

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 27 FEBRUARY, 2019

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

Apology: Councillor I Taylor.

Officers: Head of Economic Development and Protective Services (via Skype); Engineering Services Manager; Team Manager, Economic Development and Protective Services; Principal Energy Management Engineer, Infrastructure Services; Principal Solicitor (Governance); Senior Committee Officer (Allan Bell); Internal Waste Reduction Officer, Infrastructure Services; and Sustainable Development Officer, 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 interests 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 14 NOVEMBER, 2018

On consideration of the circulated Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 14 November, 2018, members **approved** it as a correct record, after which the Minute was signed by the Chair.

4. LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT PROFILE

Members of the Committee heard an oral presentation on the Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) by Elizabeth Stanyer, the Sustainability Climate Change Graduate Intern, after which consideration was given to a circulated report dated 31 January, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services (1) which explained that the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 had placed certain duties on public bodies in respect of climate change, (2) which advised that the UK Climate Impacts Programme had developed the LCLIP tool to assist local authorities and other organisations to establish and prepare for the impacts of climate change, (3) which highlighted a number of extreme weather events which had taken place in Aberdeenshire between 2011 and 2018 and (4) to which was appended a copy of the draft LCLIP.

Having **noted** members' comments in respect of extreme weather events and their costs, mobilisation of staff during major weather events, and water scarcity, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the circulated draft Local Climate Impact Profile, and
- (2) **requested** officers to use the information within the Profile to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Council, to be the subject of reports to relevant committees in due course.

5. CARBON REDUCTION IN BUILDINGS

Consideration was given to a circulated report dated 14 February, 2019, by the Director of Business Services (1) to which was appended a copy of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy for Buildings, (2) which advised that the Council had an agreed target to reduce carbon emissions by 44% by 2025, as against the baseline year of 2010/2011, (3) which explained that the Climate Change Action Plan 2020 included actions to reduce carbon emissions from operational buildings, street lighting, waste and recycling, the Council's fleet, business mileage and fuel use at depots, over a five year period, (4) which outlined the Council's emissions reductions by source, since the baseline year and (5) which detailed methods by which carbon emissions from operational buildings might continue to be reduced during the forthcoming period.

After detailed discussion, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** that the Council had reduced all carbon emissions by 21% from the baseline year of 2010/2011 and that emissions from Council buildings were expected to reduce by 35% in 2018/19,
- (2) **noted** the proposal that the existing Carbon Reduction Budget within the Capital Plan should be used to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in buildings,
- (3) **requested** officers to arrange a workshop session for members on the financing of energy efficiency measures, to be attended by the Head of Finance and the Head of Property and Facilities Management, and
- (4) **requested** the Head of Property and Facilities Management to produce an action plan, informed by discussions at the proposed workshop session.

6. CARBON BUDGET 2019/2020 ACTION PLAN

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of Aberdeenshire Council of 14 February, 2019 (Item 8), when approval had been given to the Carbon Budget for 2019/2020, there was circulated and **noted** a report dated 12 February, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which contained detailed information about the Carbon Budget Action Plan, and in respect of which members' comments on capital spending, visits to schools, recharging points for electric cars and the financial cost allocated to carbon savings had been **noted**.

7. PLASTIC-FREE COMMUNITIES

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 14 November, 2018 (Item 8), when approval had been given to the exploration of a Resources and Circular Economy Commitment from the Council, there was circulated a report dated 12 February, 2019, by the Director of Infrastructure Services, which (1) outlined the Council's commitment to preventing pollution and reducing waste, (2) advised that Surfers Against Sewage had approached the Council to discuss the prospect of meeting the requirements of the objectives of establishing a plastic-free community in Stonehaven and (3) indicated that pursuing such an initiative would

require the Council to remove single-use plastic items from all of its premises, along with a number of other objectives, in order to achieve the requisite status.

After consideration, the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the Plastic-Free Communities initiative and, in particular, the local governance objectives for which the Council's support had been requested,
- (2) **instructed** the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services to investigate further whether the Council might reasonably commit to the Plastic-Free Communities local governance objectives within Aberdeenshire, and
- (3) **requested** the Head of Economic Development and Protective Services to report back to a future meeting of the Committee on the implications for the Council, including the financial consequences of pursuing such a commitment.

8. LOCAL HEAT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY (LHEES) - UPDATE

Members **noted** an oral report by the Sustainable Development Officer on the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), aimed at reducing carbon emissions from buildings. Information was provided on the different pilot projects undertaken by the participating local authorities, including that undertaken in Aberdeenshire and its progress to date.