

## REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 13 NOVEMBER 2019

### CARBON BUDGET 2020/21

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress with setting the Carbon Budget for 2020/21 and reviews the Council's current emission reduction target of 44% by 2025.

#### 2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the proposed Carbon Budget for 2020/21;**
- 2.2 Consider and comment on the points in Section 4 of the report; and**
- 2.3 Request that officers develop a detailed approach to achieving an ambitious change to Aberdeenshire Council's emission reduction targets and present these to the Council.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 At the Sustainability Committee meeting on 28 August, 2019, members requested a report on progress with setting the Carbon Budget for 2020/21. In addition to this, officers were asked to review the Council's current emission reduction target of 44% by 2025 and consider if the Council could be more ambitious and increase it.
- 3.2 All comments by the Sustainability Committee on setting a new emission reduction target and Carbon Budget for 2020/2021 will be integrated into the Carbon Budget 2020/2021 report to the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 13 February, 2020, for consideration and approval.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 As the Climate Change Duties Report for 2018/19 is in its final draft awaiting approval, the total emissions for that financial year at time of publication were 57992 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 demonstrates the progress being made annually by Aberdeenshire Council as it moves closer towards its current target of 44% reduction by 2025. To address the required linear reduction with this target, a Carbon Budget of 59078 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for 2020/21 is needed to keep Aberdeenshire Council on target. However, we have surpassed that target in 2018/19.

- 4.3 Aberdeenshire Council is now in a position to consider an ambitious change in practice and, if this was to be achieved, to consider amending the target along with a plan of action.
- 4.4 In line with the new Climate Change Bill, and as discussed in the report to this meeting, “Big Climate Conversation: The Role of Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change. AA Consultation”, Aberdeenshire Council may also want to consider using the Scottish target of 75% by 2030 and a Net Zero Carbon target by 2045. ‘Net Zero’ refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere.
- 4.5 There are many different factors we must consider when looking to amend our target, some of which will continue to support our progress:
- Overall, a fundamental shift as an organisation in practices and policies to support an ambitious but achievable emissions reduction target.
  - The new Programme for Government plans and targets. For example, the new transport targets for public sector fleet vehicles.
  - New targets within the Climate Change Bill and changes to expectations for target setting within the public sector (as is being considered in the current Scottish Government consultation).
  - The continued reduction to the electricity emission factor due to the growth of renewable energy being added to the grid (will decrease a further 9% in 2019).
  - Funding opportunities – for example, the new Green Investment Portfolio launching Spring, 2020 (<https://www.gov.scot/news/green-investment-programme-opens/>).
  - Carbon reduction in buildings action plan being led by the Energy Team in Property and the anticipated savings from these projects.
  - Continued LED street lighting roll-out with anticipated completion in 2021.
  - Resources and Circular Economy Commitment – should see internal and regional waste reduced.
  - All services engaged with climate change action, understanding their role and possible action.
  - Business miles - if we knew types of vehicles, we may be able to lower emissions as we currently just use average car/fuel emission factor. Could consider a policy on the type of car you may use for business miles e.g. must be low emission or will be required to use pool car. Could also consider offsetting programmes for flights.
  - Offsetting – determine sequestration already happening on council land and consider a tree planting plan or areas to enhance (afforestation, restoration of ecosystems, green infrastructure etc.) on council land/properties and the wider Aberdeenshire region. This could also examine opportunities for a longer term investment in commercial forestry.
  - Decarbonising heat and fleet will be one of the biggest challenges that needs consideration.
  - New significant developments, Programmes and Strategies which may increase emissions within the organisation and/or region.

- 4.6 To keep the momentum in reducing emissions, the following reduction targets for 2020/21 could be considered:
- for the current 44% target by 2025 = 2710 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - for a new 50% target by 2025 = 3080 tCO<sub>2</sub>e
  - for a new 75% by 2030 = 3400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e

- 4.7 A Power of Influence Index was utilised to determine how the allocation could be distributed across the Directorates, and Services will be required to put forward actions to meet these targets:

Directorate	44% Reduction Target by 2025	50% Reduction Target by 2025	75% Reduction Target by 2030
Business Services	800 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1000 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1200 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Infrastructure Services	1600 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1650 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	1700 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Education and Children's Services	260 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	330 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	380 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Health and Social Care Partnership	50 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	100 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	120 tCO <sub>2</sub> e
Total	2710 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	3080 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	3400 tCO <sub>2</sub> e

- 4.8 To further advance the Carbon Budget process, the 2020/21 Budget will continue to look to consider options for capturing information on new significant developments e.g. new school builds which may require to be offset against intended savings. In addition to this, risks, budget pressures and part-year savings will look to be identified and included in the final Carbon Budget 2020/21 which will be brought to the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 13 February, 2020, for consideration and approval.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver Council Priority 11 - Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing	X		
Equalities			X
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First			X
Sustainability	X		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X

- 5.3 An equality impact assessment is being carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above and will be included in the report going to the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 13 February, 2020.
- 5.4 Whilst there are no direct financial implications from this report, 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. There are no immediate direct staffing implications arising from this report, although there would be additional staffing requirements to implement significant emission reduction projects moving forward.
- 5.5 A Town Centre Impact Assessment was not completed because there are no direct material outcomes of this report that would have an impact on town centres.
- 5.6 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 Risk Registers.

## **6 Scheme of Governance**

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section S, paragraph 1.1 (a) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance, as it relates to monitoring the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change.

**Stephen Archer**  
**Director of Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by: Claudia Cowie, Team Leader, Sustainability & Climate Change  
7 October, 2019

## **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 Carbon Budget 2020/21 – Annual progress towards 44% by 2025 target

## Appendix 1 – Carbon Budget 2020-2021

Annual progress towards 44% by 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	66802	67,201
2018/19	57992	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



