

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

1 Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 1.1 **Consider the report at Appendix 1 which was presented to Infrastructure Services Committee at its meeting on 22 August 2019;**
- 1.2 **Note the decision of the Committee at paragraph 2.2 of this report;**
- 1.3 **Note that the decision was referred to Full Council under Standing Order 5.5 for final determination;**
- 1.4 **Confirm the decision of Infrastructure Services Committee to support COSLA and the Sustainable Scotland Network in their approach to the Scottish Government to seek direction and resources to support a national approach to the declared Climate Change Emergency for Scotland and to reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Environmental and Climate Change Policy, the Council's target of 44% reduction by 2025 and the Carbon Budget process to achieve this.**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 At Infrastructure Services Committee on 22 August 2019, Members considered a report on the implications of the Scottish Government's climate change emergency declaration. The report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Following a vote the Committee agreed the officer recommendations as follows:-
 - 2.2.1 Agree to support both the decision reached at COSLA and the Sustainable Scotland Network to approach the Scottish Government to seek direction and resources to support a national approach to the declared Climate Change Emergency for Scotland; and
 - 2.2.2 To reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Environmental and Climate Change Policy, the Council's target of 44% reduction by 2025 and the Carbon Budget process to achieve this.
- 2.3 Following a show of hands, one third of the members, present and voting requested that the decision be referred to Full Council for final determination in line with Standing Order 5.5. In such circumstances the decision of the Committee shall not be implemented until confirmed by Full Council. The

report to Infrastructure Services Committee is therefore attached at Appendix 1 for consideration.

- 2.4 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this and their comments are incorporated within the report and 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 and take a decision on this item in terms of Section A.2.5 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as Full Council being asked to determine a decision referred by a Committee following a division in Committee where one third or more members of the Committee present and voting on that matter have voted against the successful proposal and one third or more members of the Committee made the referral at the time the decision of the Committee is reached. The decision of the Committee which stands referred shall not be implemented until confirmed by the Full Council.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because there are no direct material outcomes arising from this report.
- 4.2 The financial implications will be significant in reaching carbon emission reduction targets and will need to be identified for the organisation as a whole so that they can inform the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 4.3 There are no immediate direct staffing implications arising from this report however there will be additional staffing requirements to implement significant emissions reduction projects.
- 4.4 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level – Risk ID ACORP010 as it relates to environmental challenges and Risk ID ACORP006 as it relates to reputation management within the Corporate Risk Register. The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level – Risk ID ISSR004 as it relates to Climate Change in the Directorate Strategic Risk Register.
- 4.5 A Town Centre Impact Assessment was not completed because there are no direct material outcomes from this report and it will therefore not have an impact on Town Centres.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 22 AUGUST 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

1 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and comment on the content of this report.
- 1.2 Agree to support both the decision reached at COSLA and the Sustainable Scotland Network to approach the Scottish Government to seek direction and resources to support a national approach to the declared Climate Change Emergency for Scotland.
- 1.3 To reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Environmental and Climate Change Policy, the Council's target of 44% reduction by 2025 and the Carbon Budget process to achieve this.

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information on the declared climate emergency by the Scottish Government and update the committee on current action Aberdeenshire Council has been taking to support the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and proposed amendments to the Climate Change Bill. Aberdeenshire Council remains the only local authority in Scotland with a carbon budget process that agrees a limit for annual emissions as it works towards its emission reduction target.
- 2.2 At Infrastructure Services Committee on 16 May 2019, the Chair advised that the Scottish Government had declared a climate emergency and that some Local Authorities had taken recourse. The Chair advised that the Director of Infrastructure Services had been asked to prepare a report at the earliest opportunity, following consultation with the Chair of the Sustainability Committee, for consideration by the Infrastructure Services Committee on any implications for the Council.
- 2.3 On 28 April 2019, First Minister of the Scottish Government, declared a climate emergency at the annual Scottish National Party conference.
- 2.4 On 02 May 2019 amendments to the Climate Change Bill were lodged by the Scottish Government, to set a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 at the latest. This means that in addition to the net-zero target for 2045, Scotland will reduce emissions by 70% by 2030 and 90% by 2040.

- 2.5 On 14 May 2019, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Roseanna Cunningham MSP declared a climate emergency to the Scottish Parliament.
- 2.6 [Climate Emergency Declarations](#) have now been passed by over 150 local authorities across the United Kingdom with more declaring all the time. In Scotland to date - Highland, Moray, Orkney Islands, Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Dundee City, Edinburgh City and Glasgow City councils have all declared emergencies with both Edinburgh and Glasgow in a race to achieve the UK's first carbon neutral city.
- 2.7 A major motivator for these local authorities declaring a climate emergency is to stimulate support for the climate change agenda and to set a clear target by which the council and/or locality will be carbon neutral. A carbon neutrality target date needs to be accompanied by a clear action plan that is supported by and embedded across the entire local authority. Aberdeenshire Council is already committed to climate change action which is discussed in more detail in Section 5 of this report.

3 Biodiversity Emergency

- 3.1 The planet is also facing a Biodiversity Emergency. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Report on Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019, concludes that nature and its vital contribution to people, which combines both biodiversity and ecosystem services, is deteriorating worldwide at an increasing rate. The Natural Capital Assessment for Scotland values our Natural Capital at an estimated £273 billion for 2015 (More information on Biodiversity Emergency can be found in Appendix 1).
- 3.2 Climate change and biodiversity are closely linked. Climate change has severe direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and is predicted to be a dominant driver of future biodiversity loss. At the same time, the loss of biodiversity magnifies the adverse effects of climate change. Biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation are strongly co-dependent. Managing and protecting biodiversity will mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and help humans adapt to it; policies and actions aiming at limiting the effects of climate change will contribute to the protection of biodiversity.

4 Engagement with Supporting Bodies

- 4.1 Aberdeenshire Council is working very closely with supporting bodies on the Climate Change Emergency Declaration. The Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change has been in regular contact with Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) to ensure the Council stays informed as action from the declared climate emergency progresses. Meetings have been underway with the SSN Steering Group to discuss the next approach for the public sector in order to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities of declaring a climate emergency on Public Bodies. A letter from the Chair of SSN Steering Group was sent to Clare Hamilton, the Deputy Director of the Climate Change Division at the Scottish Government, on 26 July 2019. A

briefing note is also currently being prepared for all SSN members which will share the information and themes laid out in the letter so that public bodies can be engaged with action on the climate emergency declared by the Scottish Government.

- 4.2 On 07 June 2019 COSLA's Environment and Economy Board approved the paper with climate change recommendation ([Item 5](#)). The report recommended COSLA reassert the fullest commitment to combating climate change, highlighting the seriousness of this issue and the need for urgent and sustained action. Support for a 2045 net-zero greenhouse gas emission target was agreed - recognising that this is a minimum response, and that some Local Authorities have already set more ambitious targets. After the summer recess, a COSLA spokesperson will meet the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform to discuss how Local and Scottish Government can jointly lead this process and mobilise all resources at its disposal.
- 4.3 SSN is relaunching the Local Authority Forum and the first meeting will be hosted at COSLA headquarters in September and will focus on the Climate Emergency. The Forum hopes to bring together the 32 local authorities to discuss the contribution local government can make to climate action in Scotland considering the new targets. The aim will be to consider what will be required to achieve this – policy, legislative levers, financial resources, etc. COSLA is very keen to support the Forum and will utilise the feedback from the meeting when producing their position paper on the climate emergency.
- 4.4 The Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) has also provided a briefing to members on Climate Emergency Council Declarations from their APSE Energy Group highlighting the benefits and challenges for Local Authorities becoming carbon neutral. They have emphasised some of the elements of work needed for a successful approach including 12 points to stimulate thought on taking the climate emergency agenda forward locally:
- Leadership
 - Strategy
 - Capacity
 - Action plans and projects
 - Targets and data
 - Finance and risk
 - Partners
 - Suppliers
 - Education and culture change
 - Innovation
 - Review and Inform
 - Behaviour change
- 4.5 Aberdeenshire Council is a member of Adaptation Scotland's Benchmarking Working Group and is helping to support Adaptation Scotland over the next 2 years by working through the Scotland Adapts Capability Framework. The working group aims to provide feedback and support in using the tools, facilitate peer to peer support, provide case studies, and aid process based

monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation action in the public sector.

5 Aberdeenshire Council and Climate Action

- 5.1 Aberdeenshire Council has an up to date [Environmental and Climate Change Policy](#) and is demonstrating leadership through its current Carbon Budget process which is providing a mechanism to reach our current target of 44% by 2025 (Appendix 2). Many of the quick win projects have now been achieved and realising 44% by 2025 is a challenge which Aberdeenshire Council stays committed to. There is an opportunity for more innovative ideas to enhance the way we provide public services while also reducing our emissions. Although it cannot be ignored that the advancement towards our reduction target has been heavily supported by the decarbonisation of the electricity grid, this is a positive reflection of the increase in renewable electricity generation across the United Kingdom. An update on the Carbon Budget 2019/2020 can be found in Appendix 3.
- 5.2 A [North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan \(NESSEAP\)](#) has been developed in partnership with Aberdeen City, Moray and Angus Council. The NESSEAP looks beyond organisational emissions by examining north east region emissions and Aberdeenshire regional emissions specifically. Currently action on delivery of this plan has been stalled due to resource challenges across the different organisations involved.
- 5.3 [A Local Climate Impact Profile \(LCLIP\)](#) was completed in February 2019 covering the years 2011-2018. The purpose of an LCLIP is to portray the ways that Aberdeenshire Council's services are affected by weather events through drawing together evidence from interviews, media articles and internal documents following the LCLIP framework. The main recommendation that came from the LCLIP was that Aberdeenshire Council should consider developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that outlines how it can build capacity to manage the opportunities and threats associated with a changing climate. Strategy development is currently underway in its early stages of research.
- 5.4 Internationally, Aberdeenshire Council remains committed to its membership of the North Sea Commission. The Team Leader for Sustainability and Climate Change was recently appointed the Advisor of the Energy and Climate Change Group and is involved in the development of the new strategy for 2030 which has a priority area for a climate neutral North Sea region. Collaborative action on mitigation and adaptation across regions that border the North Sea is another key area the Council must remain engaged in as it supports Scotland's climate emergency.
- 5.5 For Aberdeenshire Council to continue to support Scotland's declaration of a climate emergency with further action than currently underway would therefore require continued support and commitment from across the entire organisation. In addition to this all Aberdeenshire public, private and third sector organisations and Aberdeenshire residents will need to be engaged, as acting on an emergency cannot happen in isolation.

5.6 Additional guidance and resources are required from the Scottish Government so that the huge potential within the public sector can be unlocked for action. The following examples of action on the climate emergency could be considered and supported by Aberdeenshire Council if more resources were to be made available:

- All policies and strategies for the Council/in partnerships reviewed and adjusted to account for climate change (for example any actions that have a high impact on emissions might have to be stopped or adjusted).
- Dedicated team of officers to develop and monitor a detailed Council wide action plan for Carbon Neutrality which actively integrates biodiversity protection and restoration – in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations and residents across the region.
- Setting demands through our procurement of goods and services that align with sustainable development, for example considering emission reduction and/or climate change adaptation processes as investment for the region in the future rather than sourcing cheap options for today.
- Officers/consultants exploring opportunities for developing and/or investing in large scale renewable energy generation projects.
- Investing in carbon offsetting which could include a large-scale tree planting strategy for Council land but would also likely require purchasing offsetting certifications.

5.7 In summary this is a complex and challenging matter and a declaration alone will achieve little on its own. Direction and adequate additional resources are required from the Scottish Government for local government and other agencies to be fully able to support and lead on the delivery of the amendments to the Climate Change Bill. Aberdeenshire Council remains committed to action and will examine opportunities for external and internal funding to ensure the great work already underway continues at an acceptable and agreed pace.

5.8 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6 Scheme of Governance

6.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F paragraph 1.1 (b) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance.

7 Implications and Risk

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required because there are no direct material outcomes arising from this report.

7.2 The financial implications will be significant in reaching carbon emission reduction targets and will need to be identified for the organisation as a whole so that they can inform the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

- 7.3 There are no immediate direct staffing implications arising from this report however there will be additional staffing requirements to implement significant emissions reduction projects.
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- 7.5 A Town Centre Impact Assessment was not completed because there are no direct material outcomes from this report and it will therefore not have an impact on Town Centres.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by: Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability & Climate Change 06 August 2019

Appendix 1: Climate Emergency Report

Further information on the Biodiversity Emergency:

1. Current and Future Action

New post-2020 targets for the Convention on Biological Diversity now being developed and in Scotland these will follow on from the [2020 Scottish Biodiversity Challenge \(2013\)](#). Aberdeenshire can continue to play a key role in biodiversity conservation going forward by contributing to meeting these targets through policy decisions, Council managed projects and partnership initiatives. Landscape scale thinking is required and projects like [Pearls in Peril](#), which has included riparian tree planting in the River Dee Catchment to shade the watercourse, are key. [The North East Non-Native Invasive Species](#) project is another key example of an Aberdeenshire wide approach, complimenting a Scottish level initiative to combat the threat of invasive non-native species. This action is all supported by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 which puts a **duty** on all public bodies to 'further the conservation of **biodiversity**'.

2. Report on Global Biodiversity 2019

The [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\) Report](#) on Global Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services 2019 produced a summary for policy makers. The following has been taken directly from the summary:

Four key message and 2 Figures which clearly illustrate:

- a) Global Trends in Natural Capital
- b) Global decline in species and direct drivers causing this decline.

Key Messages from the 2019 report:

- A. Nature and its vital contributions to people, which together embody biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are deteriorating worldwide.
- B. Direct and indirect drivers of change have accelerated during the past 50 years.
- C. Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative³ changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.
- D. Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while simultaneously meeting other global societal goals through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.



Figure 1. Global trends in the capacity of nature to sustain contributions to good quality of life from 1970 to the present, which show a decline for 14 of the 18 categories of nature's contributions to people analyzed.

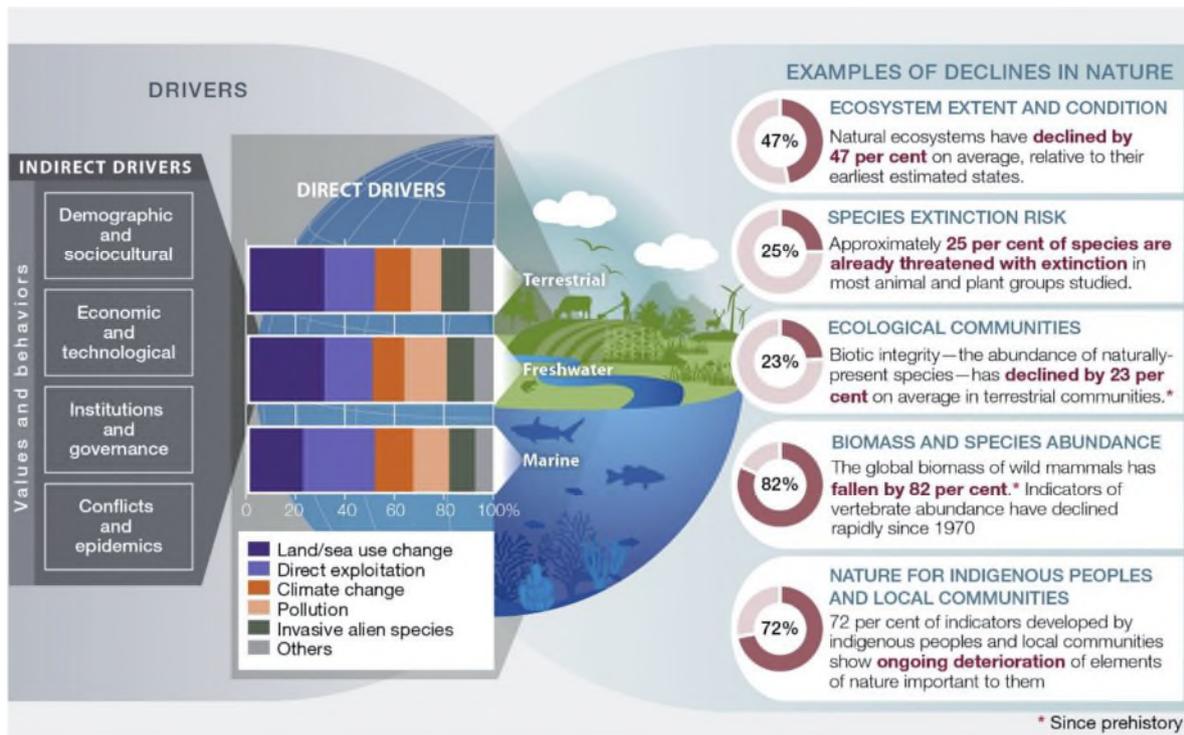


Figure 2. Examples of global declines in nature, emphasizing declines in biodiversity, that have been and are being caused by direct and indirect drivers of change. The direct drivers (land/sea use change; direct exploitation of organisms; climate change; pollution; and invasive alien species)⁵ result from an array of underlying societal causes⁶. These causes can be demographic (e.g. human population dynamics), sociocultural (e.g. consumption patterns), economic (e.g. trade), technological or relating to institutions, governance, conflicts and epidemics; these are called indirect drivers⁷, and are underpinned by societal values and behaviours. The colour bands represent the relative global impact of direct drivers on (from top to bottom) terrestrial, freshwater and marine nature as estimated from a global systematic review of studies published since 2005. Land and sea use change and direct exploitation account for more than 50 per cent of the global impact on land, in fresh water and in the sea, but each driver is dominant in certain contexts {2.2.6}. The circles illustrate the magnitude of the negative human impacts on a diverse selection of aspects of nature over a range of different time scales, based on a global synthesis of indicators {2.2.5, 2.2.7}.

Appendix 2 – Climate Change Emergency

Annual progress towards 2025 target:

Financial Year	Actual Emissions Reported (tCO2e)	Carbon Budget Required to reach Target (tCO2e)
2010/11	86,155	86,155
2011/12	78,400	83,447
2012/13	82,782	80,740
2013/14	77,265	78,032
2014/15	81,805	75,324
2015/16	79,537	72,616
2016/17	73,587	69,909
2017/18	68,352	67,201
2018/19	Determined 11/2019	64,493
2019/20	Determined 11/2020	61,786
2020/21	Determined 11/2021	59,078
2021/22	Determined 11/2022	56,370
2022/23	Determined 11/2023	53,662
2023/24	Determined 11/2024	50,955
2024/25	Determined 11/2025	48,247



Appendix 3: Climate Change Emergency - Carbon Budget Update 2019/20

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2019/20 by Service						
	Base Budget 2019/20 tCO2e	Forecast 2019/20 tCO2e	Forecast Savings			Comments
			Better than Budget tCO2e	Worse than Budget tCO2e	Net Variance tCO2e	
Business Services	500	474	0	26	26	An additional saving of 26 tCO2e is required from BS in order to achieve the Service target however projects from other services mean the overall estimated total emissions reduction has surpassed the target.
Infrastructure Services	2200	2202	2	0	2	Currently ISS is supporting the CB with an additional 2 tCO2e going towards the overall target reduction of 3400.
Education and Children Services	600	659	59	0	59	Currently E&CS is supporting the CB with an additional 59 tCO2e going towards the overall target reduction of 3400.
Health and Social Care Partnership	100	100	0	0	0	Currently behaviour change projects have the H&SCP on track for their target.
Total	3400	3435	61	26	35	Currently on track to reach 2019/20 reduction target.

1.6 Continued expansion of pool vehicle scheme capacity	10	10	10						August Update – Pool cars will now be transferred to the Transportation team as of September.
1.7 Modal Shift – Reduction in Grey Fleet Usage									Savings included in 1.6
1.8 Integration of EVs into the pool vehicle fleet	10	10	10						August Update – Pool cars will now be transferred to the Transportation team as of September.
1.9 Energy efficiency behaviour change actions throughout all services.	83	83	83						August Update – New ABC Behaviour Change programme up and running with new officer in place to support.
1.10 Reduce the amount of waste that each site/office puts into 'General Waste' bins instead of recycling or food waste bins.	4	4	4						August Update – Progress is ongoing with Resources and Circular Economy Commitment and Framework Waste Service has lowered food waste collection costs to match general waste cost to engage more Council buildings to add food waste collections.

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2019/20 by Service							
	Base Budget	May-19	Aug-19	Nov-19	Feb-19	Forecast Savings	

<p>2.7 Installation of EV Chargers in Council Offices and Depots.</p>									<p>August Update: Charge points are going to be fitted in the following locations subject to feasibility checks after approval for funding from Transport Scotland has been granted (£300,000):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inverurie Community Campus • Ellon Community Campus • Peterhead Town Centre and Academy site • Alford Community Campus • Fraserburgh Town Centre • Inch Town centre • Macduff Aquarium • Banchory Sports Village
<p>2.8 Energy Reduction Measures: Replacement of old HID street lighting with LED units. Approx. 20,000 units to be converted/changed.</p>	1529	1529	1529						
<p>2.9 Energy efficiency behaviour change actions throughout all services.</p>	240	240	240						<p>August Update – New ABC Behaviour Change programme up and running with new officer in place to support.</p>
<p>2.10 Reduce the amount of waste that each site/office puts into ‘General Waste’ bins instead of recycling or food waste bins.</p>	7	7	7						<p>August Update – Progress is ongoing with Resources and Circular Economy Commitment and Framework Waste Service has lowered food waste collection costs to match general waste cost to</p>

									engage more Council buildings to add food waste collections.
2.11 Warp-It	24	24	24						August Update – From April – July we have saved 10tCO2e.
2.12 Revise method of large waste collection from current large skip internal customers in order to segregate wood, scrap metal, carboard and other recycle as appropriate.	102	102	102						
2.13 Crow's Nest Further projects - Leachate Pond									New Project added in May - carbon savings will be linked to the leachate no longer being driven offsite to be treated during colder months.

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2019/20 by Service									
	Base Budget	May-19 Forecast	Aug-19 Forecast	Nov-19 Forecast	Feb-20 Forecast	Forecast Savings			Comments
						Better than Budget	Worse than Budget	Net Variance	
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	
tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e		
Education and Children Services	600	659	659			59		59	Currently E&CS is supporting the CB with an additional 59 going towards

									the overall target reduction of 3400.
3.1 Macduff Aquarium - Replace Seawater chiller.									August Update: A new seawater chiller and replacement pumps are currently being procured. Both pieces of equipment will be energy efficient models and this is being partly funded by the Renewable Energy Reserve.
3.2 Education Green Champion Programme – to be rolled out across all 17 academies. Energy efficiency behaviour change actions will be rolled out across other services also.	634	634	634						August Update – New ABC Behaviour Change programme up and running with new officer in place to support. This is not running in our schools – hope to roll out the Green Schools initiative across Academies for this.
3.3 Waste to Landfill Reduction.	25	25	25						August Update – Progress is ongoing with Resources and Circular Economy Commitment and Framework Waste Service has lowered food waste collection costs to match general waste cost to engage more Council buildings to add food waste collections.
3.4 LED Lighting at Ski Centre - Alford & Huntly									New Project added in May – calculations still to be determined.

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2019/20 by Service									
	Base Budget	May-19 Forecast	Aug-19 Forecast	Nov-19 Forecast	Feb-20 Forecast	Forecast Savings			Comments
						Better than Budget	Worse than Budget	Net Variance	
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	
tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e		
Health and Social Care Partnership	100	100	100			0	0	0	Currently behaviour change projects have the H&SCP on track for their target.
4.1 Reduction in business miles by improved planning of journeys for home care staff, health visitors, district nurses, AHPs.									
4.2 Energy efficiency Behaviour Change actions throughout all services.	97	97	97						August Update – New ABC Behaviour Change programme up and running with new officer in place to support.
4.3 Reduction in waste by increased recycling of waste products and by re-use utilising Warplt.	3	3	3						August Update – Progress is ongoing with Resources and Circular Economy Commitment and Framework Waste Service has lowered food waste collection costs to match general waste cost to engage more Council

									buildings to add food waste collections.
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