

## REPORT TO SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE – 10 NOVEMBER 2021

### PUBLIC BODIES CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORT 2020-2021

#### 1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 This report is Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report for 2020-21. This report is produced annually and is a mandatory requirement for all public bodies. It is for the consideration and approval of the Sustainability Committee before its submission to Scottish Government.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Consider, comment and approve Aberdeenshire Council's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2020-21 and delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services to submit the finalised report to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2021 (Appendix 1); and**
- 2.2 **Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to sign the declaration in Part 6e of the report.**

#### 3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 The [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) is a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland. Included within the Act are the following requirements on public bodies in the exercising of their functions.

- Act in the way best calculated to contribute to delivery of the Scotland's emissions reduction targets;
- Act in the way best calculated to deliver any statutory adaptation programme; and
- Act in a way that it considers most sustainable.

- 3.2 [The Climate Change \(Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#) require public bodies, including Aberdeenshire Council, to report annually on compliance with the climate change duties. The 2020-21 report is required to be submitted to the Scottish Government by 30 November 2021.

#### 4 Discussion

- 4.1 An important note of relevance to future reporting requirements is that the [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#), which came into force on 9 November 2020, sets national emissions reduction

targets as:

- At least 75% lower than the baseline year by 2030;
- At least 90% lower than the baseline year by 2040; and
- Net Zero by 2045 ('Net Zero' refers to achieving an overall balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere).

4.2 Amendments made to the 2009 Act by the 2019 Act do not apply to the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties report which the Council requires to produce for the year ending on 31 March 2021. The new reporting requirements for public bodies will be in place as part of the reporting to Scottish Government next year and will include the following:

- Where applicable, a target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the body is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets;
- Where applicable, any targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases;
- How the body aligns its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets;
- How the body will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets;
- How the body is contributing to Scotland's Adaptation Programme.

4.3 Aberdeenshire Council's draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2020-21 is included as **Appendix 1**. It requires to be submitted to the Scottish Government at the end of November 2021.

4.4 In addition to the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2020-21 a comparison of 2019-20 consumption data, emission factors and emission data with 2020-21 can be found in **Appendix 2**. There has been a further significant reduction in the electricity emissions factor due to the continued decarbonisation of the grid. Furthermore, the comparison demonstrates where implications from Covid-19 has forced a reduction in consumption of energy, most significantly through transportation (fleet and business travel).

4.5 An overview of Aberdeenshire Council's annual progress towards its 75% reduction by 2030 target can be found in **Appendix 3**.

## **5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk**

5.1 This Report helps deliver the key principle of 'climate and sustainability' within

the Pillar “Our Environment”.

5.2 This Report helps deliver on the Climate Change Declaration.

5.3 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

5.4 There are no direct staffing and/or financial implications arising from this performance monitoring report.

5.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) screening was completed (**Appendix 4**). During screening 0 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required as there are no direct implications of approving this Climate Change Duties Report for submission as it is a performance monitoring report from 2020-21.

5.6 The following specific 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 (b) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the

Scheme of Governance as it relates to Public Bodies Climate Change Duties annual reporting.

**Alan Wood**  
**Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Claudia Cowie, Team Leader Sustainability and Climate Change  
26 October 2021

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Draft Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2020-2021 for  
Aberdeenshire Council

Appendix 2 - Comparison data from 2019/20 - 2020/21

Appendix 3 - Annual progress towards 2030 target

Appendix 4 - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Report

**Appendix 1: Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report 2020/21 - Draft**

**PART 1: PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY**

**1(a) Name of reporting body – Aberdeenshire Council**

**1(b) Type of body - Local Government**

**1(c) Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year**

10, 555.4

**1(d) Metrics used by the body**

Specify the metrics that the body uses to assess its performance in relation to climate change and sustainability.

Metric	Units	Value	Comments
Population size served	Population	261,210	<a href="#">PowerPoint Presentation (aberdeenshire.gov.uk)</a>

**1(e) Overall budget of the body**

Specify approximate £/annum for the report year.

£587,000,000

**Comments**

This total is net expenditure

**1(f) Report year**

Specify the report year.

2020/21 (Financial Year)

**1(g) Context**

Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.

Aberdeenshire is a predominantly rural area in North East Scotland and includes the Cairngorm mountains, rich agricultural lowlands and varied coastal landscapes. Traditionally economically dependent on the primary sectors (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing), over the past 50 years the development of the oil and gas industry has repositioned Aberdeenshire's economic focus.

Aberdeenshire is largely rural in nature, covering an area of 6,339km<sup>2</sup> (8% of Scotland's overall territory). Its population density is 41 people per km<sup>2</sup>. Aberdeenshire's population has increased by 5% since 2009 - 2019 making up almost 5% of the Scottish population. In 2009 the population was 249,020. The housing stock in Aberdeenshire is 119,503, an increase of 10% since 2009 and accounts for 4.5% of Scotland's total household stock. Source: NRS, Dwellings by Council Tax Band.

The large and rural nature of Aberdeenshire means that transport contributes significantly to the region's emissions. Many areas are also out with the mains gas network, relying largely on oil and electricity for heating.

Aberdeenshire is divided into 6 administrative areas (Kincardine & Mearns, Marr, Formartine, Garioch, Buchan and Banff & Buchan) (See Aberdeenshire Profile [PowerPoint Presentation \(aberdeenshire.gov.uk\)](#))

There are 62 towns and villages in Aberdeenshire with a population greater than 500 and six towns with a population greater than 10,000:

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Population (2019 est.)</b>
Peterhead	19,270
Fraserburgh	13,180
Inverurie	13,640
Westhill	12,290
Stonehaven	11,170
Ellon	10,200

Source: National Records of Scotland

Aberdeenshire Council as an organisation comprised of 4 Directorates:

#### **Infrastructure Services**

- Economic Development and Protective Services
- Housing
- Planning and Building Standards
- Roads, Landscape and Waste Management Services
- Transportation

**Business Services**

- Audit
- Customer and Digital Services
- Finance
- Legal and People
- Procurement
- Property and Facilities

**Education and Children’s Services**

- Children’s Social Work
- Education and Learning
- Live Life Aberdeenshire (Libraries, Sport and Physical Activity)

**Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership**

- Adult Services
- Commissioning, Procurement and Contracts (Social Care)
- Criminal Justice
- Older People Services
- Records management
- Social Care
- Strategy and Business services

**At the end of the financial year 2020/21 Aberdeenshire Council had 624 operational properties (25 fewer than 2019/20):**

<b>ABERDEENSHIRE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP</b>	Old People’s Homes	8
	Respite Homes	3
	Hostels	16
	Day Centres	32
<b>BUSINESS</b>	Training Centres	3

<b>BUSINESS – PROPERTY + FM</b>	Offices	46
	Town Hall/Council Chambers	6
	Halls	19
	Public Toilets	58
<b>EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - EDUCATION</b>	Primary Schools	152
	Academy Schools	17
	Special Schools	4
	Stand Alone Nurseries	2
<b>EDUCATION + CHILDRENS - LL + L</b>	Community Centres	38
	Sports Centres	7
	Libraries	36
	Museums/Visitor Attractions	11
	Swimming Pools	16
	Sports Pavilions	41
	Outdoor Centre	1
<b>EDUCATION / CHILDRENS SERVICES</b>	Children's Homes	4
	Family Centres	10
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE - ROADS AND LANDSCAPE</b>	Caravan Sites	0
	Depots	49
	Stores	21
	Quarries	3
	Country Parks	4
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE - TRANSPORTATION</b>	Park and Ride	2
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE - WASTE</b>	Civic Amenity Sites	15

The Council also had 48 Industrial Estates/Business Parks including 720 non-operational buildings (shops and industrial units).

**Key Facts:**

- Number of Council Houses – 13,087
- Refuse collection – number of properties serviced 120,229 domestic and 403 commercial
- Planning Applications registered - 1907 (773 householder applications)
- Length of roads maintained (miles) - 3,463
- Number of bridges and culverts maintained - 1,308
- Length of footway and footpath maintained (miles) - 906
- Car Parks - 114
- Streetlights (units) - 49,667 (Total units including signs, speed cameras, traffic signals, flood lights, decorative lights, harbour and car parks)
- Harbours - 7
- Burial Grounds - 223
- Play areas – 474
- Country Parks - 4

**PART 2: GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY**

**2(a) How is climate change governed in the body?**

Provide a summary of the roles performed by the body's governance bodies and members in relation to climate change. If any of the body's activities in relation to climate change sit outside its own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify these activities and the governance arrangements.

Aberdeenshire Council's overall response to and management of its sustainability and climate change duties and commitments is currently based around a number of areas, including the following:

- **Policies and commitments** – for example, the Environmental and Climate Change Policy (2017) and Resources and Circular Economy Commitment (2019).
- **Initiatives, strategies and processes** – for example, Climate Ready Aberdeenshire, the Pollinator Action Plan 2019 to 2021 and Carbon Budget (details below).
- **Member oversight** – the Sustainability Committee meets quarterly to oversee the Council's work and ensure duty compliance, with items considered by other Policy Committees, including Full Council, as required.
- **Officer support** – the Sustainability and Climate Change Team provide coordination, expertise and guidance.

Aberdeenshire Council has an Environmental and Climate Change Policy. The policy was reaffirmed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive in February 2017. All information regarding climate change action by Aberdeenshire Council, including the Environmental and Climate Change policy can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council Climate Change website.

Carbon Budget - In 2017-18 Aberdeenshire Council became the first Local Authority in Scotland to develop and approve a Carbon Budget. The Carbon Budget was established with the aim of ensuring that an ongoing reduction in the Council's own emissions was managed and monitored alongside financial budgets and to encourage ownership of emissions across the organisation. The Carbon Budget is approved by Full Council in February/March each year at the Budget setting meeting. In March 2021 Carbon Budget targets were set in line with a linear reduction in emissions towards a 75% reduction (from 2010-11 baseline) by 2030 and Directorates required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees and the Sustainability Committee.

Sustainability Committee - This Committee is responsible for matters relating to sustainable development and climate change. The following functions of the Council are delegated to this Committee:

- a) To approve, review and monitor the Council's work in respect of sustainable development and climate change in order to ensure compliance with relevant statutory duties, with particular reference to the Climate Change Action Plan.
- b) To respond, on the Council's behalf, to the Scottish Government and other relevant bodies regarding sustainable development and climate change issues, including reporting on Scotland's Climate Change Duties Report and the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.
- c) To promote awareness of the need for sustainability within the Council and wider community of Aberdeenshire. Reports may also be considered by other Policy Committees, including Full Council, depending on content and remit.

**2(b) How is climate change action managed and embedded by the body?**

Provide a summary of how decision-making in relation to climate change action by the body is managed and how responsibility is allocated to the body's senior staff, departmental heads etc. If any such decision-making sits outside the body's own governance arrangements (in relation to, for example, land use, adaptation, transport, business travel, waste, information and communication technology, procurement or behaviour change), identify how this is managed and how responsibility is allocated outside the body (JPEG, PNG, PDF, DOC)

In March 2020, Aberdeenshire Council approved its Carbon Budget for the 2020/21 financial year. This process has further imbedded Climate Change action throughout all services by placing responsibility for emission reductions to all Service Directors. The Carbon Budget contains projects throughout Council Services which will bring about emission reductions. Projects include behaviour change, renewables, energy efficiency in building stock and street lighting, electric vehicles (EVs), EV infrastructure, battery operated landscaping equipment, waste reduction and reuse initiatives, and

behaviour change etc. Each of the four Council Directorates are now required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees and Sustainability Committee. This step further passes responsibility and decision-making around the Carbon Budget to the Directorates.

Decision making with regard to climate change action ultimately rests with the Strategic Leadership Team, Heads of Service and management structure of the Council, with the oversight from Elected Members. The Sustainability and Climate Change Team in Economic Development provide coordination, expertise and guidance to encourage and support decision-making in this area and the integration of sustainability and climate change duties and commitments into Council operations.

In 2019 Sustainability Guidance for report authors (within Aberdeenshire Council) was published. This guidance supports report authors in their consideration, assessment and reporting of climate change and sustainability implications (both positive and negative) when composing and submitting reports to all Committees for consideration. Report authors are asked to consider risks and actions related to climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation and general sustainability.

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire is a cross-sector initiative to create a regional Aberdeenshire climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. It brings together the views and expertise of a range of diverse stakeholders from communities, public, private and 3rd sector organisations, to set out how we can work collaboratively to meet the challenges of a changing climate within Aberdeenshire. Climate Ready Aberdeenshire is governed by a Steering Group consisting of senior representatives from organisations throughout the North East of Scotland. The group is led by a Chair and Vice-Chair and supported by a project lead provided by the initiative's sponsor, Aberdeenshire Council, and is accountable to Aberdeenshire Council's Sustainability Committee. Some of the Steering Group members are also members of various Adaptation Scotland groups, including the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group and Climate Adaptation Finance Working Group. [Climate Ready Aberdeenshire – A shared vision, strategy and action plan for Aberdeenshire](#)

Aberdeenshire Council utilises events such as Scotland Climate Week, Earth Hour and World Earth Day to share communication around Climate Change every year. In partnership with many other organisations around the North East, the Council has been involved in developing an annual North East Climate Week in March. There are many events geared at raising public awareness and discussions around climate change as well as engaging communities and youth through our libraries and ranger led activities. WWF awarded Aberdeenshire Council runner a 'Super Local Authority' badge for all their efforts to promote Earth Hour in March 2019.

**2(c) Does the body have specific climate change mitigation and adaptation objectives in its corporate plan or similar document?**

Provide a brief summary of objectives if they exist.

Wording of Objective	Name of Document	Link
We commit to working towards a carbon free society by reducing our emissions by 75% (against	Climate Change Declaration	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf</a>

our 2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and become Net Zero by 2045.		
We will provide support and leadership to empower our communities to also take action and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.	Climate Change Declaration	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf</a>
Offset all residual emissions generated which we cannot eliminate by 2045	Climate Change Declaration	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf</a>
Work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045, by promoting energy transition and a circular economy	Climate Change Declaration	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25146/climatechangedeclaration.pdf</a>

<p>The six strategic priorities sit under three pillars which are: Our People, Our Environment, Our Economy. Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; <b>climate and sustainability</b>; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2020-2022</p>	<p><a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/strategic-priorities/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/strategic-priorities/</a></p>
<p>Sustainability and Climate Change Commitment</p>	<p>Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2020-2022</p>	<p><a href="https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=106877&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=106877&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a></p>

**2(d) Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?**

If yes, provide the name of any such document and details of where a copy of the document may be obtained or accessed.

A Route Map to 2030 is currently under development and will go to Full Council for consideration and approval in March 2022.

**2(e) Does the body have any plans or strategies covering the following areas that include climate change?**

Provide the name of any such document and the timeframe covered.

Topic Area	Name of document	Link	Time period covered	Comments
Adaptation	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017.	<a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	To 2021	Adaptation is covered briefly in Section 18. A specific climate change adaptation strategy is

				proposed for development in the coming years.
Adaptation	Aberdeen City & Shire Strategic Development Plan	<a href="https://www3.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/strategic-development-plan/">https://www3.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/strategic-development-plan/</a>	2020-2040	
Adaptation	Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks	<a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-us/single-outcome-agreement-council-and-service-plans-and-reports/">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-us/single-outcome-agreement-council-and-service-plans-and-reports/</a>	2016 onwards	
Adaptation	North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17174/north-east-local-flood-risk-management-plan-2016-2022-web-version.pdf</a>	2016-2022	
Adaptation	Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Local Plan District 2016-2022	<a href="https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/tay_estuary_and_montrose_basin_local_flood_risk_management_plan">https://www.angus.gov.uk/media/tay_estuary_and_montrose_basin_local_flood_risk_management_plan</a>	2016 onwards	Includes part of Aberdeenshire
Business Travel	Travel and Subsistence Procedure	<a href="http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/TandSProcedure.pdf">http://arcadialite.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/TandSProcedure.pdf</a>	2014 onwards	Refer to sections 1 & 4 for climate change/sustainability aspects
Staff Travel	Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) Delivery Plan	<a href="http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/03cfdce3-ae2d-47f9-ac25-1a6a41943b45/resource/cf088e2b-d413-4b5e-9aaa-4fb3631fb8aa/download/cusersspellascdocumentslev-delivery-plan.pdf">http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/03cfdce3-ae2d-47f9-ac25-1a6a41943b45/resource/cf088e2b-d413-4b5e-9aaa-4fb3631fb8aa/download/cusersspellascdocumentslev-delivery-plan.pdf</a>	October 2018 onwards	Details actions to support update of LEV vehicles, in particular expanding the Council's charging network.
Staff Travel	Local Transport Strategy	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2374/2012finalts.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/2374/2012finalts.pdf</a>	2012 onwards	To be refreshed during 2020/21 to align with revised Regional Transport Strategy and National Transport Strategy.

Staff Travel	Integrated Travel Town Masterplans	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/integrated-travel-towns/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/transportation/integrated-travel-towns/</a>	2018 – 2023	5 year masterplans for Fraserburgh, Ellon, Huntly, Inverurie and Portlethen to promote active travel and develop new infrastructure.
Staff Travel	Office Space Strategy		TBC	Office Space Strategy under review
Staff Travel	Worksmart Policy	<a href="http://worksmart.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Website_Worksmart-Policy.pdf">http://worksmart.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Website_Worksmart-Policy.pdf</a>	2015 onwards	
Energy efficiency	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 – 2020	Appendix 2
Energy Efficiency	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017 - 2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021
Energy Efficiency	Office Space Strategy		TBC	Office Space Strategy under review
Fleet transport	Fleet Services Strategic Plan 2020-2030	<a href="http://committeesinternal.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=495&amp;meetid=19808">http://committeesinternal.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=495&amp;meetid=19808</a>	2020-2030	Link provides update as provided at Infrastructure Services Committee
Information and communication technology	Team ICT - Innovate Aberdeenshire	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/14232/ict-digital-strategy.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/14232/ict-digital-strategy.pdf</a>	2015 – 2020	
Information and communication technology	PrintSmart	<a href="https://arcadia.ad.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/services/Pages/Business%20Services/Customer%20Communication%20and%20Improvement/Design,%20Photography%20and%20Print/Printsmart.aspx">https://arcadia.ad.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/services/Pages/Business%20Services/Customer%20Communication%20and%20Improvement/Design,%20Photography%20and%20Print/Printsmart.aspx</a>	2015 onwards	

Information and communication technology	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 - 2020	Appendix 2
Renewable Energy	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 – 2020	Appendix 2
Renewable Energy	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017 - 2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021.
Sustainable / Renewable Heat	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 – 2020	Appendix 2
Sustainable / Renewable Heat	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017-2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021.
Waste Management	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 – 2020	Appendix 2
Waste Management	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017 - 2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021
Waste Management	Waste Strategy 2019 - 2023	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/waste-strategy/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/waste-strategy/</a>	2019 - 2023	This document replaces the Integrated Waste Management Strategy 2001 – 2020.
Water and sewerage	Climate Change Action Plan – Actions to 2020	<a href="http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB">http://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/FunctionsPage.aspx?dsid=89323&amp;action=GetFileFromDB</a>	2016 – 2020	Appendix 2

Water and sewerage	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017 - 2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021.
Land Use	Aberdeenshire Land Use Strategy Pilot Final Report 2015	<a href="http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/aberdeenshire-land-use-strategy-pilot">http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/aberdeenshire-land-use-strategy-pilot</a>	2015 -2020	
Land Use	Aberdeenshire Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2017	<a href="http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20174/8-aberdeenshire-forestry-and-woodland-strategy.pdf">http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20174/8-aberdeenshire-forestry-and-woodland-strategy.pdf</a>	2017 – 2021	Includes adaptation and mitigation and covers both Council-owned and managed land as well as other forests and woodlands.
Land Use	Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2017	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/aberdeenshire-local-development-plan-2017/</a>	2017 - 2021	Now being replaced by an Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2021.
Other (state topic area covered in the comments)	Corporate Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17318/cam-plan-january-15.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/17318/cam-plan-january-15.pdf</a>	2015 – 2020	Management of roads and water infrastructure, housing, fleet and ICT.
Other (state topic area covered in the comments)	Resources and Circular Economy Commitment	<a href="https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf">https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/24872/resourcesandcirculareconomycommitment.pdf</a>	2019 - onwards	Circular Economy

**2(f) What are the body's top 5 priorities for climate change governance, management and strategy for the year ahead?**

Provide a brief summary of the body's areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.

1. Development of a Route Map to 2030 – this piece of work will identify what actions need to happen within the Council in order to reach the 75% reduction target by 2030;
2. Development of a tool to include methodology which creates a carbon abatement curve (or similar) to support best value carbon reductions;
3. Fully embed the Carbon Budget into the financial budgets;

4. Determine how best to embed circular economy across Aberdeenshire Council and the region building on the Resources and Circular Economy Commitment; and
5. Assessing how the Council could further engage to 'work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045', as committed to in the Climate Change Declaration through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.

**2(g) Has the body used the Climate Change Assessment Tool <sup>(a)</sup> or equivalent tool to self-assess its capability / performance?**

If yes, please provide details of the key findings and resultant action taken.

The tool was run in late 2017/18 by the Sustainability team. The following were the key findings:

- Adaptation – 5 steps and performance improvement.
- Communication of external reporting – do this internally, externally, develop a comms strategy and determine best way to reach most people.
- Committee reports to consider climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Develop a climate change champion programme.
- Devolve control of relevant emissions to operational area.

We have been addressing these as follows:

- Completed a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) 2011 – 2018, work ongoing to update the climate change risk register, strategy and action plan development through Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.
- Have developed a webpage to keep all up-to-date information on action regarding Climate Change and Sustainability within Aberdeenshire Council; created a separate Climate Ready Aberdeenshire webpage, use of Yammer for internal comms, internal newsletter etc.
- Creation of an online Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) which requires all reports to consider sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation impacts – negative and positive.
- After trialing a number of different pilots a Sustainability Pioneers and Champions programme has been developed for launch in 2021/22.
- The carbon budget process is devolving control of relevant emissions to operational areas.

a) This refers to the tool developed by Resource Efficient Scotland for self-assessing an organisation's capability / performance in relation to climate change.

**2(h) Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to governance, management and strategy.

As a Lead Local Authority for the North East Region, the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act introduces a more sustainable and modern approach to flood risk management, suited to the needs of the 21st century and to the impact of climate change.

A Net Zero Strategy for the Council's non domestic buildings is currently under development and will be approved by the relevant Policy Committee in 2021/22. Aberdeenshire Council has been utilising support from the Circular North-east project (funded by Zero Waste Scotland) to work across strategically across Services to identify circular economy opportunities for the Council, building on the Council's pioneering Resources and Circular Economy Commitment.

**PART 3: EMISSIONS, TARGETS AND PROJECTS**

**3a Emissions from start of the year which the body uses as a baseline (for its carbon footprint) to the end of the report year.**

Complete the following table using the greenhouse gas emissions total for the body calculated on the same basis as for its annual carbon footprint /management reporting or, where applicable, its sustainability reporting. Include greenhouse gas emissions from the body's estate and operations (a) (measured and reported in accordance with Scopes 1 & 2 and, to the extent applicable, selected Scope 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (b)). If data is not available for any year from the start of the year which is used as a baseline to the end of the report year, provide an explanation in the comments column.

(a) No information is required on the effect of the body on emissions which are not from its estate and operations.

(b) This refers to the document entitled "The greenhouse gas protocol. A corporate accounting and reporting standard (revised edition)", World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland / World Resources Institute, Washington DC, USA (2004), ISBN: 1-56973-568-9.

Reference Year	Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline Carbon footprint	<b>2010/11</b>	37436	40159	8560	86155	tCO2e	Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures. This includes amending waste emission factors to 2016/17 factor and including data from additional services we can now report.
Year 1 Carbon Footprint	<b>2011/12</b>	33899	36789	7712	78400	tCO2e	Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures.
Year 2 Carbon Footprint	<b>2012/13</b>	35922	39012	7848	82782	tCO2e	Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures.

Year 3 Carbon Footprint	<b>2013/14</b>	33415	36108	7742	77265	tCO2e	Back-cast using Carbon Budget analysis figures.
Year 4 Carbon Footprint	<b>2014/15</b>	34222	39857	7726	81805	tCO2e	A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11).
Year 5 Carbon Footprint	<b>2015/16</b>	35862	37112	6563	79537	tCO2e	A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11).
Year 6 Carbon Footprint	<b>2016/17</b>	34221	32243	7123	73587	tCO2e	A like for like on what we recorded this year compared to our baseline year (2010/11).
Year 7 Carbon Footprint	<b>2017/18</b>	32742	26817	7261	66820	tCO2e	<p>This year we have included biomass wood chip and pellet tonnage. Also - Quarries switched from Red Diesel to Kerosene.</p> <p>This total has been amended after an error was found with in Scope 1 emissions (where double accounting took place).</p> <p>Previous Scope 1 total was 34274 and previous overall total was 68352.</p>
Year 8 Carbon Footprint	<b>2018/19</b>	30990	20691	6289	57970	tCO2e	See amendments made to 2017/18 total in comments above.

Year 9 Carbon Footprint	<b>2019/20</b>	31313	18326	6048	55687	tCO2e	66tCO2e was found as double accounted for in 2019/20 emissions so this has now been removed from the Scope 3 total and overall total.
Year 10 Carbon Footprint	<b>2020/21</b>	26937	13141	5204	45281	tCO2e	

### 3b Breakdown of emission sources

Complete the following table with the breakdown of emission sources from the body's most recent carbon footprint (greenhouse gas inventory); this should correspond to the last entry in the table in 3(a) above. Use the 'Comments' column to explain what is included within each category of emission source entered in the first column. If there is no data consumption available for an emission source enter the emissions in kgCO2e in the 'Consumption' column of one of the "Other" rows and assign the scope and an emission factor of 1.

(a) Emissions factors are published annually by the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Emission Factor Year is 2020

Emission Source	Scope	Consumption Data	Units	Emission Factor	Units	Emissions (TCO2e)	Comments
Grid Electricity (generation)	Scope 2	456,026,30	kWh	0.23314	kgCO2e/kWh	10,632	Operational Buildings
Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	456,026,30	kWh	0.02005	kgCO2e/kWh	914	Operational Buildings
Natural Gas	Scope 1	73,978,042	kWh	0.18387	kgCO2e/kWh	13,602	Operational Buildings
Gas Oil	Scope 1	6,651,007	kWh	0.25672	kgCO2e/kWh	1,708	Operational Buildings
Burning Oil (kerosene)	Scope 1	12,152,246	kWh	0.24666	kgCO2e/kWh	2,998	Operational Buildings
LPG	Scope 1	2,549,734	kWh	0.21448	kgCO2e/kWh	547	Operational Buildings

Biomass (wood chips)	Scope 1	943	tonne	58.35272	kgCO2e/tonne	55	Operational Buildings
Biomass (wood pellets)	Scope 1	1639	tonne	72.29731	kgCO2e/tonne	118	Operational Buildings
Biomass (wood pellets) kWh	Scope 2	1,713,000	kWh	0.01545	kgCO2e/kWh	27	Operational Buildings - heat from third party
Water – Supply	Scope 3	471,933	m <sup>3</sup>	0.11000	kgCO2e/m3	52	Water Usage
Water – Treatment	Scope 3	448,336	m <sup>3</sup>	0.23000	kgCO2e/m3	103	Sewerage
Grid Electricity (generation)	Scope 2	10,644,949	kWh	0.23314	kgCO2e/kWh	2,482	Street Lighting
Grid Electricity (transmission & distribution losses)	Scope 3	10,644,949	kWh	0.02005	kgCO2e/kWh	213	Street Lighting
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	2,597,995	litres	2.54603	kgCO2e/ litres	6,615	Fleet Diesel
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	34,845	Litres	2.16802	kgCO2e/ litres	76	Fleet Petrol
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	235,337	Litres	2.54603	kgCO2e/ litres	599	Roads – Red Diesel
LPG litres	Scope 1	309,518	litres	1.55537	kgCO2e/ litres	481	Roads - Quarries - total LPG purchased not necessarily used in 2020/21.
Gas Oil	Scope 1	1,568	litres	2.75776	kgCO2e/ litres	4	Roads – Harbour

LPG	Scope 1	8,528	litres	1.55537	kgCO2e/ litres	13	Roads – Propane
LPG	Scope 1	5,609	litres	1.55537	kgCO2e/ litres	9	Landscape – Greenhouses
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	Scope 1	43,829	litres	2.54603	kgCO2e/ litres	112	Landscape – Red Diesel
Refuse Municipal to Landfill	Scope 3	2,641	tonnes	437.37200	kgCO2e/tonnes	1,155	Internal Waste
Refuse Municipal/Commercial/ Industrial to combustion	Scope 3	4	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonnes	0.1	Internal Waste
Mixed Recycling	Scope 3	1,238	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonnes	26	Internal Recycling
WEEE (Mixed Recycling)	Scope 3	136	tonnes	21.31700	kgCO2e/tonnes	3	Internal Mixed WEE, Lamps, ICT
Organic Garden Waste and food waste - Composting	Scope 3	1575	tonnes	10.20400	kgCO2e/tonnes	16	Landscape Garden Waste, and internal food waste
Average Car – unknown fuel	Scope 3	5,277,248	km	0.17140	kgCO2e/km	905	Business miles – car
Rail (National)	Scope 3	60,796	Passenger km	0.03694	kgCO2e/passenger km	2	Business National Rail
Domestic Flight (average passenger)	Scope 3	35,464	Passenger km	0.24430	kgCO2e/passenger km	9	UK Internal Flights
Short Haul Flights (average passenger)	Scope 3	5,624	Passenger km	0.15553	kgCO2e/passenger km	1	UK-Europe Flights

Homeworking Emissions	Scope 3	57	percentage of total FTEs home-based	0.30000	tCO2e/FTE/annum	1805	57% is the total estimate of the percentage FTE that were able to work from home, if required (includes teaching staff).
<b>TOTAL</b>						45281	

### 3c Generation, consumption and export of renewable energy

Provide a summary of the body's annual renewable generation (if any), and whether it is used or exported by the body.

Technology*	Renewable Electricity		Renewable Heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	
Solar PV	1,491,003	18284			All generated power used internally. PV production at Crow's Nest is exported (18284)
Biomass			9,537,452	0	
Biomass			1,713,000		Heat consumed by Aberdeenshire Council, generated from Biomass by HoBESCo.
Solar Thermal					Solar thermal systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council.

Air Source Heat Pump					ASHP systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council.
Ground Source Heat Pump					Ground Source Heat Pump systems not metered - all heat used by Aberdeenshire Council
Landfill Gas CHP	230067	407039			Welfare facility utilising electricity generated on site by Microgen unit.

\*These are the list of entries provided within the form that can be selected from the dropdown menu and the corresponding consumption / export data can be entered under the appropriate heading.

### 3d Targets

List all of the body's targets of relevance to its climate change duties. Where applicable, overall carbon targets and any separate land use, energy efficiency, waste, water, information and communication technology, transport, travel and heat targets should be included.

Name of target	Type of target	Target	Units	Boundary / Scope of Target	Year used as baseline	Baseline figure	Units of baseline	Target completion year	Progress against target	Comments
Carbon emissions reduction target	Percentage	75	Total % reduction	Other (please specify in comments)	2010/11	86155	tCO2e	2030	Broadly on track (due largely to reducing grid emissions factor)	Including a fair range of emissions but far from complete. For example, Scope 3 emissions associated with procurement not included.
Net Zero	Percentage	100	Total % reduction	Other (please specify in comments)	2010/11	86155	tCO2e	2045	Broadly on track (due largely to reducing grid	As above. The net zero target will also require options for sequestration.



**3f Detail the top 10 carbon reduction projects to be carried out by the body in the report year**

Provide details of the 10 projects which are estimated to achieve the highest carbon savings during report year.

Project Name	Funding Source	First full year of CO2e savings	Are these savings estimated or actual?	Capital Cost (£)	Operational cost (£ / annum)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel / emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings (tCO2e/annum)	Estimated costs savings / annum (£)	Behaviour Change aspects including use of ISM	Comments
Street Lighting	Capital Programme	2021/22	Estimated	£1,600,000		5yrs project with 20 years savings.	Grid Electricity	380		N/A	Replacement of old HID street lighting – part of 5 year programme.

**3g Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the report year.**

If the emissions increased or decreased due to any such factor in the report year, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate Changes			
Service provision	5410	Decrease	Covid related cuts in service provision
Staff numbers			
Other (specify in comments)			

**3h Anticipated annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the year ahead**

If no projects were implemented against an emissions source, enter "0".

If the body does not have any information for an emissions source, enter "Unknown" into the comments box.

If the body does not include the emissions source in its carbon footprint, enter "N/A" into the comments box.

Emissions Source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Electricity	200	Non-Domestic Energy Efficiency Framework (NDEEF) (400 total exact split TBC)

Electricity	350	Estimated: Replacement of old HID street lighting with LED units.
Natural Gas	200	NDEEF (400 total exact split TBC).
Other heating fuels	0	
Waste	10	Estimated: From continued use of the Warp-It portal.
Water and sewerage	0	
Business Travel	180	Estimated: based on assumptions of continued reduced mileage in all forms of travel into 2021/22.
Fleet Transport	86	Estimated: Upgrade in fleet vehicles – EV and Hydrogen replacements. Utilising telematics – new Alison gearbox software.
Other (specify in comments)		

**3i Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors (not reported elsewhere in this form) in the year ahead.**

If the emissions are likely to increase or decrease due to any such factor in the year ahead, provide an estimate of the amount and direction.

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate Changes	179	Decrease	Related to new Inverurie Community Campus replacing Pool, Community Campus and School.
Service provision	5231	Increase	Post covid return to "normal" operations.
Staff numbers			
Other (specify in comments)			

**3j Total carbon reduction project savings since the start of the year which the body uses as a baseline for its carbon footprint**

If the body has data available, estimate the total emissions savings made from projects since the start of that year ("the baseline year").

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Total project savings since the baseline year	40,874	Figure given is total reduction in recorded emissions from 2010/11 baseline year to current reporting year. Specific 'project' savings not identified so figure will include savings from reduced emissions factors and other organisational and external changes.

**3k Supporting information and best practice**

Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to its emissions, targets and projects.

In 2017-18 Aberdeenshire Council became the first Local Authority in Scotland to develop and approve a Carbon Budget. The Carbon Budget was established with the aim of ensuring that an ongoing reduction in the Council's own emissions was managed and monitored alongside financial budgets and to encourage ownership of emissions across the organisation. The Carbon Budget is approved by Full Council in February each year at the Budget setting meeting and the process encourages Directorates and Services to consider emissions in their day to day work and to bring forward emissions reduction projects.

In March 2020 Carbon Budget targets were set in line with a linear reduction in emissions towards a 75% reduction (from 2010-11 baseline) by 2030 and Directorates required to report their Carbon Budget updates six-monthly to their relevant Policy Committees, which further passes responsibility and decision-making around the Carbon Budget to the Directorates. The Climate Change Declaration also sets the new target to 'work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045'.

**PART 4: ADAPTATION**

**4(a) Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks?**

If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

Yes. Aberdeenshire Council has a Climate Change Risk Register developed by a group of representatives from SEPA, SE, Scottish Flood Forum, Adaptation Scotland & Aberdeenshire Council, to assess current and future climate-related risks. The Climate Change Risk Register was reviewed in 2018/19 by the Sustainability team and Risk Manager and updated to take into account the outcomes from the updated Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) 2019. It was reviewed again by the Climate Ready Aberdeenshire Project Lead and Risk Manager in 2020/21 following the formation of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire and to

ensure risks are in line with the latest climate projections for Scotland. Climate change is identified as a risk within both the Corporate Risk Register and Directorate Strategic Risk Register and, following the 2020/21 revision, service managers were asked to ensure these, and other climate associated risks are included in their appropriate Risk Register.

**4(b) What arrangements does the body have in place to manage climate-related risks?**

Provide details of any climate change adaptation strategies, action plans and risk management procedures, and any climate change adaptation policies which apply across the body.

Aberdeenshire Council are the lead partner of Climate Ready Aberdeenshire 2020 - 2030 (CRA), a cross-partner initiative to create a vision, strategy and action plan for Aberdeenshire to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impact will protecting our biodiversity. This is led by a Steering Group of public, private and 3rd sector organisations and is using a place-based approach to support the region in adaptation and building resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. The Strategy and Action Plan will be finalised by the end of 2022. One of the outcomes of CRA is a regional Climate Change Risk Register to compliment Aberdeenshire Council's Climate Change Risk Register. Aberdeenshire Council are also devising an organisational Climate Adaptation Strategy to be completed by 2022 with an Action Plan. The Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking tool will be used to achieve this. The CRA Project Lead is also a member of several climate change adaptation and Adaptation Scotland groups.

Aberdeenshire Council have several risk management procedures and adaptation policies in place: Flood Risk Management Plans are in place, including Flood Prevention Schemes. In line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, all services have Business Continuity Plans in place which cover their Critical Activities. These are not specific to extreme weather but could be used during such an event. Aberdeenshire Council and the Local Resilience Partnership have generic emergency response arrangements in place to cover extreme weather events. Infrastructure Services have an Operational Flood plan in place and Education and Children Services have protocols in place for school closures due to extreme weather.

**4(c) What action has the body taken to adapt to climate change?**

Include details of work to increase awareness of the need to adapt to climate change and build the capacity of staff and stakeholders to assess risk and implement action.

CRA are working with community groups and have hosted public events to raise the awareness of the importance of climate change adaptation, increase the understanding of climate change risks, support decision-makers to make climate friendly and climate ready decisions, provide knowledge, advice and support and link businesses, community groups, public and 3rd sector organisations to resources, projects and funding opportunities. CRA and the University of Aberdeen have undertaken a study identifying climate change adaptation actions (current and planned) being undertaken by climate change community groups across Aberdeenshire. This allowed us to share this information across the groups and link them together, identify what matters to communities and businesses, where there are adaptation action gaps and how CRA and Aberdeenshire Council can provide support.

Aberdeenshire Council are working to further embed adaptation, future proofing and resilience throughout services and communities. Some examples of actions already underway across services include:

- Local Development Plans have identified climate change adaptation as an element of their vision and plans include flood risks and prevention.
- The Paths team are building more resilient, sustainable paths to an appropriate specification to deal with climate change.
- Greenspace Officers are continuing to work within Landscape Services reduce management intensity of Council owned/managed greenspace. These measures cut carbon emissions and boost biodiversity. Community engagement is key in the project and is on-going. To date, many areas of greenspace have had grass cutting reduced. Other measures include a significant reduction in the use of traditional bedding displays in favour of perennial planting or meadow seed mixes.
- The Aberdeenshire Council Pollinator Action Plan 2019 - 2021 identifies the work we will undertake to help address the significant threats facing pollinating insects, including the impacts of a changing climate. The Action Plan is currently being revised.
- Council Housing stock are being upgraded to increase their resilience to extreme weather events and temperatures.
- The Bridges Service operates a bridge scour alert system so that any approaching severe rainfall weather patterns can be monitored prior to and during an event so that appropriate reactive monitoring and inspection action can be taken on a RED/AMBER/GREEN alert system. In addition, certain major bridges over major water courses have an emergency closure plan in place which will allow rapid closure if required using the Alert System described above.
- Flood studies have been completed for Ellon, Inverurie & Port Elphinstone, Inch, Stonehaven (coastal) and Ballater. These studies will primarily focus on direct defences, relocation of properties and property level protection, but other actions may also be considered in order to develop the most sustainable range of options.
- Aberdeenshire Council services are also working with partner organisations to adapt to climate change, assess risk and implement actions. This includes our Environmental Health Services working with SEPA to manage drought in the region due to higher temperatures and heat spells.

In addition, an Integrated Impact Assessment which examines the impacts of proposals on climate change adaptation has been introduced and requires consideration for every Committee report.

Actions such as business critical, operational buildings having backup generators in case of power failure during extreme weather events are in place.















































