



## REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE – 7 OCTOBER 2021

### CARBON BUDGET SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE

#### 1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 The report presents the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update. This update is required to be brought to both the Education and Children's Services Committee and Sustainability Committee following the decision of Aberdeenshire Council on [18 March 2020](#), Item 10, Carbon Budget 2020-21.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider and comment on the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update, as attached in Appendix 1 and the development of the Education and Children's Services Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy;**
- 2.2 Determine any further actions required by the Director of Education and Children's Services with regard to the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget; and**
- 2.3 Note the ongoing responsibility of each Director to secure their reduction targets as set out in the Carbon Budget, and to report progress at six-monthly to the relevant Policy Committees and to the Sustainability Committee.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 All Directors are required to submit Carbon Budget six-monthly updates to their relevant Policy Committees and additionally to the Sustainability Committee following the decision of Aberdeenshire Council on [18 March 2020](#), Item 10, Carbon Budget 2020-21.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Carbon Budget was set at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 4 March 2021. For Education and Children's Services the target for carbon reduction for 2020/21 was set at 570 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, the Council's overall target is 5000. At the same meeting each Service was instructed to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan, setting out how their Directorate will reach 75% emissions reduction by 2030 and Net Zero by 2045, and present this to their relevant Policy Committee by 31 October 2021.
- 4.2 **Appendix 1** highlights proposed projects that had been identified for

progression during 2020/21 in Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) and Education. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in progressing these carbon reduction solutions during the Covid-19 pandemic. These projects have not progressed fully as planned due to the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and this has led to a shortfall in the expected carbon reduction.

- 4.3 Work has concentrated on the development of an Education and Children's Services Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and a short, medium, and long-term action plan for the service to ensure sustainable practices become eventually embedded in the day-to-day work of the service. A static copy of the document is seen in **Appendix 2**. [The digital interactive version is found in this link.](#)
- 4.4 The Education and Children's Services Sustainability and Climate Change Team has been established with staff from across Education and Children's Services. The team have worked together to develop the Education and Children's Services Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy, sharing information from their own areas of operation to support all colleagues with their understanding of the impact of climate change and the measures needed to develop solutions to reducing the carbon budget. Pupils are important members of the school community and Education and Children's Services recognises that climate change will have a considerable impact on all aspects of their lives. Pupil groups will also be consulted and represented in the Team following discussions with pupils during this term.
- 4.5 One key element of the carbon reduction strategy is the recording of pupil climate change ambitions and the inclusion of their ideas. Discussions with pupil groups started in September and their ideas will be included in the final strategy document. Work is also ongoing with pupils and staff within Education for the development and implementation of a Sustainability in Schools Policy.
- 4.6 The Sustainability in Schools Policy will include:
- developing strategies for the inclusion of Learning for Sustainability in the curriculum
  - energy budget management in school, food recycling in all school areas, general waste recycling
  - reduction in the volume of paper used (schools consume approximately 75% of all paper utilised within the council)
  - litter management
  - use of sustainable resources
  - green space management
  - pupil projects in this area.
- 4.7 Work with the Eco-Schools programme will be included in the Sustainability in Schools Policy and work undertaken to continue to promote this in schools. There is already excellent work being undertaken by individual schools and existing good practice will be included in the development of the policy. This will require a mixture of process change but equally and possibly more importantly cultural change.

- 4.8 Work is being undertaken with Aberdeenshire Council's Green Space Officers for a new land management regime to be established and surveying all school sites is starting to support discussions with school staff and pupils to identify areas for utility cutting for sports and play, biodiversity areas and re-wilding areas to form carbon sinks.
- 4.9 Work has started with colleagues in the Energy Team to explore methods of increasing energy management in schools. However, due to the ongoing pandemic it is not expected that a reduction in the amount of energy used can be recorded due to the continued need for increased ventilation in school buildings. Energy use will potentially rise influenced by local weather conditions.
- 4.10 A carbon budget saving has been recorded as a direct impact of remote working of central support staff in Education and Children's Services. Figures have been collated for the Governance & Empowerment Team showing a 43.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e saving over the course of the year for the team. This is due to 63 colleagues working differently. This information will be shared with colleagues in the Virtual Working Environment Reference Group to support strategy discussions on the council's efforts to reduce the impact of its actions on climate change.
- 4.11 Education and Children's Services welcomes the proposals for the Aberdeenshire Council Road Map to 2030 to reflect in both the revenue and capital budgets the work required to reach a 75% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e. As a service carbon budget savings as a result of behavioural change and wider scope 3 emissions for equipment and furniture are being recorded. It is recognised that toolkits to support the method of recording both achieved savings and reduction in emissions would be beneficial and work is ongoing with colleagues across the council to develop this.
- 4.12 In addition to this, the budget and staffing to support the implementation of the strategy is potentially significant. The budget to implement the changes required to impact waste reduction will be included in a report supporting Aberdeenshire Council's Road Map to 2030. Increased integration and collaboration on a corporate strategy with other services can only benefit the work needed to reach a 75% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority "Resilient Communities" within the Pillar "Our Environment", climate and sustainability
- 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 and Fairer Duty Scotland		x	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x
Climate Change and Sustainability	x		

Health and Wellbeing			x
Town Centre First			x

5.3 Although there are no financial and staffing implications arising directly from this report, the financial and staffing implications of meeting Carbon Budget targets are significant and will need to be addressed on an individual action or project basis. Implications will need to be identified for the organisation as a whole so that they can inform the Council’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy to ensure affordability and also across the Council’s corporate and informed approach.

5.4 A further impact assessment is not required as this report is an update on actions. EIA was completed for earlier report submitted to Full Council meeting of 17 March 2021.

5.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to the Carbon Budget 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 the Carbon Budget 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 are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section E.1.1 and E.6.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the scrutiny of the implementation of the Carbon Budget for services within the remit of the Committee.

**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education and Children’s Services**

Report prepared by Karen Tucker, Team Manager, Education and Children’s Services  
Date 07 September 2021

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Education and Children’s Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update  
Appendix 2 - Education and Children’s Services Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy

Appendix 1 – Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2021/22	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES								
	Base Budget	May-21 Forecast	Aug-21 Forecast	Nov-21 Forecast	Feb-22 Forecast	Forecast Savings			Comments
						Better than Budget	Worse than Budget	Net Variance	
	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	
	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	
<b>Education and Children's Services</b>									
<b>General waste reduction and increased recycling on school sites</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC						Education and Children's Services is committed to work with colleagues in Waste Management to reduce the waste for general collection and increase recycling. Covid-19 has impacted on the amount of general waste due to additional cleaning and this work will determine the Service's ability to reduce general waste.
<b>Joint approach with energy team for management of energy usage</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC						Education and Children's Services is committed to develop practices to review energy use and start working on behavioural change in conjunction with the Energy Team who are able to support with the provision of usage data.
<b>Commitment to start incorporating 'circular economy' principles in procurement as part of strategy</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC						Education and Children's Services is committed to start incorporating the consideration of sustainability in procurement. The Catering Team has undertaken this commitment in procurements added to the Procurement Plan 2021/2 for the purchase of fruit, vegetables and frozen foods. The carbon budget reduction will be investigated once the procurement is in place.

Appendix 2 - Education and Children's Services Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy

## EDUCATION & CHILDREN'S SERVICE CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY AMBITIONS AND OUR FUTURE STRATEGY

We, Education & Children's Service, acknowledge that the world faces a climate challenge directly attributed to human activity and our responsibility is to provide direction and sustainable developments in order to move to a more maintainable and low carbon future.

We recognise our action, or inaction will determine the future of upcoming generations and we embrace our social responsibility to act to become part of the solution to reduce our carbon budget. We are committed to working towards a carbon free society by reducing our emissions by 75% (against our 2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and become Net Zero by 2045.



The strategy is a positive, forward-looking outcome based approach focusing on what type of Education & Children's Services we want in the future. Scotland's climate is already changing and therefore adaptive actions need to be undertaken now in light of the global climate change challenge.



OUR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IS LINKED TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, SCOTLAND'S PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK NATIONAL OUTCOMES AND CLIMATE READY SCOTLAND - SECOND SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME 2019-2024.



## TIMEFRAME FOR ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURE STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION BY DECEMBER OF:

**2024**  
SHORT TERM

**2027**  
MEDIUM TERM

**2030**  
LONG TERM



## SHORT TERM COMMITMENTS

Energy	Behavioural Change	Waste	Green & Open Spaces
Digital Technology	Transport	Learning Estates	Sustainable Procurement