	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/km	1.10	Car Club information (onsite charging - split from Buildings electricity)
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery Electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	3	5329.15	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	0.10	Car Club information (onsite charging - split from Buildings electricity)
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery Electric Vehicle (Medium) Km (own power supply)	2	2509.3	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	0.52	Car Club information (offsite charging) with its own power supply
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery Electric Vehicle (Medium) Km (own power supply)	3	2509.3	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	0.05	Car Club information (offsite charging) with its own power supply
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	15,852.93	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	3.28	Car Club Hydrogen vehicles information

Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	15,852.93	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	0.29	Car Club Hydrogen vehicles information
Long haul flight (economy class)	3	31,092	Passenger km	0.20011	kg CO2e/ passenger km	6.22	Around 11% (0.64 tCO2e) increase from 23/24; More attendance at overseas conferences
Short haul flight (economy class)	3	143,462	Passenger km	0.18287	kg CO2e/ passenger km	26.23	379% (20.76 tCO2e) increase from 23/24. Also, a school trip booked through the Travel Team.
Domestic flight (economy class)	3	118,797	Passenger km	0.27257	kg CO2e/ passenger km	32.38	65% (12.75 tCO2e) increase compared to the previous year 23/24. An increase in travel and school trip booked
Ferry	3	1,881	Passenger km	0.1127	kg CO2e/ passenger km	0.21	61% (-0.33 tCO2e) decreased compared to last year.
Waste							
Paper and board (mixed recycling)	3	77	tonnes	6.41061	kg CO2e/tonne	0.49	Confidential waste Aberdeen City Council sites. 60% (1.20 tCO2e) decrease from 23/24
Organic food and drink composting	3	56	tonnes	8.83386	kg CO2e/tonne	0.5	0% increase from 23/24, from 3R Schools.
Organic food and drink composting	3	256	tonnes	8.83386	kg CO2e/tonne	2.3	0.1 tCO2e increase in consumption from corporate premises.
Garden Waste	3	34	tonnes	8.83386	kg CO2e/tonne	0.3	0% increase in comparison to 23/24 from corporate premises.
General waste to landfill	3	159	tonnes	497.04416	kg CO2e/tonne	79.1	0.25% (0.2 tCO2e) increase compared to last year.3R Schools Provided by a report from the waste contractor
General waste - combustion	3	2,733.216	tonnes	6.41061	kg CO2e/tonne	17.5	34 tCO2e decrease compared to last year.
Mixed recycling	3	47	tonnes	6.41061	kg CO2e/tonne	0.3	75% (0.9 tCO2e) decrease from 23/24. From corporate premises (including glass), with data based on scheduled regular collections but does not include bulky uplifts
WEEE (Mixed) Recycling	3	9	tonnes	6.41061	kg CO2e/tonne	0.057	IT provided information from contractor
General waste to landfill	3	0	tonnes	497.045	kg CO2e/tonne	0	From corporate premises.
Mixed recycling	3	321	tonnes	6.41061	kg CO2e/tonne	2.1	From corporate premises. (including glass). Based on scheduled regular uplifts, so the data does not include bulky uplifts.
Fleet							
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	1	1,453,210	litres	2.51279	kg CO2e/litre	3,651.61	Around 2% (-70.27 tCO2e) decreased compared to last year within fleet services.

Petrol (average biofuel blend)	1	27,406	litres	2.0844	kg CO2e/litre	57.13	3% (-2 tCO2e) decreased in comparison to last year
Gas Oil	1	4,716	litres	2.75541	kg CO2e/litre	13.0	2% (-0.26 tCO2e) decreased compared to last year.
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	9.399	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	0.0019	Fleet EVs charged from onsite source (split from Buildings electricity) Duthie Park Depot only
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	9.399	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	0.00017	Fleet EVs charged from onsite source (split from Buildings electricity) Duthie Park Depot only
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	0	kWh	0.20705	kg CO2e/kWh	0	Both refuelling sites have been offline for maintenance, resulting in no use of hydrogen vehicles during this period. Currently developing the Energy Centre at TECA for hydrogen production & a refuelling station King Street First Bus depot.
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	0	kWh	0.0183	kg CO2e/kWh	0	Both refuelling sites have been offline for maintenance, resulting in no use of hydrogen vehicles during this period.
Other							
Homeworking emissions	3	1563780.00	FTE Working Hour	0.33378	kg CO2e/FTE/annual working hours	522.0	Estimate based regular VPN usage.
Overall Total Emissions						**25,971**	

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			845,280		Woodchips consumed for the biomass plant.
Energy From Waste			4,387,700		District heating from waste incineration
Solar photovoltaic (PV)					Energy is generated onsite as well as generated onsite and exported to grid. Data monitoring is in progress for future reporting

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	48% without addition DH	15/16	46,371	tCO2e	2045	At 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?

The Council operates a Carbon Budget to support the delivery of the Council Climate Change Plan. During the reporting period:

- The 2024/25 Carbon Budget monitoring cycle continued, following approval alongside the Council's financial budget in March 2024.
- Monthly updates on the carbon budget's progress were provided to the Council Climate Oversight Group.
- Quarterly provisional updates on the carbon budget continued to be included in the Performance Report, presented to the Net Zero, Environment, and Transport Committee.
- A number of updates on the carbon budget process and progress were provided, including to the Strategy Board.
- For the third time the annual carbon budget (for 2025/26) came forward to Council alongside the financial budget report in March 2025. Information on the carbon budget was included in the 2025/26 budget packs.
- Information on the carbon budgets was shared on the staff intranet, including a Chief Officer blog.
- Work continued to centralise carbon data.

Climate change is embedded in core business systems:

- Climate change is integrated across Corporate, Cluster and Operational Risk Registers requiring regular progress updates on control actions by risk owners and regular review by the Risk Board. A deep dive on the Corporate Climate Risk took place on December 2024.
- Committee report templates ask for information on climate/ environmental risks. The template includes an Environmental Implications section, 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. Committee reports go through Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which includes an Environmental Implications section.
- The priority scoring matrix for assessing projects under the Council Condition and Suitability Programme (for Council assets, property and estates) continues to include scoring on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation.

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.

- A word document of the CCR was submitted to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee (18 November 2025).
- Council climate change and biodiversity updates for 2024/25 were collated in a Council Climate and Nature Summary, presented to Committee for the first time, alongside our statutory report. The Council Climate and Nature Summary 2024/25 will be published on the Aberdeen City Council website and internally on the Staff Intranet 'Green Workplace' site and key messages posted on our corporate social media page. This updates the approach for previous annual climate infographics and reflects the interlinked nature of the climate and biodiversity crises.
- The Council Climate Change Plan and project register are available on the Council Climate Change webpage.
- An update on the Statutory Performance Indicator on emissions management is produced annually.
- Collaborative place based climate work to deliver Net Zero Aberdeen and Aberdeen Adapts is reported separately to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee. Information can be found in the 24/25 update.

3e - Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year

Emission source	Total Est. annual carbon savings (tCO_2e)	Comments
Electricity	150.1	Building energy efficiency; upgrades; renewables
Electricity	361.4	Street lighting LED upgrades
Natural Gas	271	Heating upgrades, transition from gas
Other heating fuels	367	Transition from gas DH, DH controls, energy efficiency measures
Waste	210	Residual internal waste to energy from waste, changes in emission factors
Water and sewerage	15.9	Water efficiency measures
Business travel	16.71	Car club staff travel. Replacement EV vehicles in this reporting period.
Fleet transport	78.27	Fleet vehicles and plant
Total	1,470.38	

3f - Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year

Please note, only projects implemented, completed with one full year of CO2 savings data available during the 2024/25 reporting year are required in this section. As some projects span multiple years, a phased approach based on 'year' has been adopted for reporting purposes.

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
Streetlighting LED Replacement Programme	Aberdeen City Council/ ERDF	18/19	Estimated	£9 m	-	9	Electricity	371.4	£5 million (electricity costs dependent)	No	Completed March 2024.17% (tCO2e) decrease from 23/24.
Marischal College lighting upgrade to LED	SALIX	24/25	Estimated	£2.81 m	£289K		Electricity	106		No	Completed May 2024. Replacement of lamps/ lighting system at council HQ, with energy efficient lighting/ more efficient control system.
Energy from Waste Plant – Internal waste	Joint funding	24/25	Actual		-	-	Waste to landfill	203.25		No	Operational Dec 2023. Figure covers internal residual waste to combustion
Heating & control upgrades	Aberdeen City Council	24/25	Estimated		-	-	Gas	39		No	Various premises
Condition & Suitability Programme	Aberdeen City Council	24/25	Estimated		-	-	Electricity Gas	31.55	-	No	Building energy efficiency measures through upgrade programme
District heat connections to Energy from Waste	Aberdeen City Council	24/25	Actual		-	-	Gas	174.5		No	District Heat connections with heat from Energy from Waste Plant from August 2024, (Tullos Community School, Deeside Family Centre, Greyhope School)

Solar PV installations – Public buildings	Aberdeen City Council	24/25	Estimate	-	-	Electricity		No	Operational switch on 2024 new build schools. Data reflected in electricity 3b
Car Club – staff business use	Aberdeen City Council	24/25	Estimate	-	-	Diesel, petrol	16.71	Yes	Exclusive use of car club vehicles staff travel. Replacement EV vehicles in this reporting period.
New Council House Build - Gold Standard New Build Council Housing	Part funded by ACC and by Scottish Government grant	24/25		-	-	Various	-	No	Completion of Kaimhill (40 new build) ground source heat pumps (2024). Ongoing construction of new housing (Cloverhill), including air source heat pumps, circa 200, now completed. Tillydrone 70 new build to gold standard.
Council Housing project DORIC Domestic Optimised Retrofit Innovation Concept	ACC & UK government grant funding	24/25				Various	Target energy use of 50kWh/sq m	Yes	Project complete. Whole house retrofit for 50. EPC improvement from EPC C to EPC B. Installing energy efficiency measures, air source heat pumps, solar PVs and battery. Using smart modelling software and infrared survey techniques.

3g - Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year

Emission source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO_2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes			Data reflected in 3b
Service provision	565	Decrease	Data reflected in 3b
Service provision	370.38	Increase	Increase in staff travel and oil
Staff numbers	Unknown	Decrease	Highest number of full-time equivalent staff at March 25, was 7154.63, compared to 7195.23 in previous year.

3h - Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead

Emission source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO_2e)	Comments
Electricity	230.5	Solar PV generation & export, energy efficiency, lighting upgrades
Natural gas	73.44	Boiler and heating upgrades, energy efficiency
Other heating fuels	444	3 public buildings - district heating connected to energy from waste.
Waste	0	
Water/ sewerage	1.4	Water efficiency upgrades
Business Travel	2	Staff travel plan and policy being refreshed
Fleet transport	37.31	Zero emission fleet transition, EV infrastructure (fleet)
Total	788.65	

3i - Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions from other sources in the year ahead

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO_2e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes		Increase	Data will be reflected in 3b 25/26. Includes new Riverbank School (opened May 2025)
Service provision	240.56	Increase	Temporary diversion of residual internal waste.
Staff numbers		Unknown	
Other – Emission factors	895.43	Decrease	Estimated decrease from changes in emission factors for 2024/25
Other - DH	50.62	Increase	Temporary DH to gas at 3 premises

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
Total savings since baseline year	20,400	Figure is total reduction in emissions from baseline year 15/16 and can be attributed to project savings & changes in emissions factors

3k - Supporting information and best practice

Project 1: Energy Efficient Lighting – Marischal College

The Energy Efficient Lighting project at Marischal College involved the replacement of outdated internal lighting systems within Aberdeen City Council's headquarters with modern, energy-efficient lighting and an advanced control system. The primary objective was to reduce carbon emissions and improve the building's energy performance and operational efficiency.

Implementation officially began in April 2023 and was completed by May 2024. The project was delivered on time and within budget, thanks to effective collaboration among the council's energy team, contractors, consultants, and facilities staff.

The completed project is expected to deliver an annual carbon saving of 106 tonnes of CO_2 from the year 2024–25. The key metric for monitoring progress is electricity consumption, allowing the council to track the effectiveness of the new system over time.

The total capital investment amounted to £2.810 million, with ongoing annual operating costs estimated at £289,000. Funding for the project was provided through a SALIX loan, and Aberdeen City Council served as the accountable body responsible for implementation and oversight.

Key benefits include substantial reductions in electricity usage, resulting in notable carbon savings, as well as improved lighting control and energy management throughout the building. The project supports Aberdeen's broader climate objectives and provides a replicable model for energy efficiency improvements in other public buildings.

Project 2: District Heating with Heat from Energy from Waste Plant

The District Heating project utilising heat from an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant is a key initiative aimed at decarbonising building heating systems by replacing traditional gas boilers with a sustainable heat source. This project involves supplying a local district heating network with waste heat generated from the EfW facility, offering a more environmentally responsible alternative to fossil fuel-based heating.

Although the official start year precedes 2024, the network initially operated using gas boilers while the EfW plant completed its commissioning phase. Full transition to waste heat occurred in August 2024. The first complete year of projected carbon savings will begin in 2025–26. The system serves several key community sites, including Tullos Community School, Deeside Family Centre, and the Greyhope School and Community Hub.

The project is estimated to deliver an annual carbon reduction of 444 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent, with performance monitored based on the number of building connections to the district heating network. This transition not only reduces reliance on fossil fuels but also promotes the efficient reuse of heat that would otherwise be lost.

Funding for the project is jointly provided by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Government, with the council acting as the accountable body overseeing implementation. The initiative aligns with broader strategic goals to reduce emissions from public buildings and improve long-term energy resilience.

Key benefits include a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and the innovative use of energy that would otherwise be wasted. The project exemplifies how municipalities can lead in low-carbon infrastructure development while supporting public services.

Project 3: Project DORIC – Whole House Retrofit Demonstrator

Project DORIC is a demonstrator retrofit programme targeting 50 council-owned homes, aiming to significantly improve energy efficiency through a "whole house" approach. The upgrades include enhancements to the building fabric such as insulation, new windows and doors, and the installation of renewable technologies like air source heat pumps, solar photovoltaic panels, and battery storage systems. The goal is to lower energy demand and emissions while improving living conditions for tenants.

The project is designed to meet an ambitious energy performance target of 50kWh per square metre annually. Performance is monitored through changes in the homes' Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings, with the aim of moving properties from EPC C to EPC B.

Each home retrofit is estimated to cost approximately £100,000. The initiative is funded jointly by Aberdeen City Council and the UK Government. Aberdeen City Council is also responsible for the delivery and oversight of the project.

Throughout 2024–25, the project has entered its evaluation phase, which includes conducting post-installation EPC assessments, air tightness tests, and gathering feedback from tenants about the comfort and usability of their homes following the upgrades. This feedback is essential for validating performance outcomes and shaping future retrofit strategies.

Key challenges include securing sustained tenant engagement before, during, and after implementation and supporting behavioural adaptation to new systems such as air source heating and mechanical ventilation.
The project delivers multiple benefits, including reduced energy consumption, the introduction of renewable heating sources, and the development of valuable data to guide large-scale retrofitting efforts in the future. Project DORIC stands as a practical learning model for scalable, low-carbon housing improvements.

Some highlight works and awards

- A report presented to the Education and Children's Services Committee outlined key initiatives in Aberdeen schools and the Youth Climate Change Group for the 2024-25 session, focusing on climate change, biodiversity, and the net-zero goal.

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) identifies those risks that present the most significant threat to the achievement of organisational objectives and which have the potential to disrupt service delivery.
  The Corporate Risk Register includes the risk titled 'Climate Change (Place)', which refers to the risk of the Council failing to contribute, within its sphere of influence, to the reduction of city-wide emissions and to addressing strategic climate risks facing the city. These risks include, but are not limited to extreme or reduced rainfall, flooding, rising temperatures, and sea level rise.
  In addition, various climate-related risks are embedded within the relevant Cluster and Operational-level Risk Registers. This includes the risk entitled 'Climate Duties – Council Compliance', which pertains to the potential failure to meet statutory obligations as a local authority to reduce emissions, contribute to national targets, and adapt effectively to climate change. *Actions support Capability Framework – UC1A (Record and consider the impact of recent weather events on your organisation), and UC2A (Map out how your organisation's functions might be affected by climate change).*
- 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 and includes key information for the city from UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) and strategic climate risks for the city.
  Action supports Capability Framework –UC3A (Carry out climate change risk assessment)
- An updated assessment of flood risk in Aberdeen has been carried out as part of the **North-East Local Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028**, which replaces the previous plan from 2016. This plan is part of the statutory responsibilities of Aberdeen City Council, in partnership with SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council, and Scottish Water, under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. As part of Cycle 2, Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) were identified through mapping and assessment concluded in July 2018. Within these PVAs, specific Objective Target Areas (OTAs), flooding hotspots have been highlighted for targeted actions.
- Under the Local Development Plan, Aberdeen City Council will be continuing to develop the Surface Water Management Plans in consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water and will be continuing with the next stages of current flood studies including:
  - Merchant Quarter
  - Jesmond Drive
  - Preliminary study to undertake a strategic overview of the coastal protection.
- A **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment** was undertaken for the development of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023. 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.
- 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.

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.

- The **Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025**, approved in March 2021, includes over 100 actions for mitigation and adaptation across five themes: Buildings, Mobility, Other Operations (including blue-green management and flood risk), Leadership & Governance, and Awareness and Behaviour Change.
- A **Council Climate Oversight Group** meets regularly to monitor progress, with designated officers leading each work programme. *The actions align with Capability Framework - SIM 3C and SIM 4A for achieving and implementing adaptation outcomes*.
- **Risk Board** – During this reporting period, the Corporate Risk Register identified "Climate change - Place risk" related to the city's emissions and strategic climate risks like heavy rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures, and rising sea levels. A deep dive into Corporate Risks, including climate risks, is conducted, along with horizon scanning updates. Additionally, climate risks are noted at the Cluster and Operational levels, including compliance with Climate Duties.
- **Strategy Board** -The Strategy Board facilitates the Council's strategic priorities, focusing on net zero and adaptation. It also examines internal and external factors, including climate and environmental impacts on the Council and Aberdeen City.
- Aberdeen Adapts a framework for city-wide working on adaptation was refreshed in February 2022. This framework sets theme priorities for adaptation for: buildings and infrastructure; flooding and coastal change; natural environment; society and economy; building understanding.
- Multi – stakeholder place-based governance arrangement are in place to support Aberdeen Adapts and the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap. Terms of Reference for an Aberdeen Net Zero and Adaptation Board reflect a balanced sector representation, covering areas such as Energy, Skills/Industry, Education, Mobility, Infrastructure, Natural Environment, and the Third Sector, including community and youth voices. During this reporting period, the Board met in May and November 2024. Key objectives included setting direction for city-wide climate projects and planning the 2024–2025 work programme.
- Enabling **prompt response to flood alerts**, the Council continues to monitor SEPA water levels for the Rivers Dee and Don, as well as ACC water levels for Den Burn and Culter Burn, while also keeping an eye on coastal tide levels. In areas at risk of surface water flooding, priority hakes and gullies are cleared. Signs at trash screens provide contact info for reporting blockages. Monthly inspections check for defects in rock armour, seawall structures, ramps, and timber groynes. Beach levels are monitored bi-weekly, as low sand levels can jeopardise seawall stability and public safety.

Adaptation is embedded in many Council and partnership policies and strategies, including:

- The **Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2023** serves as a statutory guide for planning decisions and integrates policies aligned with National Planning Framework 4, covering areas such as outdoor access, food growing, trees and woodlands, flooding, natural heritage, and green infrastructure. Supporting documents include Supplementary Guidance on Planning Obligations and non-statutory Aberdeen Planning Guidance, with key policies addressing energy transition, heat networks, renewable energy developments, low carbon buildings, water efficiency, trees and woodland, water environment, and green and blue infrastructure, all assessed against the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**. The Evidence Report, the first document in the working up of the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 has been submitted to the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division for Gate Check. The Evidence Report contains a chapter on climate change, mitigation and adaptation, which outlines the impact of climate change to Aberdeen and the potential implication for the Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2028 on how to mitigate and adapt to these.
- The Community Planning Aberdeen, **Local Outcome Improvement Plan** (LOIP) includes the stretch outcome: 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,.
  ACC Committee Report templates require reports to demonstrate links to the LOIP. Stakeholder consultation took place during this period to inform a refresh of the LOIP.
- 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** contains a key objective and a 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 and planting native and wildlife friendly species. A refreshed Aberdeen Open Space Strategy will form part of a future revision of the city Natural Environment Strategy.
- The Council Open Space Audit process provides key information on the types, distribution, qualities and accessibility of open and blue-green spaces across Aberdeen. Audit findings inform various strategic outcomes for Aberdeen.
- Analysis of the findings of an Aberdeen Open Space Audit Public Survey was completed during the reporting period. This examined the views of residents and visitors on how they use and perceive Aberdeen's green and open spaces. The Aberdeen Open Space Audit will inform a future revision of the city Natural Environment Strategy.
- 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.

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.

Building Adaptive Capacity

- Where there is surface water flood risk, the status of priority hakes and gullies continue to be checked so these can be cleared if necessary. Signs have been installed at all priority trash screens with contact details enabling the public to report blockages or damages.
- A CCTV camera has been fitted to monitor water levels at Maryculter Bridge on the River Dee and more are planned for other critical locations where remote visualisation, to assist prioritisation of resources during a flood event.
- Aberdeen City Council's Event Guidance platform offers insights for both business and voluntary event organisers, covering event planning, risk assessments, adverse weather, budgeting, and contingency planning (www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/eventguide).
- The Business Planner for the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee indicates where reports are contributing to Aberdeen Adapts and Net Zero themes.
- **Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together (2020)** a city community food growing strategy, 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."
- The **Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan (2022)** sets out the vision, priorities and an action plan stewardship and expansion of Aberdeen City's urban, street trees, rural trees, and woodlands. It provides a long -term framework for ensuring that their qualities are measurable, recognised, properly valued, protected, and permanently enshrined in the environmental fabric of the city. Work is currently ongoing to deliver Priority 2 of the plan - Expanding and enhancing the Granite City Forest. This work will involve officers from Environmental Services and Strategic Place planning. The next step is for an operational plan to be drawn up with target planting schemes identified. This work is ongoing will be shared with the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in due course.
- The Council is an active participant in the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network - Adaptation Scotland and utilises the Benchmarking Tool to assess its progress against the Capability Framework. **Benchmarking tool 2024-25 report** presents a visual representation of the Council's progress in this regard. This visual is also included in the **Council Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025**, illustrating how the Council is developing its capability to respond to climate risks and adapt effectively over time.

Deliver Adaptation Action

- A **property level flood protection grant** remains in place. The Council runs 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.
- **A Media Campaign** launched in December 2022 continued through 2024, promoting community resilience via social media, printed materials, and the ACC website. A £125,000 grant from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) funded portable power packs for vulnerable individuals, small grants, emergency grab boxes, winter preparedness leaflets, and an annual community resilience conference. A multi-agency Community Resilience Conference for the Grampian area was held in October 2024.
- **Sustainable Growth Agreement** City Scale Trial Project being delivered through the SEPA and Scottish Water's agreement. ACC hosted the agreement trial to strategically review improvements to Aberdeen's drainage systems.
- The Council has been adapting its greenspace management to support biodiversity and mitigate climate change. This includes reducing grass cutting, planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, creating more habitats for various species while keeping spaces accessible for people. As a result, the percentage of land protected for nature increased from 17% in 2021 to 21% in 2024.
- **Den Burn Restoration Project Plans** are being drawn up to restore approximately a 2.3km stretch from Maidencraig to King's Gate in the west of the city to enhance the wetland habitat and increase biodiversity. The restoration is hoped to improve the burn's ability to become more climate resilient whilst connecting people with nature. The plans include designing the restoration in a sustainable way and, where possible, reusing materials as well as creating an active travel path link for adjacent communities to the area. Concept design was completed in September 2024. Funding has been approved for detailed design and construction.
- **Storm Damage Response and Restoration -** The storms of the last four years have had a devastating impact on Council's tree population and had a significant impact on Aberdeen's open spaces. All types of trees have been affected. A substantial number have blown down, many have been uprooted, branches and limbs snapped off, and several trees left in a precarious and dangerous position. Trees in parks, play areas, open spaces, streets, and woodlands have all been impacted. Where required, the Council has continued to work continuously on trees and woodland impacted since the storms. The recovery work continues to be a focus, and work will be completed in 2025.
- **1 Million Trees -** Environmental Services has been restocking areas affected by storm damage and also planting trees on new areas of land identified as suitable for tree planting. The team has worked in partnership with communities, including schools and businesses, to plant trees across Aberdeen. 41,879 trees have been planted since winter 2022.

4d - Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024 – 2029 (SNAP3)

Outcome 1: Nature Connects (NC)	**NC1: Nature-based solutions / NC2 Landscape scale approaches**	• Aberdeen City Council is a member of the North East Regional Land Use Partnership, enabling natural capital-led planning to address the twin climate and biodiversity crises. • In partnership with local communities and sponsors, approximately 41,879 trees have been planted since winter 2022. A continuing commitment is in place for new and replacement street trees.
Outcome 2: Communities (C)	**C2 Locally-led adaptation / C3 Community resilience**	• Community resilience has been enhanced through the installation of signs at priority trash screens, empowering residents to report blockages or damages. • The Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan includes an "Improvement Project Aim" for community-led resilience plans, with three developed so far.

	C4 New and existing buildings	• Flood Risk Management Strategies delivered through the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans (Cycle 2, 2022–2028), published in December 2022. These were produced in partnership with SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water. • In alignment with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 2, Local Development Plans (LDPs) guide development away from vulnerable areas and ensure proposals are sited and designed to adapt to flood, overheating, and other climate risks. • Projects under the Council Condition & Suitability Programme are assessed for emissions reduction and climate resilience/adaptation. • A 75% funded grant scheme is available for flood protection for private residences and commercial properties in vulnerable areas.
Outcome 3: **Public Services and Infrastructure (PS)**	**PS1: Public Body Duties and Capacity**	• Adaptation is embedded across governance and planning structures. • Officers participate in the Adaptation Scotland Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network (PSCAN) and use the Adaptation Capability Framework to benchmark maturity in climate adaptation planning. • Capacity is further strengthened through cross-sectoral partnerships (e.g. Regional Land Use Partnership, Community Planning Aberdeen), ensuring that adaptation is addressed alongside local priorities for wellbeing and economic development. • Adaptation is mainstreamed into corporate procedures (e.g. Business Case templates, Committee reports linked to LOIP, Open Space Strategy).
	PS2 Public service and infrastructure resilience / PS3 Managing Scotland's water resources	• Delivery of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022–2028 supports statutory duties under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 and strengthens regional resilience to flooding.
	PS4 Transport system	• The Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (2019) and Active Travel Action Plan (2021–2026) embed resilience into mobility. • Enforcement of the Low Emission Zone (2024) reduces air pollution and improves health resilience. • Ongoing delivery of the Electric Vehicle Framework (2020–2030) expands charging points and transitions the Council fleet.
Outcome 4: Economy, Business & Industry (B)	**B2 Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and aquaculture**	• Ongoing tree planting and street tree replacement contribute to sustainable forestry and biodiversity, supporting climate resilience in natural resource sectors.
	B4 Climate resilient economic development and supply chains	• The Local Flood Risk Management Plan (2022–2028) strengthens resilience for businesses and infrastructure, mitigating risks of flooding and economic disruption. • The Joint Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026, which includes a relevant strategic theme.

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).

- The **Council's Corporate Risk Register**, this includes place based climate risk; and further relevant risks are included at Cluster and Operational level. The Risk Board meet every 6 weeks and updates on progress with control actions are provided on a Power Bi dashboard; 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. An updated Biodiversity Duty Report was approved by the NZET committee on 31 October 2023. Annual updates are now provided in a Council Climate and Nature Summary reported to the NZET committee November 2025, for the first time.
- The **North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028)** were developed and published in December 2022
- **Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP**), the designation of Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) is derived from the National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA) 2018. A review of the NFRA was undertaken in 2024, which determined that the content of the 2018 assessment remained relevant. The FRMP is in its second cycle, which covers a six-year period from 2022 to 2028. There are four PVAs within Aberdeen, all of which are included within the North-East Local Plan District. These include:
  - 02/06/15 (Aberdeen City – North)
  - 02/06/18 (Aberdeen City – South)
  - 02/06/19 (Peterculter)
  - 02/06/25 (Cove and Nigg Bay)

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**.
- This was the fourth year of implementation since approval of the **Council Climate Change Plan** approved in March 2021. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity, meeting bi-monthly, with regular project deep dives to build understanding, highlight challenges and opportunities.
- The **Risk Board** is provided with updates on progress with climate change controls in the Corporate Risk Register and annual updates are provided for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.
- 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. Improvement Charters are established for community resilience and Green Champions.
- Aberdeen City Council has a series of flood studies that have been conducted; for example, the Den Burn Flood Study (2021, 2022, and 2024) has been completed, along with a geomorphology appraisal study to reduce flood risk. The study did not identify any significant flooding reduction benefits, but it identified environmental and socioeconomic impacts.
- Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has received funding from the Scottish Government to progress a Coastal Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP)

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. Refresh the Council Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025 and Implementation of adaptation actions for mitigation and climate resilience for the Council's own assets and operations.
2. Further improve community resilience Groups to climate change through community resilience works, delivered in partnership with our Community Resilience Volunteer Groups (CRVG).
3. Progress with the development of cycle 2 of the North-East Flood Risk Management Plan. The Council budget in March 2025/26 allocated funding for flood protection including grants, flood scheme and sensors.

4. Continue work on the Beachfront Shoreline regeneration project, which places safety and futureproofing at the forefront.
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.

1. Storm and Emergency Preparedness (2023–2025)

- During Storm Babet, community groups in Culter, Cults, and Bridge of Don activated rest centres to support residents.
- Seaton, Rosehill & Stockethill, and Fittie communities engaged with ACC to develop local resilience plans.
- Rosehill & Stockethill partnered with NHS Grampian and ACC for pavement gritting to prevent falls.

2. Community Resilience (Winter 2024/25)

- Leaflets, web updates, and a social media campaign promoted winter readiness.
- 47 resilience boxes distributed; 40+ battery packs supplied for vulnerable residents.
- Volunteer recruitment via newsletters, meetings, social media, and school visits.

3. Community Resilience Conference 2024

The Community Resilience Conference 2024 took place on October 3, 2024, with approximately 200 attendees. The conference aimed to support community groups looking to initiate or enhance their resilience activities and arrangements. It was jointly hosted by Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and included the following key components:

- Promotion of individual, household, family, and community resilience
- Increased understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Category 1 responders
- Clarification of how community groups integrate into emergency response efforts
- Demonstration of various resilience activities that community groups can undertake
- Encouragement of networking opportunities between established and new community groups
- All established groups, along with several new interested parties, participated in the conference.

SECTION 5 – PROCUREMENT

5 a - How do procurement policies contribute to compliance with climate change duties?
Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the organisation have contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties. (6000 characters/1000 words)

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. 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. Strategic and practical guidance is provided at key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance codified in the **Procurement Business Case, Procurement Manual** and other associated templates 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.

The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS)

Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. Refreshed in 2023, the **2023-2026 Joint Procurement Strategy** remains 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 "deliver procurement outcomes that support the wider strategic aims of the Councils and the communities they serve, furthering local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible." These aims converge 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. Embedded and reinforced communication leads to climate positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local/national priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance reinforces messaging that not all sustainability measures 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.

Zero Waste Scotland Circular Procurement Guidance and Best Practice is promoted in policy/guidance. Procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing. In addition, the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/) strongly promoted (locally and nationally) to prospective bidders and the wider business community as a free resource to support their own journeys to a net zero future. Other sustainability tools include: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping.
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); **National** (Scotland/UK) and **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.) As an overarching theme, 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.

In support of the Council's journey to Net Zero, a strategic commitment has been made that procurement activity will be undertaken in a way that will secure net zero emissions through a Just Transition and promote a circular economy. The journey to reduce emissions and support climate change and resilience is primarily centred on people and wellbeing and will enable the Council to action opportunities to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area including benefit to nature. The procurement function aspires to act as an enabler and will:

1. support the creation of enabling conditions to reduce emissions;
2. support climate change adaptation to reduce risk and vulnerability to climate change;
3. strengthen climate resilience, enhancing well-being and the capacity to anticipate and respond successfully to change;
4. enhance biodiversity through conservation, protection and promotion;
5. support transition to a circular economy

The Council employs a demand management approach and look for ways to improve how we buy, what we buy, how

much we buy and explore opportunities to reduce volumes where possible, as this can have a positive impact on emissions and waste involved throughout the supply chain. In terms of governance and accountability, The Council report ongoing progress against these commitments in quarterly reports to the Strategic Procurement Board and within each Council Annual Procurement Report. Methods of measuring and monitoring outcomes achieved are being explored to further support tracking of progress and enablement of identification of further opportunities for Climate Change, Net Zero & Circular Economy outcomes.

5b - How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties? Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the organisation has contributed to its compliance with climate changes duties. *(10,000 characters)*

The following is illustrative of procurement activity i) mitigating CO2 conscious of adaptation ii) improving energy efficiency and in many cases iii) incorporating meaningful social/economic and environmental criteria:

Construction: follows industry terms/ best practice, Building Standards/ Building Performance policies in addition to "Gold Standard" Housing commitments whilst noting ambitions within the Scottish Government to move to ensure all new housing in Scotland is built to Passivhaus standard. "Gold standard" homes aim for a minimum 27% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions which is achieved partly through using renewable energy to provide 50% of hot water demand. The Gold Standard incorporates other carbon saving measures including more effective insulation and air circulation techniques. Combining renewable technologies with state-of-the-art energy efficiency has the potential to significantly reduce household running costs.
In general, 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/ adaptation risks are 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 sustainable opportunities increased.

Managed - Print Contract (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire): On 31 March 2024, a new Managed Print contract commenced. The new generation contract will continue to improve relevant sustainability credentials, providing best-in-class energy rated devices with an aim to move towards carbon neutral status in this commodity area. The service provider holds EcoVadis Gold Rating for their sustainability operations placing the organisation within the top 3% of companies globally. The provider was the recipient of the 2023 Energy Star Partner of the Year Award for sustained excellence. The service provider's supply chain offers thorough consideration to end-of-life arrangements for devices and puts significant emphasis on the importance of driving environmental efficiencies until the very end of the product lifecycle. These objectives are fully aligned with Council priorities and assist with the circular economy imperative.
From an original estate of over 5,000 unmanaged print devices in 2016, we now have less than 1,400 managed print devices. Printing requirements have been rationalised to a smaller number of ENERGY STAR® power saving models in key strategic locations. The devices use very limited power, for example, when they are in enhanced sleep mode, the previous most common large A3 multi-functional devices consumed 121W in standby and 4.8W in sleep mode, whereas the new devices use 53.4W in standby and 0.8W during sleep mode. As we fully transition to a cloud based system we are also removing the 'always on' print servers that we were previously reliant on. Previous introductions of a Print Policy and system functionality introduced duplex and mono print as default settings and allowed for increasing utilisation of scanning functionality. Digitised workflows significantly reduced resource consumption, eliminated significant amounts of waste and reduced energy consumption. Controlled document retention times and automated deletion has reduced volumes of unnecessary printing. Used consumables are recycled, 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 was commissioned and operational in December 2023. The facility provides a long-term solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the north east of Scotland and generates significant wider benefits e.g. low carbon electricity generation and heat for local residents helping to alleviate fuel poverty. The plant processes circa 150,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste per annum. Modern combustion technology utilises flexible, future-proof, cutting-edge process control. High temperature combustion provides electricity and heat from production of steam. The project has the potential to heat 10,000 homes otherwise reliant on fossil fuels. The facility exports around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water.

Torry Heat Network: Works commenced in July 2022 to construct the first phase of a new District Heating System for the community of Torry, this was followed by the Phase 2 works, which commenced in June 2023. The NESS energy from waste facility, processes non-recyclable waste from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray councils, produces electricity for the national grid, and provides heat to this new heat network. The Heat Network comprises a heat distribution facility and installation of 11.6km of underground pipes. The Council has an initial target of connecting 800 homes and 6 Public Buildings to this 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. The current Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects are expected to deliver carbon savings of an estimated 75,000 tonnes CO2 over 40 years. This 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.

Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Projects: Hydrogen fuel cell electric double decker buses as part of the JIVE Project were a world first when launched in January 2021. The current fleet of 15 buses have saved over 2100 tonnes CO2e since becoming operational. Hydrogen buses only emit water vapour so reducing carbon emissions/air pollution compared to diesel equivalents. This is considered to mark a significant step forward in improving the city's air quality for residents

Charge Points/ Electric Vehicles/ Fuel Cell/Hydrogen: in the reporting period, Chargepoint infrastructure installed by the Council expanded by 48 sockets. Locations of total Chargepoint infrastructure organised by the Council (locations).

Numbers of sockets

User	**Total sockets**
Fleet	55
Car club	17
Public	149
Total	**221**

Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Framework: Highland, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils partnered with EZO in the development of a 20-year contract to provide EV charging infrastructure (EVCI) for the north of Scotland. The contract is estimated to be worth £300 million, with Highland Council acting as the lead authority. The large-scale project will accelerate the region's transition to net zero and see a minimum of 570 new charging points installed across the north of Scotland by 2028, more than doubling the existing EV infrastructure and further enhancing the region's charging network. EZO will also adopt and maintain all existing council-owned public charging points in the region. A critical element of this partnership is to enable charging provision for everyone who lives, works and visits the region, with connecting urban, rural and remote communities a key element to this partnership.
The partnership has the opportunity to develop depots across the region to enable Council electric fleets to flourish.

Car Club: operated by Enterprise car club the contract commenced in June 2022. 41 vehicles, including 10 for staff business travel use vehicles in operation as at March 2025. Average emissions of car club fleet compared with average car in UK – 72g/km average for the Enterprise car club fleet in Aberdeen vs 132g/km for the average UK car.

Electric Vehicles: Fleet continue to consider electric vehicles (EV) where appropriate. The EV fleet includes 55 vehicles, ranging from heavy plant, through cars and vans to a dedicated electric RCV (Refuse Carrying Vehicle). Appropriate infrastructure is required to support further expansion of EV vehicles in the Council Fleet, subject to market availability.

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 the Council and has been operational since 2017. The station uses electricity on a green tariff to produce hydrogen via electrolysis onsite.

Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub: bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Limited is a joint venture between bp and the Council formed in March 2022 to deliver a scalable green hydrogen production, storage and distribution facility in the city powered by renewable energy.
There are three planned phases to the AHH, Phase 1 of the project will involve building a hydrogen re-fuelling facility for buses, cars, vans and trucks, powered by a solar farm and linked by an underground solar grid connection. 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.
A final investment decision for Phase 1 of the project was taken in July 2024. Construction activities commenced in 2025 with the aim of production beginning from 2026. The AHH helps to support 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 is 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 thro ugh purchasing decisions made in "call offs." **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.

5 c - Supporting information and best practice.

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the organisation in relation to procurement. *(6000 characters/1000 words)*

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 continue to be developed and challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. "Climate Friendly" criteria options 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 and processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.

Four specific commodity areas continue to be targeted for specific action to minimise the Council's carbon footprint in:
i) Food
ii) Building Maintenance Materials
iii) Road Maintenance
iv) Office Materials.
A pilot of two complementary systems is ongoing looking for reliable and consistent measurement of change/effectiveness in these specific commodity areas and across other procurement activity: CO2A – Scope 3 Emissions Calculations, SustainIQ – Community Benefits, Environmental Outcome reporting. It is hoped this activity will enable baselines to be established and thereafter an auditable, transparent route to monitor the Council's journey, recording impacts using common language/metrics and support the creation of real time reporting via dashboards.

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. A template Climate Clause 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.

Significant community benefit outcomes were secured in the reporting period guided by the Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy**. 483 Community benefit outcomes were imposed across 17 regulated contracts with commitments secured to 710 hours of local community/3rd sector support. All 17 contracts contained community benefits in some form (100%) and 16 of 17 contract (94%) contained a Fair Work question. 927 Community benefit outcomes were delivered across 15 regulated contracts not advertised in the reporting year but delivering benefits in the reporting year. This includes 867.5 hours of local community/3rd sector support and over £41,000 in donations. 42 actual jobs created and 40 anticipated jobs.
Taking the two elements together (imposed and delivered) 1,410 community benefit outcomes included, in process or were delivered in the reporting period which includes 1,577.5 of community/3rd sector hours on the same basis.
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, adaptation 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 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 2024-2025 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects are reviewed on a continuous basis.

Go Awards Scotland: CPSS secured a "highly commended" award in the Social Value category in a ceremony held in October 2024.

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 Social Enterprise Scotland 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): Building on Aberdeen City securing recognition as a Silver, Sustainable Food Place in June 2022, CPSS continued involvement and an application for "Gold" status was ultimately successful within the reporting period and announced in June 2025 (https://www.granitecitygoodfood.org/post/granite-city-goes-gold) Aberdeen is the first place in Scotland and sixth in the UK to gain the prestigious award.
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 is very consistent with organisational and procurement strategic objectives. 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: the 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 Climate and Sustainability Policy Team collated the information used to populate the Climate Change Duties Report template. The information was gathered from multiple service areas, on set templates. It is expected that those service areas have provided accurate data and have gained verification of this by their senior management. The Climate Change Duties Report is checked by the Climate and Sustainability Policy team to ensure areas have been completed, where reasonably practicable to do so in the reporting timeframe.
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
- Internal waste
- Street Lighting
- Procurement
- Travel
- Fleet
- Energy
- Homeworking

The Climate Change Duties Report 2024/25 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 Duties Report 2024/25 has not undergone peer validation due to time and resource constraints.

6c – External validation process

The Climate Change Duties Report 2024/25 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.