

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 28 AUGUST, 2019

**Present:** Councillors C Pike (Chair), I Davidson (Vice-Chair), N Baillie, R Cassie, S Dickinson, M Ford, A Kloppert, I Taylor and A Wallace.

**Officers:** Head of Economic Development and Protective Services; Engineering Services Manager; Principal Solicitor (Democratic Services), Legal and Governance; Senior Committee Officer (Allan Bell), Legal and Governance; and Internal Waste Reduction Officer (Joel Evans), Infrastructure Services.

### 1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked members if they had any interests to declare, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. No interest were declared.

### 2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 148 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment has been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF 22 MAY, 2019.

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 22 May, 2019, members **approved** it as a correct record, after which the Minute was signed by the Chair.

### 4. "THE WILD NORTH EAST, SCOTLAND'S NATURAL GEM"

Members **noted** an oral presentation by Dr Douglas Gooday, Countryside Ranger, on the work of his service, together with a video entitled "The Wild North East - Scotland's Natural Gem", highlighting the diversity of the north east countryside.

Thereafter, the Committee thanked Dr Gooday for his presentation.

### 5. LOCAL HEAT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGIES

Having heard an oral presentation on Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) by Guy Robertson and Terri Voigt of Ramboll Consultants, the Committee **noted** a circulated report dated 22 July, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services (1) which explained that the Scottish Government had invited local authorities to submit proposals to undertake an LHEES project, through its Energy Efficient Scotland Transition Programme, and that Aberdeenshire Council had been awarded a grant of £50,000 to develop a strategic approach to improve energy efficiency and decarbonising the heat supply of buildings owned and tenanted by small to medium enterprises within Aberdeenshire, (2) which advised that Ramboll

had been appointed as consultants for the project and (3) to which was appended its report “Developing a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy for the SME Sector”, highlighting the approach and findings of a data review and database development exercise.

Having commented on the draft report produced by the consultants, in respect of the promotion of energy efficiency in Business Improvement Districts, decarbonisation, the use of air conditioning, incentivising energy efficiency, the increasing demand for electricity, and the economic case for electricity production, the Committee **noted** that the consultants’ final report would be sent to the Heat and Energy Efficiency Unit (Energy and Climate Change Directorate) at the Scottish Government.

## 6. RESOURCES AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRAMEWORK

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 22 May, 2019 (Item 9), when members had noted, approved and endorsed the draft Resources and Economy Commitment appended to the report and had requested the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services to submit a report to a future meeting of Aberdeenshire Council recommending the formal adoption of the Commitment, alongside a developed framework for its implementation, following full consultation with relevant officers, and members of other policy committees, there was circulated a report dated 22 July, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services (1) which explained that Scotland was pursuing a transition to a society and economy consuming and wasting fewer resources, supported by Scotland Zero Waste Plan and Circular Economy Strategy, aiming to change the way in which products are designed, used, re-used, repaired and recycled, (2) which advised that Aberdeenshire Council had already committed to reducing its consumption of resources in support of Circular Economy principles, through its Environmental and Climate Change Policy and (3) to which was appended a copy of the draft Framework itself.

After detailed consideration, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the draft Resources and Circular Economy Framework appended to the report, designed to accompany the Resources and Circular Economy Commitment aimed at giving the relevant principles, expectations and guidance to all staff and Services,
- (2) **noted** members’ comments on the Framework document regarding engagement with schools and the voluntary sector, smart purchasing, reduction of single use plastics, a “top down” organisational approach, social enterprises, the re-use and recycling of furniture, and the sale of equipment no longer in use, and
- (3) **instructed** the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services to submit a report to the Committee annually on progress made in implementing the Framework.

## 7. CARBON BUDGET 2019/2020 UPDATE

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 14 February, 2019 (Item 8), when members had agreed a total Carbon Budget for the Council of 61,786 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e for 2019/2020, there was circulated and **noted** a report dated 21 July, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which explained the carbon reduction targets for each of the Council’s Services and to which was appended a summary of Carbon Budget monitoring by Service for the forthcoming year.

Thereafter, and having **noted** members' comments on battery-powered devices, charging availability and battery life, the Committee **instructed** officers to submit a report to a meeting of the Committee in due course, reviewing current carbon reduction targets and **instructed** the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services to submit the report as a bulletin item to all policy committees.

