

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 21 DECEMBER 2017

HOUSING SERVICES QUARTER 2 2017-2018 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND SERVICE PLAN UPDATE (ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMS)

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Acknowledge the good performance achieved July - September 2017 (Quarter 2) identified in section 2.3;**
- 1.2 Consider those measures where performance is below expectations July - September 2017 identified in Appendix 1;**
- 1.3 Acknowledge the publication of the complete July to September 2017 Performance Report and Service Plan Update on the Council's website;**
- 1.4 Acknowledge the progress made with the actions set out in the IS Service Plan 2017-2020 in Appendix 2; and**
- 1.5 Advise the Director to continue to report, by exception, to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives and six monthly on progress in delivering all aspects of the service plan.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1** The purpose of this report is to provide the Communities Committee with a summary of performance for the Housing service for Quarter 2 (July - September 2017) and with an update on progress with actions in the Infrastructure Services service plan 2017-2020. Quarter 1 performance was reported to the Communities Committee on the 7th September 2017 (item 12). The service plan was last considered by the Committee at its meeting of the 15th June 2017 (item 14).
- 2.2** The performance measures are linked to the Council's priorities. The quarterly performance monitoring report provides regular opportunity for elected Members to maintain scrutiny of significant activities in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.
- 2.3** Performance during the first quarter of 2017/18 can be summarised as follows:-

Key Service Objectives	Are we getting better?
1. To ensure access to good quality, affordable housing	No. The number of people accessing affordable housing has fallen compared to last year. A number of factors could have influenced this reduction, including a fall in the number of tenancies ending, which reduces the number of properties available for relet, as does the need to hold some properties for major works.
2. To ensure our service meets the outcome for the Scottish Social Housing Charter	<p>Performance is mixed. The average working days to complete a non-emergency repair has increased slightly compared to last quarter, but remains better than target, and all areas demonstrate improved performance over the same quarter last year.</p> <p>The average days to relet a property has increased compared to Q1, and is significantly worse than the same period last year. However, the successful relet of long-term low demand properties had a significant impact on figures for this quarter, adding 10 days to the average.</p> <p>Rent arrears have reduced slightly compared to the previous quarter, and remain better than target for Aberdeenshire as a whole. Performance is consistent with the same period last year.</p>
3. Reduce fuel poverty	Please see Appendix 2 for an update on progress on this objective (page 8).

2.4 In February 2016 Aberdeenshire Council agreed a set of council priorities, aligned to the Council Plan, to be delivered over the following 12 months. In summary the priorities for the council were:-

- Active travel – led by Infrastructure Services
- Affordable housing – led by Infrastructure Services
- Balancing the books – led by Business Services
- City Region Deal – led by Infrastructure Services

- Climate change – led by Infrastructure Services
- Estate rationalisation – led by Business Services
- Future governance – led by Business Services
- Peterhead community campus – led by Education & Children’s Services
- Regeneration – led by Infrastructure Services

2.5 The IS service Plan for 2017-2020 set out what actions the service was taking in support of these priorities as well as other actions the service was taking in support for service priorities. These priorities cover:-

- Flood recovery plan
- Flood prevention schemes for Stonehaven and Huntly
- Development of options for waste disposal (in partnership with colleagues in other services, neighbouring councils and the private sector organisations)
- Economic Development Strategy action plan
- A947 Route Improvement Strategy.

2.6 The table below summarises progress against 28 actions. As the majority of these actions span more than one year progress is assessed against what was planned to be achieved this year compared to what was actually achieved. Actions which appear on target to achieve all that was planned this year are shown as having progressed by 50% since we are half way through the year.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS WITH SERVICE PLAN ACTIONS APRIL – OCTOBER 2017

Service	No. Of Actions	On Schedule	Behind Schedule
Economic and Protective Services	10	10 (100%)	0 (0%)
Housing	3	1 (33%)	2 (67%)
Transportation	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Roads, Landscape Services & Waste	9	8 (88.9%)	1 (11.1%)
Planning and Building Standards	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Totals	28	25 (89.3%)	3 (14.3%)

2.7 The table shows that 25 (89.3%) of the actions are assessed as being on target so far, only 3 (10.7%) are currently making less progress than planned.

The three actions where progress has not been as planned are:-

- 2.2 Improving Energy Efficiency (in Council Homes)
- 2.3 Fuel Poverty
- 2.4 Increasing Recycling Rates

A full description of the progress made with the service plan actions are given in **Appendix 2** attached to this report.

- 2.8 The Head of Finance and the Monitoring Officers within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section D 7.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the scrutiny of performance in relation to the Service Plan 2017-20 for Infrastructure Services as approved by Infrastructure Services Committee on 1st June 2017.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the report is to inform Committee on performance and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.2 There are no specific staffing and financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.3 This report is to inform the Committee on performance and there will be no impact on levels of risk at either the Corporate or Strategic level.
- 4.4 As this report is only to inform Committee on performance there is no impact on town centres thus a Town Centre Impact Assessment is not required.

Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Neil Watts, Senior Information Officer (Housing)
21st November 2017

Communities - Housing Performance Q2 2017/18 - Exception Report (Appendix 1)

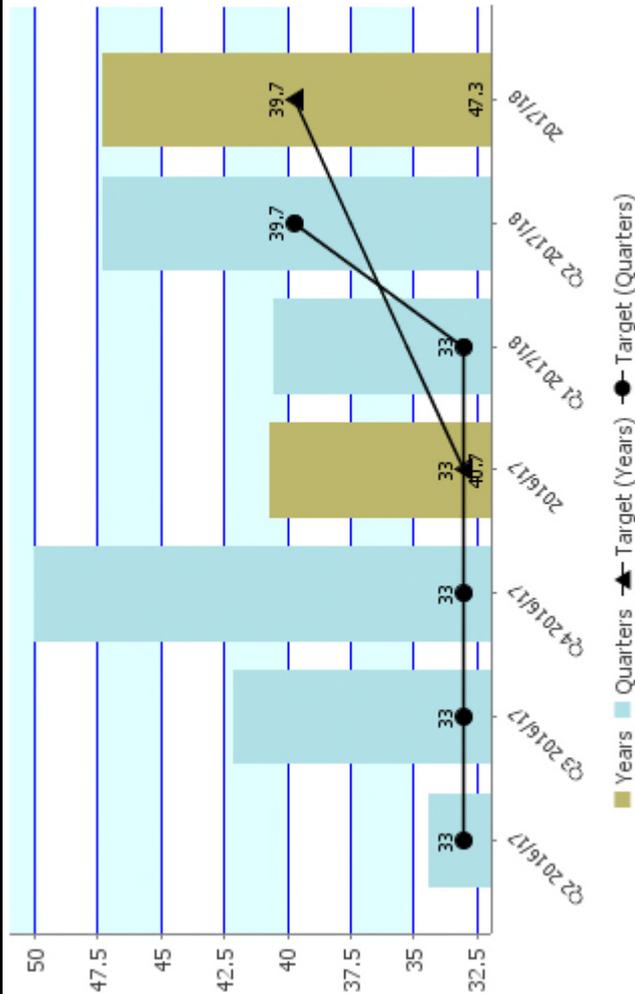
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PI Status		Long Term Trends		Short Term Trends	
	Alert		Improving		Improving
	Warning		No Change		No Change
	OK		Getting Worse		Getting Worse
	Unknown				
	Data Only				

Traffic Light: Red 1

HSWSP2 SO2 - Scottish Social Housing Charter

Indicator	2b) A'shire - Average re-let time in days					Red T'hold	Amber T'hold	
	Target	Status	Value	Base	Long Trend			Short Trend
Q2 2016/17	33	▲	34.4		→	←	41.7	40.1
Q3 2016/17	33	●	42.1		→	→		
Q4 2016/17	33	●	50		→	→		
Q1 2017/18	33	●	40.5		→	←		
Q2 2017/18	39.7	●	47.3		→	→		



This indicator demonstrates how quickly people are able to access housing, and that the service is minimising rent loss due to voids. It represents the average (mean) number of days between a property becoming void and a new tenant taking possession of the property.

Performance across Aberdeenshire has decreased in the last quarter from 40.5 days at the end of Q4 16/17 to 47.3 days at the end of Q2.

Performance varies across Aberdeenshire in Q2, from 31.4 days in Marr to 59.5 days in Buchan. All other areas are sitting above the target of 39.7 days.

It should be noted that there were 16 low demand properties relet within the quarter, many of which had been vacant for some considerable time. This is an extremely positive action, however it does have a negative impact on the overall, average days to relet figure. The days taken across Aberdeenshire (excluding the low demand properties) would reduce from 47.3 days to 36.7 days. Below shows a breakdown of figures per area including and excluding low demand properties.

Area	Average days to relet including Low Demands	Average days to relet excluding Low Demands
Banff and Buchan	48.8	33.9
Buchan	59.5	45.9
Formartine	45.4	31.3
Garioch	40.3	34.8
K&M	51.3	51.3
Marr	31.4	31.4
Aberdeenshire	47.6	36.7

The slightly higher figures in Buchan and K&M reflect the condition of properties returned and also upgrades required while at void, for example where the previous tenants had refused upgrades.

IS Service Plan 2017-2020 Half Year Update



Report Author: Alan Morris
Generated on: 15 September 2017

Action Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue; Neglected
	Unassigned; Check Progress
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned
	Completed

SO1 - Economic Development and Protective Services

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
1.1 Supporting The Delivery of Regeneration Actions in the 4 Priority Towns		<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #0070C0; height: 10px;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2020	<p>On 17 March 2016 the Infrastructure Services Committee approved a new Regeneration Strategy, "From Strategy to Action: Developing Excellence in our North Coast Communities" which concentrates regeneration effort in the four northern towns of Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead instead of just Fraserburgh, as was the case in the previous regeneration strategy.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Regeneration Member Officer Working Group would be dissolved and that, as part of a new approach, local partnerships would be established in each of the four towns. This would provide leadership and collaborative working at a local level and would allow those partnerships to set out the vision for regeneration within their own towns.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>The resulting partnership vision and action plans were agreed at Policy and Resources Committee on 15th September 2016, with indicative sums for the delivery of each action plan agreed. Since then the partnerships have taken forward a range of actions in each town and progress with each plan has been reported to ISC on a six monthly basis.</p> <p>Two key projects in Fraserburgh which have been developed are; South Links Sports Development Trust (SLSDT) and Fraserburgh 2021.</p> <p>SLSDT is a Community Trust established to develop and manage new sports facilities in Fraserburgh consisting of a football pitch, running track and all abilities cycle track. £150,000 of Aberdeenshire Council funds helped to lever in a package of over £1 million of external funds. Ground work has now started and the Trust aims to increase and deepen participation in sport, particularly athletics, amongst all through this project.</p> <p>Fraserburgh 2021 is a £5.7 million package of development aimed at improving the central conservation area in the town. Funded through a combination of Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland, Heritage Lottery and private funding, Fraserburgh 2021 will improve the historic building fabric in the centre of town, provide much enhanced public spaces and civic amenity and offer opportunities to owners to improve their properties. At the centre of this project, an Enterprise Hub will improve the numbers of new businesses created and grown in Fraserburgh and explore opportunities for greater entrepreneurial energy and activity in the town.</p>
1.2 Progress the Delivery Plan for Energetica			31-Mar-2020	<p>In July Energetica relaunched its popular free guide designed to encourage locals and visitors to explore Energetica's scenic walks and best wildlife spots. The publication has been revamped to include even more natural wonders and local highlights.</p> <p>The colourful Energetica Walking & Wildlife Guide showcases inspiring coastal walks and the best places to spot wildlife in the Energetica corridor. Highlighting a variety of family-friendly walks, the comprehensive guide takes budding explorers around the corridor, allowing them to discover the deceiving wildlife hotspot of Peterhead Harbour; explore the unspoilt sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve; or visit a collapsed sea cave, the Bullers of Buchan, home to an array of wildlife and photo opportunities.</p> <p>The 'Aberdeen Business Walk' offers those making a flying visit to the region on business the opportunity to experience this stunning natural environment, with walks around Dyce and the riverside town of Ellon featured.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>New to the Energetica Walking & Wildlife Guide, are features including 'Children's Energetica', 'Energetica Food & Drink' and 'Return of the Giants', introducing the Humpback Whales that took up residence in the corridor's waters last summer.</p> <p>The handy A5 publication, which was first launched in 2014, will be available from various venues across the North East, including Visitor Information Centres and local libraries. It can also be accessed on-line.</p> <p>Over the summer months the Energetica Summer Festival was held. This has continued to grow in terms of its reach and participants whilst offering improved value for money. On a reduced budget the Energetica festival has doubled in size year on year since 2014. The original Walking and Wildlife Festival drew tens of visitors, whilst the 2016 offering attracted over 1200 participants. It is too early to say how successful the festival was this year it is expected to be the best so far.</p> <p>Energetica has continued in raising its profile, showcasing the best of North East Scotland as well as investment opportunities and support available to investors through a range of activities both domestically and overseas. Over the last nine months Energetica has exhibited at Offshore Northern Sea, Subsea Expo, Peterhead Energy Hub Showcase and Offshore Technology Conference, also exhibited at Offshore Europe last month. The increased awareness raising combined with other promotional and investment support activity has led to a greater number of investment enquiries. Over the last six months there have been five inward investment enquiries specifically relating to the Aberdeenshire part of the Energetica corridor.</p>
1.3 Acting as the Lead for Aberdeenshire Council on the City Region Deal			31-Mar-2020	<p>In August this year the Infrastructure services Committee considered a report on the City Region Deal and Aberdeen Harbour. The report recommended that the Council contribute up to £5.5 million to deliver the City Region Deal Aberdeen Harbour Project. The overall cost of the Harbour Project is around £350 million which will mainly be privately funded but will include a commitment of £11 million from both Councils (£5.5 million each) to help fund supporting infrastructure.</p>
1.4 Climate Change -Monitoring progress with actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan			31-Mar-2020	<p>In November, Aberdeenshire Council successfully completed its first mandatory Climate Change Duties Report for the Scottish Government. The report ensures that as a Public Body, we are exercising our functions as specified in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The final draft of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), for the Council and a North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan (NESSEAP), in partnership with</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>Aberdeen City, Moray and Angus Councils was completed in March 2017. This is a high level strategic plan document that covers all areas of sustainable energy with a detailed assessment towards addressing the future energy challenges of the region.</p> <p>At its meeting on 18 May 2017, Aberdeenshire Council agreed to the principle of establishing a Sustainability Committee to replace the existing Sub-Committee. At the meeting of the 29th June the Council considered a further report on the governance arrangements for a Sustainability Committee and agreed to appoint eight members to the Sustainability Committee, in accordance with the recommendations on proportionality as specified in the report.</p>
<p>1.5 Coordinating the delivery of the Council's Carbon Budget</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>The Carbon Budget was approved by Aberdeenshire Council on 9 February 2017. The budget concept has been to allocate an allowance of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2e) emissions for 2017/18, with Directorates required to keep within this allowance over the financial year. The aim of the Carbon Budget is to reduce the Council's own carbon emissions. Therefore, an allocation of CO2e for 2017/18 was established as 74007 tCO2e which reflects a 5% reduction from the 2014/15 77902 tCO2e total. The Strategic Leadership Team is responsible in determining how the allocation will be distributed across the Directorates and what actions will need to be taken to find the reduction of 3895 tCO2e for 2017/18.</p> <p>The Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator and/or Head of Economic Development and Protective Services met with Directors and their Senior Management teams to discuss the carbon budget and ensure all of the projects currently identified are being implemented. Some service management meetings have also been attended to engage managers with considering and identifying additional projects that could lead to carbon reduction with further meetings planned for September. Most projects are underway, for example: the Crow's Nest Microgen unit is in place and generating electricity from the waste gases produced by the closed landfill; energy efficiency projects for buildings have been identified and are progressing; 4 electric vehicles have been purchased for fleet and car park operatives; the Warpit system has been implemented and a group organised to support its role out which should see a large reduction in internal waste.</p> <p>However, there has been a lack of services bringing forward additional projects to meet the deficit of 1537t CO2e within our target for 2017/18. More work needs to be done to ensure Carbon is being considered in all new proposals/projects and to engage all Council staff and Members with the process.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
1.6 Implement Actions in The Economic Development Strategy Action Plan			31-Mar-2020	<p>The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) titled "A 20-year vision for the Wellbeing of the Place and Our People", provides a long term plan for the economic development of the North East of Scotland to 2035. ISC approved Aberdeenshire Council's adoption of the Regional Economic Strategy and economic objectives on 16 June 2016.</p> <p>In March 2017 ISC approved a report setting out the Economic Development Priorities and Action Plan for the Council for the period 2017-2021. The plan reflects the work to be undertaken by the Economic Development Service and where the service will work with other services to promote and support our economy. The priorities reflect changes in the nature of the regional economy and support our economy. The priorities reflect changes in the transition towards a low carbon economy and revised Council priorities including regeneration, a focus on the regional economy and Climate Change. It outlines the framework within which the Economic Development function operates to support delivery of the City Region Deal (CRD), Opportunity North East (ONE), delivery of European Funding Programmes and the Council's priorities in areas such as regeneration, sustainable development and employability.</p> <p>The Town Centre First Policy was agreed by Infrastructure Services Committee on 1 December 2016. This will encourage all services to think about the impact on town centres as part of their decision making process and record town centre impacts before being rolled out for the consideration of community planning partners.</p> <p>During the early part of this year work was undertaken to roll out the policy through all decision making officers in all services at the Council.</p> <p>The 'Town Centre First Principle' was launched in June at an event where Phil Prentice, Scotland Towns Partnership, Diarmaid Lawlor, Architect and Design Scotland and Ross Martin, Economic Agitator, informed Elected Members, Town Centre Ambassadors and Senior Managers of the principle and gave examples of how the 'Town Centre First Principle' approach could be adopted within Aberdeenshire Council to the benefit of our communities.</p> <p>A Business Improvement District (BID) is a business led initiative between the local authority and the business community, where a levy is collected from each business in the defined area. This levy is then invested collectively in local improvements, in addition to those delivered by the statutory authorities. These will be of benefit to the businesses involved whilst contributing to the wider aspirations of the local residential community and growing the local economy. A BID can be made up of a certain area of a town, it can take over from a development trust or business development organisation, can be themed, tourism based or</p>
1.7 Town Centre First			31-Mar-2020	
1.8 Business Improvement District Ballots			31-Mar-2020	

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>industrial estate specific. The majority of BIDs in Scotland already established are town based and can be a mixture of private and public sector members.</p> <p>In May 2014 the Infrastructure Services Committee reviewed a paper on Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). After due consideration, the Committee agreed that any Business Improvement District that is to be developed and is seeking Council support will be approved on a case by case basis by Infrastructure Services Committee meeting in consultation with the relevant Area Committee.</p> <p>Since that date work has been done by the Infrastructure Service to initiate the setting up of two BIDs, one from Inverurie (We Are Inverurie) and one from Peterhead (Rediscover Peterhead). In March Infrastructure Services gave approval for each BID. In a report on progress of the BIDS the Committee was informed that both BIDs have submitted their 154 day letter to Aberdeenshire Council, notifying the Returning Officer of their intention to progress to ballot. The proposed date for the We Are Inverurie Ballot is 22nd June 2017 and the proposed date for Rediscover Peterhead is 28th September 2017.</p>
1.9 Simplified Planning Zone in Peterhead			31-Mar-2020	<p>Earlier this year a paper was presented to Buchan Area committee to consider the case for creating a Simplified Planning Zone for Peterhead. The area committee were supportive of this proposal and agreed that officers begin the statutory SPZ process and that an SPZ Scheme should be prepared. This work remains on-going.</p>
1.10 Scottish Regulators Code of Practice			31-Mar-2020	<p>The Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act seeks to promote consistent, proportionate and effective regulation and places a statutory duty on listed regulators to exercise functions in a way which contributes to achieving sustainable economic growth. This empowers regulators to align their activities and approach with the Government's purpose of sustainable economic growth, and take economic factors appropriately into account.</p> <p>The aim of the Scottish Regulator's Code of Practice is to describe in more detail how regulators should apply regulatory principles and build good practice in order to contribute to achieving sustainable economic growth while concurrently delivering their other core functions. The duty does not prioritise sustainable economic growth over other regulatory objectives; it requires regulators to take economic factors appropriately into account, determine an appropriate balance where necessary and be accountable for their decisions. Having been developed by regulators and business, the Code builds on existing good practice and seeks to support an enabling approach, applying the five established principles of better regulation of transparency, accountability, consistency, proportionality and targeted</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>where needed to help business and regulated bodies to comply and grow and bring benefits to local communities.</p> <p>Following publication of the code, services within IS which have a regulatory function have:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started to review existing core operational policies e.g. enforcement policy, service charters etc. to ensure alignment with the Code. • Were new operating policies have been required to be developed have ensured they comply with the code; • Built requirements of the Code into relevant staff training/awareness-raising. • Ensured that the Code and core operational policies are available to regulated operators/persons so they know what to expect.

SO2 - Housing

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
2.1 Affordable Housing			31-Mar-2019	Phase 6 of the Council's new build programme is currently underway with forecast expenditure in 2017/18 of £10.1 million. When completed this phase is expected to have delivered around 143 units across a number of Aberdeenshire communities including Huntly, Peterhead, Turriff, Oldmeldrum, Fraserburgh, Portlethen and Inverurie. The revised Capital Programme for 2017/18 was reported to the Communities Committee at the beginning of September. Forecast expenditure for 2017/18 was £36.339 million - £1.545 million higher than the amount reported to the Committee in March. The increase being partly due to projects that have slipped from the previous year's programme and to reflect the agreed draw-down of the Housing Improvement Programme contract and adjustments to the timing of the new build programme.
2.2 Improve Energy Efficiency			31-Mar-2020	A new framework contract was approved by the Communities Committee in June to deliver the HRA Capital Programme over the next four years. The programme contractors are due to start work on site in January 2018 and expenditure of up to £23 million has been approved for the first year of the contract.
2.3 Fuel Poverty			31-Mar-2020	The Scottish House Condition Survey provides a measure of fuel poverty in Scotland. A household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income on all household fuel use. If over 20% of income is required, then this is termed as being in extreme fuel poverty. Fuel poverty is widely recognised as being caused by poor energy efficiency of homes, low incomes and high energy prices. The results are people having to ration the time they have their heating and hot water on and also in making the hard choices between essentials such as buying food or paying for fuel bills. Figures published in February this year shows that for Aberdeenshire in the period 2013 – 2015 38% of households were in fuel poverty compared to the Scottish Average of 34%. The previous measure for 2012-2014 showed that 39% of Aberdeenshire households were in fuel poverty. The Scottish average for the period was 35%. So over the period a slight improvement but we are still a long way from eradicating fuel poverty. We continue to work with the Scottish Government to assist households in need. This year the Scottish Government has pledged to review its fuel poverty strategy and to reset the target to end fuel poverty that expired last autumn.

SO3 - Transportation

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
3.1 Improve Energy Efficiency Of Street Lighting			31-Mar-2020	<p>One of the means Aberdeenshire Council has identified to help reduce resource use, both financially and environmentally, is through an upgrade of its street lighting. This is anticipated to reduce carbon emissions produced by Street Lighting by 50% and costs by £900,000 per year, and includes innovations such as retro-fitting LEDs into existing lanterns and, through working with communities, determining periods of night-time switch off.</p> <p>A five year bulk replacement programme was developed and approved by Councillors. After running initial pilots implementation started in full in 2015/16. The aim is to upgrade the Council's entire stock of street lights. This amounts to 44,000 units in total. Significant progress has so far been made with this replacement programme.</p> <p>In June ISC received a report setting out the funding streams for a programme of Walking, Cycling and Safety Initiatives worth £3.191 million. Following on from the Committee approval to implement specific actions was sought from each Area Committee.</p> <p>The report also provided details of a range of softer measures such as promotion campaigns, marketing and education costing £476,820 which collectively form the Smarter Choices, Smarter Places programme which is designed to encourage people to make active travel choices such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>On the 14th June the Scottish Transport Awards ceremony was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow. Aberdeenshire had been shortlisted in three categories:-</p> <p>(1) Scottish Transport Local Authority of the Year (Category 1); (2) Excellence in Technology and Innovation (for the street lighting upgrade programme) (Category 13); and (3) Transport Team/Partnership of the Year (for GrassHOPPER Smart Ticketing, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, Stagecoach, First and Bain's Coaches) (Category 14).</p> <p>On the night Aberdeenshire were named as the Transport Team/Partnership of the Year for the Grasshopper Smart Ticketing.</p>
3.2 Local Transport Strategy - implement actions to support active travel			31-Mar-2020	

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
3.3 Reducing Carbon Emissions From Fleet		<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 50%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2020	4 electric vehicles have been purchased for fleet and car park operatives.
3.4 A947 Route Improvement Strategy		<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 50%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2020	Progress with the A947 Route Improvement Strategy (RIS) was reported to ISC in August as part of a report on Road Safety in Aberdeenshire to 2020. The report proposed to incorporate the road safety specific items in the RIS into the Aberdeenshire-wide Road Safety Action Plan. The larger infrastructure projects within the Strategy will be taken forward as part of the Council's Capital Plan prioritisation process as well as forming the basis for future work with partners on a regional basis.

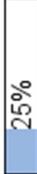
SO4 - Roads, Landscape Services and Waste

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
4.1 Maintain an Effective Road Network:- Develop Maintenance Programmes And Implement		<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 50%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2020	<p>The Revenue Budget 2017 – 22 which was approved by the Council on 9 February 2017 includes a figure of £16,716,000 to Road Maintenance, and £4,331,000 to Winter Maintenance and Other Emergencies for the year 2017-18.</p> <p>The Capital Plan 2017 – 32 was also approved on 9 February 2017. For financial year 2017-18 it includes an allowance of £8,750,000 for Roads Resurfacing and Reconstruction, £1,717,000 for Street Lighting Works, £2,925,000 for Bridges & Structures and £260,000 for Quarries.</p> <p>Funding of £298,928 has been included in NESTRAN’s draft 2017-18 budget for Strategic Road Maintenance.</p> <p>The Roads Asset Management Plan was approved by Infrastructure Services Committee on 4 October 2012. The principles set out in the Plan was used to allocate available resources to maintenance activities to maximise the benefit of expenditure and prolong the life of the road asset. In March programmes of road maintenance works were reported to each Area Committee for approval.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire’s public road network is carried by 1,270 council owned bridges. The same Committees approved programmes of bridge works for each Area. The Bridge Works required to be carried out in 2017/2018 for each council area were identified on an Aberdeenshire wide prioritised basis based on the principals of the Bridges Asset Management Plan (BAMP). This allows Strategic Planning and Investment Profiling (to be reviewed and updated annually) for existing bridge maintenance (backlog reactive, pre-planned and preventative) over the next 10 years, so as to prioritise and schedule essential Works which will optimise network sustainability and minimise whole life service costs. The principals and direction in the BAMP are used as the basis for the Bridges Annual Works Programme for each area.</p>
4.2 Increase biodiversity		<div style="width: 50%;"><div style="background-color: #4F81BD; height: 10px; width: 50%;"></div></div> 50%	31-Mar-2020	<p>Alternative maintenance regimes, including additional tree and wild flowers planting which support the principles of biodiversity and a more sustainable and cost effective approach to the maintenance of parks and open spaces in the larger parks, country parks and road verges are being developed and being taken forward in the annual programmes of</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>maintenance works. This will result in a gradual move towards the increase of habitat and eco systems that support all living things.</p> <p>In August ISC agreed to expand the Biodiversity Champions initiative in Aberdeenshire by adding Peatlands, Swift Fresh Water Pearl Mussels, Farmland birds, Hedgehog, Bottlenose Dolphin and Community tree planting to the list of those who will have champions. The champions will be announced shortly</p>
4.3 Flood Protection			31-Mar-2020	<p>Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Local Authority for the North East District has developed the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP), which was published in June 2016. This presents a summary of the objectives and measures to manage flood risk and details of how the measures will be implemented, as well as timescales for delivery, funding arrangements and details of partnership working to deliver these measures.</p> <p>In accordance with the framework and plan programmes of flood maintenance works have been developed and taken to each area Committee for approval.</p> <p>The Revenue Budget 2017-18 has allocated 3828,000 to Flood Management. On top of this the Capital Plan contains a £2,268,000 allocation for the 2017/2018 financial year from the Harbours, Coast & Flooding line.</p> <p>In June RPS Consulting Services were appointed to undertake a flood study of the Ballater community. Ballater had suffered severe flooding during Storm Frank last year. As a result the Council had agreed to prioritise a Flood Protection Study for the community. The study should be completed by summer 2018.</p> <p>Within Ballater there are approximately 200 residential and 40 non-residential properties at risk of flooding. RPS will work in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council, other stakeholders and the community to develop measures to reduce the flood risk.</p> <p>This will allow Aberdeenshire Council to make an informed decision on the appropriate level of flood risk mitigation that could be put in place to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>The study will include topographical surveys, hydrological and morphological studies of the River Dee, River Gairn and River Muick. RPS will develop a hydrological model to appraise sustainable options for the mitigation of the flooding of properties within Ballater.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>If considered feasible, the output from the study, such as a preferred Flood Protection Scheme, will then be considered in the national prioritisation process for Scottish Government funding, for construction as an action in the 2022 – 2027 Local Flood Risk Management Plan.</p>
<p>4.4 Flood Prevention Schemes For Stonehaven and Huntly</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>In June 2016 ISC approved that a modified Flood Protection Scheme for Stonehaven be progressed under the terms of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. As objections had been received but not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers ruled that the scheme should be evaluated at a public hearing. This was held in Stonehaven on the 28th – 29th March 2017. A report of the hearing was presented to ISC in June. In this report the Reporter recommended that the Stonehaven Flood Scheme should be confirmed with modification as approved by ISC in January 2016.</p> <p>The scheme officially became live six weeks after approval of the Reporter’s recommendations (4th September). Officers are now carrying out initial preparation work in Stonehaven and are seeking to tender the work of the scheme in October with the contractor starting on site August next year. Initial estimates of costs are £16.5 million but these will be confirmed after tender acceptance.</p> <p>The proposed scheme comprises a number of individual projects, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration to five bridges along the River Carron; removing, replacing and raising the Red Bridge and Green Bridge; repositioning the Green Bridge; removing, refurbishing and reinstating the White Bridge in a raised position; replacing the Bridgefield Bridge parapet with a reinforced glass type material; and raising and widening the Beach Bridge. • Construction of flood walls between the Red Bridge and the river mouth. • The island downstream of the Green Bridge will be removed. • Installation of two higher capacity culverts on the Glaslaw Burn. <p>The Scheme will provide a standard of protection well above the current Association of British Insurers requirements, reducing flood risk to 372 residential properties, two public utility sites, a school and an emergency service site.</p> <p>The flood protection scheme for the town of Huntly was officially opened in August. Physical measures are now in place to help reduce the risk posed by flooding to the Meadows area of the town and the A920 Huntly to Dufftown Road.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
4.5 Review Integrated Waste Management Strategy			31-Mar-2020	<p>Wills Bros Civil Engineering Ltd won the tender to deliver the £3.5 million scheme, which has taken around 10 months to complete since starting in October 2016. The work includes new embankments both in the Meadows area and adjacent to the A920 at the Ittingstone Burn, new culverts, piling, various utility diversions, property reinstatement and the creation of a new walkway along some of the embankments.</p> <p>A report was presented to the Full Council on 30 June 2017 which recommended a commitment to a zero waste position as outlined in the current Aberdeenshire Councils Integrated Waste Management Strategy and the ongoing work of officers under the direction of Infrastructure Services Committee, and its Waste Management Working Group, to bring forward a revised strategy in summer 2017 setting out the short, medium and long term actions to advance the journey towards zero waste.</p> <p>In August ISC was recommended to sign the Household Recycling Charter; and instruct officers to review the Waste and Recycling services against the essential requirements of the Code of Practice (CoP). The purpose of the Household Recycling Charter and the associated Code of Practice (CoP) is to encourage/establish a consistent approach to the collection of household waste material streams across Scotland to support the principles of a Circular Economy. The Charter is entirely voluntary and adoption is at the discretion of each individual Local Authority. To date 22 Local Authorities across Scotland have signed the Charter with several others indicating that they intend to do so.</p> <p>In February this year Aberdeen City Council, working with Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council, published a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union for the design, build and operation of a facility to process an estimated 150,000 tonnes of municipal refuse a year. The 23-year contract is expected to include a three-year construction period.</p> <p>A report on progress with the new facility was presented to the Aberdeen City Zero Waste Management Sub-Committee in June. The report said: "Development of the EfW facility will provide the most cost-effective and low risk solution to the management of non-recyclable waste following the introduction of the ban on landfilling of biodegradable waste in 2020; this has been demonstrated in the revised EfW business case considered by council in advance of entering into the (contract) with partner authorities.</p> <p>"The project is a significant infrastructure investment for the city.</p>
4.6 Waste to Energy Scheme			31-Mar-2020	

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>“The development of an alternative solution for non-recyclable waste to landfill will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the disposal of waste. “The EfW will also produce low carbon electricity and heat, offsetting fossil fuel generated energy that is utilised in the city.”</p>
<p>4.7 Increase Recycling Rates</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>Earlier this year the Waste Service carried out a series of waste analyses following the introduction of new waste and recycling collection arrangements to 117,000 local households in the last few years. The independent study sampled 1,200 homes, designed to be representative of Aberdeenshire as a whole. Waste was transported to a transfer station where it was sorted into categories for analysis.</p> <p>This has provided the Council with information on the types of waste being generated and how residents are disposing of them, with the future aim of encouraging householders to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.</p> <p>The main item still left in landfill bins is food waste at 21.8% - of that 9.1% could have been avoided by freezing it before it went out of date, or making something else out of it, while 9.5% was still packaged.</p> <p>In addition, 4.4% was textiles and footwear, which could be re-used or recycled, while recyclable plastic bottles accounted for 1.2%. Paper and card, easily recycled, accounted for 5.1%.</p> <p>33.9% of everything found in landfill bins could have been recycled at the kerbside, while a further 28.7% could be taken to any of the council's HWRCs. This includes garden waste, which accounted for 17.8%.</p> <p>Glass accounted for 4.4% of the kerbside recyclables going into the ground. In July changes were introduced to the mini recycling points across the area. The mini recycling points will now only be for glass and textiles, as these cannot go in the blue lidded recycling bin.</p> <p>Separate bins for cardboard, paper, plastics and tins have all been removed as these can go into the blue lidded Kerbside recycling bins. There has been a notable drop-off in the amount of materials being taken to mini recycling points by householders since the current kerbside collections were introduced in 2015. One of the main benefits of the change is the need for</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
<p>4.8 Open Space Maintenance and Management</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>substantially less vehicle use, saving money and carbon emissions. It will also help prevent the misuse of mini-recycling points for the disposal of trade waste.</p> <p>Following approval of the Revenue Budget for 2017-18 the budget for Landscape Service was allocated on an Area basis. Programmes of maintenance works were developed based on the requirements of each Area. These programmes of work were approved by the Area Committees in March and work on delivering each programme has continued since then.</p> <p>The individual items identified in the work programmes were noted as requiring attention during the previous year. In the main, they have come from Landscape Services staff, but also take account of queries, comments and requests from Elected Members, communities and members of the public.</p> <p>Landscape Services is continuing to work hard toward increased joint working with local communities on maintenance of identified areas and closer working relationships with other environmental groups.</p> <p>In July Keep Scotland Beautiful that Aden Country Park and Haddo Park had been given renewed Green Flag status.</p> <p>Green Flag Award winning parks and open green spaces are judged against eight strict criteria - including whether they are clean and well maintained, if the heritage is promoted and conserved, whether the local community is involved and if there is excellent management of the site.</p> <p>In May it was announced that Eight Aberdeenshire beaches had been recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful for the high standards provided to users - from keeping sand litter-free, to providing excellent information and accessible amenities.</p> <p>The following coastline hotspots have been re-awarded their Scotland's Beach Awards – all of which have held the honour for more than seven years.</p> <p>Balmedie – held since 2006 Collieston – held since 2008 Cruden Bay – held since 2010 Fraserburgh – held since 2008 Fraserburgh Waters of Philorth – held since 2008 Inverboynzie – held since 2007 Peterhead Lido – held since 2008 Stonehaven – held since 2007 The Scottish Beach Awards celebrate some of the best managed beaches in the country and have acted as the national benchmark for local environmental quality around Scotland's coastline for a quarter of a century.</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
4.9 Harbours			31-Mar-2020	<p>Work has been carried out at Macduff Harbour to improve the facilities there. An ice hopper has been fabricated to allow ice to be quickly and easily transported on board, avoiding the need for vessels to call in at another harbour to collect ice on their way to fishing grounds. This ice hopper is an interim solution provided by the harbour while options for a permanent ice facility are explored.</p> <p>Other recent developments at the harbour include the provision of a cold room in the fishmarket to help keep catches fresh, with capacity to store 400 boxes of fish or prawns.</p> <p>A new road layout has been approved at the harbour and additional car parking facilities have already been installed. There have also been a number of new safety and operational systems of work created to optimise harbour and slipway use. The relaxation on regulations regarding fish landings at Macduff has seen an increase in activity and the new facilities will further support the catching sector.</p>

SO5 - Planning and building standards

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
<p>5.1 Deliver of the Townscape Heritage and Conservation Schemes in Banff and Fraserburgh</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>In August it was announced that the Banff High Street had been short-listed in a competition to find Scotland's Most Beautiful High Street. The competition is a collaboration by STP, Keep Scotland Beautiful and the Sunday Herald to celebrate high streets as the "beating hearts" of our communities. It aims to celebrate the contribution of our High Streets and recognise the efforts made to make these spaces clean, attractive, accessible, vibrant and inclusive for all to enjoy. Voting is open through the STP website until October 1. The winning town will be announced on November 21 at the Scotland's Towns Conference in Paisley.</p> <p>In March it was announced that Aberdeenshire Council had been awarded funding to deliver a Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (TH/CARS) in Fraserburgh. The scheme was officially launched on March 11th 2017. Investment of £5.7 million is planned for conservation and restoration work in the new Fraserburgh Central Conservation Area over a five year period to March 2021. The scheme focuses on restoring and enhancing Fraserburgh's built heritage making the town centre a more vibrant and attractive place for residents and local businesses. A number of other regeneration projects will also be taking place in Fraserburgh over the five years (2016-2021) as part of the Fraserburgh 2021 project.</p> <p>Fraserburgh 2021 aims to restore Saltoun Chambers and former Police Station and make them more accessible to the public as well as returning other derelict or vacant historic properties in the Fraserburgh Central Conservation Area back into active and viable use. This is the best way to ensure that our historic environment is preserved and reinvigorated for future generations. A number of restoration works will be carried out to buildings in Fraserburgh town centre including shop front improvements and reinstatement of original architectural detail. Training opportunities in traditional skills will also be made available through the scheme.</p>
<p>5.2 Conservation of the Natural and Historic Environment</p>			<p>31-Mar-2020</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council is committed to protecting and managing its rich and diverse historic environment. A core part of the Council's approach is reflected in the 'Historic Assets Management Project' (HAMP), established in 2013 to undertake an asset review of all non-operational heritage assets in the ownership or under the management of Aberdeenshire Council. The review also considered historically significant assets, where ownership was</p>

Action	Status	Progress	Due Date	Latest Note
				<p>uncertain but where the assets may have been the responsibility of previous District or Burgh Councils.</p> <p>The information gathered has enabled production of a prioritised asset list reflecting the maintenance requirements of each asset, to assist in the scheduling of future works.</p> <p>Between June and August 2016 a Report was presented to each Area Committee outlining the scope of the project and the list of assets identified. Following the Area Committees some sites were deleted as they were not considered the Council's responsibility, and others were added. Surveyed assets were assigned a numerical score in terms of need for maintenance across a variable number of potential criteria including those relating to wall and roof condition, rainwater goods, vandalism, ivy damage with health and safety prioritising all other variables. Assets requiring health and safety works will be addressed in the first instance; any further non critical works required on these assets may be postponed. Initial prioritisation showed seven sites requiring immediate attention. Some projects will require large investments beyond the scale of the Historic Assets Management Project budget of £200,000 per annum, calling for match funding from external sources such as Heritage Lottery Fund or Historic Environment Scotland. An annual report on HAMP works be brought to each of the Area Committees advising them of the number and condition of assets, with a list of ongoing and proposed projects.</p>