

# Aberdeen City Council Climate Change Report 2022/23

Public Bodies are required to complete an annual climate change report. Information is submitted on a set template. This report sets out the Council's climate change return for the period April 2022-March 2023

## SECTION 1 – PROFILE OF REPORTING BODY

**1a. Name of Reporting Body:** Aberdeen City Council

**1b. Type of body:** Local Government

**1c. Highest number of full-time equivalent staff in the body during the report year:** 7152 (as of 31st March 2023)

**1d. Metrics used by the body:** *Drop down options are not relevant, so nothing noted.*

**1e. Overall budget of the body (£):** 510,363,170 These are net figures.

**1f. Specify the report year type:** Financial (1<sup>st</sup> of April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023)

**1g. Provide a summary of the body's nature and functions that are relevant to climate change reporting.**

Aberdeen City Council has a strong role to play as follows:

- Leading and acting as an example to others through its services, planning and decision making.
- Reducing emissions from its own estate and services and building resilience through the Council Climate Change Plan 2021-25.
- Managing wider city risks and building resilience through the Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework.
- Promoting city wide emission reduction through The Net Zero Aberdeen Net Zero Aberdeen [Routemap](#) and associated six strategies, the [Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen](#) and the Strategic Infrastructure Plan (Energy Transition)
- Helping to shape and inform legislation through consultation responses.
- Alleviating fuel poverty through ACC owned properties and working with the private/third sectors to improve standards in those areas.
- Ensuring compliance with building standards and influencing the planning process to take into consideration climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Through the school systems and lifelong learning educate the citizen about the implications of climate change and principles of sustainability.
- Deliver projects that help mitigate/adapt to a changing climate, flood risk management and water efficiency and fulfil multiple plans, policies, and strategies, e.g., wetland development, sustainable urban drainage, expansion of the EV (Electric Vehicle) network, energy efficiency retrofitting, renewables etc.
- Mapping and developing of blue/green infrastructure.
- Procuring sustainably.
- Partnership working.

## SECTION 2 – GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

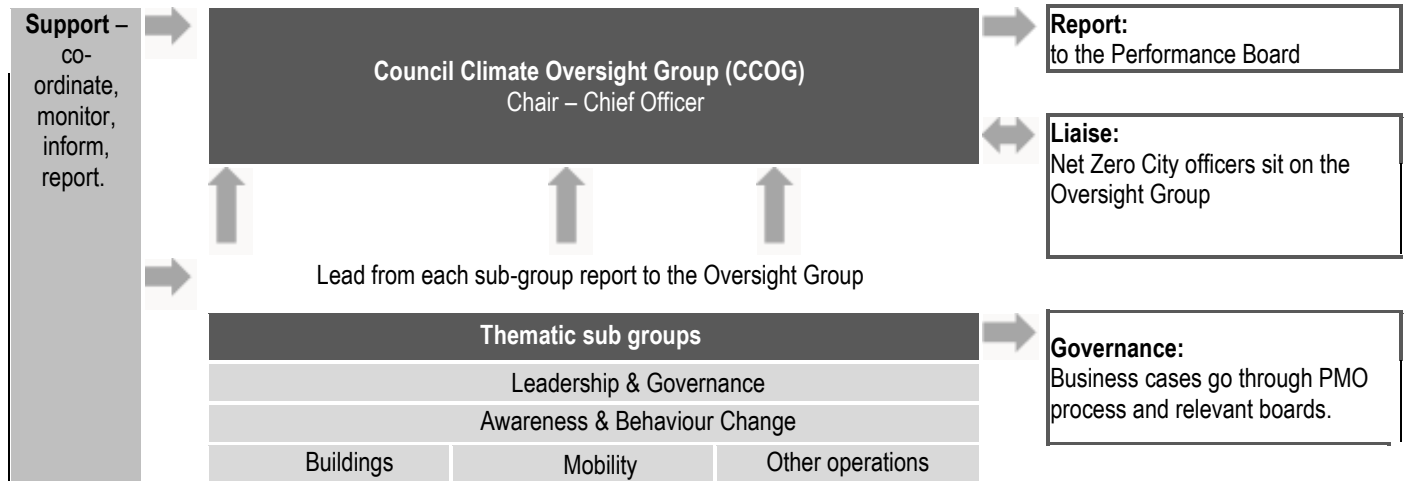
**2a - How is climate change governed in the body?**

The Council structure comprises of:

- Resources
- Customer
- Operations
- Commissioning
- Within each Function are Clusters, all Functions have a part to play in considering climate change through their decision making and operations in line with corporate policy and risk management. Plans, policies and strategies and their progress during this reporting period were reported to the Committee structure, predominantly Council and Net Zero, Environment and Transport and signed off by a Senior Manager of the Council, as required. The Net Zero, Environment and Transport committee received the statutory Climate Change Report.

## **Council**

Oversight, monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the [Council Climate Change Plan \(CCCP\) 2021-2025](#) have been established. An Oversight Group led by the Chief Officer for Strategic Place Planning has a remit for implementation and delivery of the plan and the project programme, taking a project assurance role to review performance and progress and keep the plan on track. The Oversight Group includes Senior Officers from, Finance, Communications, Corporate Landlord. In addition, it includes the theme leads for thematic sub-groups delivering actions under the plan and creating a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation. It includes work streams incorporating Commodities and Education.



## **City**

Governance, encompassing a range of public, private and community organisations was established for the development of the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 net zero enabling strategies which were approved in February 2022.

The Routemap direction was driven by a Net Zero Leadership Board, chaired by the Council with membership of various external organisations.

The Delivery Unit co-created the 6 enabling strategies. These cover the priority themes (Mobility, Buildings and Heat, Energy Supply, Circular Economy, Natural Environment, and Empowerment), and a different organisation led the development of each one.

To support implementation of the Net Zero Aberdeen Route-Map and Aberdeen Adapts Framework, a review of city governance for mitigation and adaptation took place in this reporting period. On 22 February 2023, updated proposals and Terms of Reference for place-based climate governance in Aberdeen were approved at Council.

## **City – Community Planning Partners**

The Aberdeen Community Planning Partners have oversight and delivery of the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan. The Sustainable City Group sits under the governance for the plan and leads and is responsible for actions and for ensuring progress against the primary and secondary drivers and improvement aims set for the Place outcomes in the LOIP. These include the stretch outcomes for climate change:

- 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
- 14. Increase sustainable travel: 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026
- 15. Addressing the nature crisis by protecting/ managing 26% of Aberdeen's area for nature by 2026

## 2b - How is climate change action managed and embedded by the body?

### Corporate Management Team Boards

Several of the Council's Corporate Management Team Boards have oversight of various aspects of the Council's climate change activity.

- **Risk Board** – during this reporting period the Corporate risk register included:
  - A "Climate change - Place risk of – the risk of not contributing to a reduction in city-wide emissions and address strategic climate risks for the city where the Council has scope to influence. Including: heavy or reduced rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures and sea levels. And at Cluster risk level a risk of Climate Duties – Council compliance.

A deep dive on Corporate risks including those for climate takes place and relevant information in relation to horizon scanning is also reported.

- **Strategy Board** - as part of its remit it facilitates the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, including those relevant to Net Zero and Adaptation. In addition, the board looks at internal and external factors which affect the Council's current and future this includes climate and environment and the impact this could have on the Council and Aberdeen City.

### Embedding climate change

Some examples of how sustainability has been incorporated into Council processes, procedures and decision making are illustrated below:

- Many corporate plans, policies and strategies undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess their environmental impact which includes addressing climate change.
- Climate change considerations are featured within relevant risk registers, service plans, business cases and development management consultations.
- The Business Case process is linked to the Council Building Performance Policy for corporate assets sets standards for sustainable construction, digital connectivity and future proofing for district heating connectivity.
- Environmental implications are incorporated into the committee reporting template and the accompanying Report Authors guidance document.
- Environmental implications are included in the Council Policy template and guidance.
- Environmental considerations are incorporated within planning consultation responses, with regular cross service meetings with Development Management and are embedded into development policy.
- An Elected Members induction session was held on 31 May 2022 on 'Our Climate, Energy and Just Transition commitments'.
- Emissions management (Council) and wider sustainability work across the council is reported annually through the Statutory Performance Indicators (SPI).
- Carbon Literacy Training was introduced to Elected Members and Senior Managers and covered mitigation and adaptation. The programme of training is set to continue in the next reporting period. Five cohorts of Carbon Literacy Training for Senior Managers were run between February and July 2022. Two cohorts of Carbon Literacy Training for Elected Members were run in October and November 2022 (following on from initial cohorts August 2021).
- In August 2022 the formation of the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee to monitor the delivery of all services and functions relating to net zero, the environment and transport; to scrutinise performance and approve options within set budgets to ensure best value and delivery of the Council's agreed outcomes; and to ensure that the Council has robust arrangements for the delivery of the Council's environmental targets and the meeting of its related statutory obligations. [Remit information here.](#)
- Launched in September 2022, an internal Climate Change eLearning module: 'Meeting Our Climate Change duties' was created and rolled out for staff to access and work through at their own pace.

## Other

In addition, a range of Council teams have responsibility for strategy, activities and monitoring on climate change or sector specific areas:

- The Climate and Environment Policy Service, has a specific remit for climate reporting; gives advice on mitigation and adaptation; and encourages embedding of these measures into both corporate and city-wide plans, policies and strategies, supporting and co-ordinating the development of these plans and ensuring direct links to the LOIP strategic outcomes.
- Corporate Landlord, oversee building conditions and undertake surveys, working closely with the Energy Management Team and Building Services/Maintenance to bring buildings up to standard and perform better in relation to energy efficiency. They also are obliged to comply with the corporate Buildings Performance Policy. This work is done on an ongoing basis. The Energy Management Team is responsible for overseeing collation of energy consumption data.
- Internal waste is managed by many officers with responsibilities spread among various functions as set out in the Internal Waste Minimisation policy. The Waste and Recycling Team, are responsible for the collection of waste and recycling containers from most corporate buildings, as part of trade waste collections. Facilities are responsible for the implementation and provision of the waste and recycling services from main office buildings.
- Digital and Technology Cluster, are responsible for the collection/liaison with external companies for the reuse and recycling of Waste Electronic and Electric Equipment (WEEE). A range of additional waste data is provided by relevant contractors.
- The Local Development Plan Team is responsible for providing the strategic direction for city development, including incorporation of sustainability principles into strategic plans and supplementary guidance. The Aberdeen Local Development Plan ([LDP](#)) was approved by Full Council in December 2022 will be adopted in 2023.
- The Flooding and Coastal Management Team have responsibilities in assessing flood risk and flood risk management schemes. The teamwork in partnership to develop cycles of the North East Flood Risk Management Plan, to meet the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
- The Transport Strategy and Programmes Team develop the [Local Transport Strategy](#) and a wide range of sustainable and active travel measures.

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

Document	Wording of objective(s)
<a href="#">Council Delivery Plan</a>	The Council's Commissioning Intentions are aligned to the stretch outcomes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Council's strategy framework. Changes to the intentions for 2022/23 reflect a strengthened alignment of the intentions to support the Council's priorities of energy transition, net zero carbon emissions and adaptation to climate change.
<a href="#">Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016-2026</a>	One of the 15 stretch outcomes for the plan is addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. A <a href="#">refresh of the LOIP</a> was approved in July 2021 and includes an update on emission targets.

## **2d - Does the body have a climate change plan or strategy?**

### City

#### **Energy Transition/ Net Zero**

- [A Net Zero Vision and Prospectus for Aberdeen](#) was approved at Urgent Business Committee in May 2020. Includes strategic objectives on leading the global transition; accelerating transition demand; resilient, productive and dynamic place; climate positive exemplar; putting people first.
- [Strategic Infrastructure Plan \(Energy Transition\)](#): was approved at Urgent Business Committee in May 2020. It includes Strategic Infrastructure Goals: clean energy supply for the city, UK and, particularly, globally; Aberdeen's infrastructure is adaptable to changes in climate; sustainable mobility;

building energy efficiency; sustainable waste management. It also includes priority area of Net Carbon Zero - Public Sector.

- [Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap](#) was approved in February 2022 Council Committee to set out a pathway towards Aberdeen becoming net zero by 2045. It is a collaborative piece driven by the Net Zero Leadership Board 6 high level net zero enabling strategies were co-created by the Delivery Unit.
  - Mobility [Strategy](#)
  - Buildings & Heat [Strategy](#)
  - Circular Economy [Strategy](#)
  - Energy Supply [Strategy](#)
  - Natural Environment [Strategy](#)
  - Empowerment [Strategy](#)

### **Adaptation**

[Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework](#) was refreshed and approved in February 2022 and covers city-wide working on adaptation. Incorporating the views of local organisations and communities, it sets the direction to build long term city resilience.

### **Council**

The [Climate Change Plan 2021-2025: Towards a Net Zero and Climate Resilient Council](#) was approved at Council in March 2021. The purpose of this plan is to set out the Council's approach, pathway and actions towards net zero and climate resilient Council assets and operations, by 2045. The plan sets emissions targets for Council assets and operations, outlines actions to reduce carbon emissions and to increase resilience to climate change. Current work programmes delivering the plan are progressing under various themes.

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

Topic area	Name of document	Time period covered	Comments
Business travel	<a href="#">Staff Travel Policy</a>	Ongoing	Includes considerations of the Environmental Impact of travel. Asks staff to consider first if their trip is necessary, encourages travellers to use modes of transport that result in the least environmental impact and outlines that the Council keeps records of estimated environmental impact of travel and has a clear intent to reduce it.
Staff travel	<b>Council Travel Plan</b> (only available via the intranet)		High-level objectives: To increase the choice of transport modes available to employees, Councillors and visitors to Council buildings. To seek to reduce the negative impact of travel choices locally and more widely, whilst maintaining efficient service provision.
Energy Efficiency	<a href="#">Local Housing Strategy</a> (page 91)	2018-2023	Outlines housing strategy approach and includes the strategic outcome: Fuel poverty is reduced which contributes to meeting climate change targets.
Energy efficiency	<b>Property and Estates Strategy</b>	2023	Includes the outcome: Assets will be environmentally sustainable. Targets of 100% sustainable new builds. Deliver connection between City Centre and Torry Heat networks. Produce Energy profile plan for highest energy spending properties (initially 10%) with costed outline business case.
Energy efficiency	<a href="#">Property Asset Management Policy</a>		Key principles include reducing carbon emissions from our properties.

Other	<b>Condition and Suitability Programme</b>	22/23-24/25	3-year programme for the condition and suitability works on the Council's non-housing property portfolio. Around 25% of the proposed C&S programme is made up of projects that will contribute positively to improving the environmental performance of the Council's assets.
Fleet transport	<a href="#">Fleet Replacement Programme</a>	2021/22 - 2025/26	The programme has been updated to reflect the Council's Net Zero ambition to work towards decarbonising its in-house fleet and introducing new vehicles with reduced emissions.
Information and Communication Technology	<b>ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Asset Management Plan</b> (only available via the intranet)	2013	ICT Assets should be environmentally sustainable. This means considering local and global environmental factors, monitoring and reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions through the whole ICT life cycle from manufacture, packaging, utilisation and disposal. ICT Assets must be safe, secure and comply with current legal and regulatory requirements and known future requirements. This means ensuring regular audits for DSE requirements and PAT testing of all ICT Assets, regular preventative maintenance and testing of critical ICT assets such as UPS and Air Conditioning within Data Centre and communications room facilities, compliance with WEEE regulations for electrical disposals, compliance with software licensing terms and conditions, compliance with Data Protection Act (DPA) and Disability Discriminations Act (DDA) when designing new ICT systems.
Waste Management	<b>Internal Waste Minimisation Policy</b> (only available via the intranet)		Discusses internal waste in relation to the waste hierarchy.
Waste Management	<a href="#">Aberdeen City Waste Strategy</a> (Page 7-8)	2014-2025	Target 1: Waste growth will be eliminated by 2015. Target 2: We will work towards the targets set in the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan 2010. Target 3: Introduce an organic waste collection for all households by 2016. Target 4: Develop facilities within the Aberdeen area to recover our resources. Target 5: No more than 5% of household waste should be landfilled by 2025.
Water and sewerage	<i>Not applicable</i>		
Land Use	<a href="#">Aberdeen Local Development Plan</a> (LDP)	Adopted January 2017	Includes policy on low and zero carbon buildings and on renewable and low carbon energy development. A wider range of policy information on the current and proposed LDP is included in the adaptation section. A new Aberdeen Local Development Plan (LDP) was approved by Full Council in December 2022 will be adopted in 2023.
Land use	<a href="#">City Centre and Beach Masterplan</a>		Includes the objective - Technologically advanced and environmentally responsible. Providing the capacity, quality and reliability of infrastructure required by businesses and residents and utilising resources responsibly.
Land use	<a href="#">Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Plan</a>	2020-2040	Includes the aim - take on the urgent challenges of climate change.
Land Use	<a href="#">Open Space Strategy</a>	2011-2016	Covers open space across the city, assists with climate adaptation. Recognise the economic, environmental, and social value of open spaces. Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity. Open Space and blue / green infrastructure deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management. Ongoing open space audit which will form an evidence base and feed into the review of the Open Space Strategy.

Other – nature conservation	<a href="#">Nature Conservation Strategy</a> (page 4 and 15)		Biodiversity, which touches upon aspects of climate change. Within the objectives of the strategy and sections on sustainable development and climate change. There are many aspects to consider for truly sustainable development and climate change is one of them. A shift in species populations, ranges, migration patterns and reproductive behaviour are already evident both on land and at sea because of climate change.
Other – sustainable construction	<a href="#">Building Performance Policy</a>	Renewed January 2018	The Buildings Performance Policy and accompanying guidance and checklist covers sustainable construction activity at a corporate level. It is an internal policy that sets building standards for refurbishments and new build projects. The policy states clearly an intention to deliver against energy performance, digital connectivity, future proofing for district heating and attaining certain BREEAM standards.
Other - various	<a href="#">Local Outcome Improvement Plan</a>	2016-2026	Stretch outcomes for the plan include: Addressing climate change by reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. 38% of people walking and 5% of people cycling as main mode of travel by 2026. A refresh of the plan emission reduction target and strengthened the target by adding the Stretch Outcome: Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate
Other – economy	<a href="#">Regional Economic Strategy</a> (page 25)	Approved 2015	Includes the objective: to maximise the potential of hydrogen, energy from waste and other renewables technologies to develop a medium-long terms demand for the transferable skills in the oil and gas sector.
Other - hydrogen	<a href="#">Aberdeen City Region Hydrogen Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2025</a> (Part 2, page 16)	2015-2025	The aim of this strategy is to maintain and build on Aberdeen's expertise in hydrogen in order to achieve the long-term goals associated with hydrogen rollout and being the leading hub in Scotland. The strategy and action plan outlines how these aims can be achieved in the short, medium and long term. The action plan identifies a series of measures required to achieve this, across seven key objectives: vehicle deployments, renewable hydrogen, refuelling infrastructure, non-transport applications, supply chain/market development, communication and education, and policy & regulation.
Other - transport	<a href="#">Local Transport Strategy</a> (Page 5)	2016-2021	Increased modal share for public transport and active travel. Reduced the need to travel. Reduced dependence on the private car. Improved journey time reliability for all modes. Improved road safety. Improved air quality and the environment; improved accessibility to transport. The Council has started work on the next Local Transport Strategy for Aberdeen.
Other – transport	<a href="#">Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan</a> (Page 1)		Sets out long term approach for active and low carbon travel in the city centre. Varying transport options. Reduces air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption; improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the transportation of people and goods.
Other – transport	<a href="#">Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan</a>	2021-2026	Aims to encourage and facilitate active travel.
Other – transport	<a href="#">Aberdeen Electric Vehicle Framework</a>	2018-2032	Inform the future plans and supporting infrastructure for EVs in Aberdeen over the next 5-10 years
Other – air quality	<a href="#">Air Quality Action Plan</a> (Page 2)	2011	Actions to improve air quality in Aberdeen. <a href="#">2020 Air Quality Progress Report</a> .

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

In no specific order, the top 5 climate change priorities for the year ahead are:

1. Develop projects to progress the City-Wide effort to collaborate on the Net Zero Aberdeen Routemap and 6 strategies, approved in February 2022.
2. Continued delivery of over 100 projects in the Project Register for the Council Climate Change Plan, in support of the Council's net zero targets.
3. Continue to develop robust internal systems for data collection and monitoring of emissions.
4. Develop understanding of Procurement emissions using the Co2 Analysis platform.
5. Continue to raise the competence of our workforce to think sustainably and understand the impact of climate change to promote, influence and take action.

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

The Council is part of the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group and reviews adaptation progress annually against the Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework using the benchmarking tool a summary is produced.

## 2h - Supporting information and best practice.

- In November 2022, during the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG) Net Zero Energy Conference, Net Zero Aberdeen and six enabling strategies were launched, alongside the new Net Zero Aberdeen website and the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge.
  - A three-part Circular Economy webinar series ran in March 2023. This was open to all including, organisations, businesses and individuals to:
    - Understand circular economy, it's benefits and importance of driving transition,
    - Understand the strategic context within Aberdeen,
    - Identify opportunities in integrate circular Economy into existing projects and identify opportunities for new project and programmes, with actions to take forward.
- Outcomes are being analysed and next steps are to emerge.
- This was the second year of implementation since approval of the Council Climate Change Plan approved in March 2021. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity, with regular project deep dives to build understanding, highlight challenges and opportunities. Further projects to embed climate change in Council systems and processes are being progressed through the Plan.

Various awareness raising events and presentations relating to climate were provided to senior management and staff including:

- In March 2023, to celebrate [Climate Week North East](#) (#CWNE23) **the council hosted a range of internal and external events.** The Council led 11 events, hosted by 8 Council Teams, with over 600 attendees, working in partnership with 13 organisations. A total of 40 social media posts were published with 33,414 views. Internal events included a webinar to raise awareness of the Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge, to activities to promote the Council's Car Club.
- A "**Green Workplace**" area of the staff intranet was established at the start of 2021, which has been refreshed during this reporting period to provide easy access to information, practical tips, ideas and opportunities for staff to get involved in the climate change and wider sustainability agenda. This site continues to grow and develop.
- In the last year, the **Green Champions** network has grown from 63 to 75 Champions, taking part in 8 initiatives such as, workplace food growing, food waste champions, repair what you wear workshops, active travel challenges, and activities to provide access to reusable period products in the workplace. Success stories of Champions are shared on the internal Green Champion intranet page to continue to promote, encourage and inspire further staff action. A first meeting took place within the reporting period to expand the Green Champion networks across the city through partnership organisations to share, network, and encourage carbon reduction and sustainable actions. Organisations include the James Hutton Institute, University of Aberdeen, NHS, and Police Scotland.



## SECTION 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.

Reference year	Year	Scope 1	Scope 2	Scope 3	Total	Units	Comments
Baseline carbon Footprint	15/16	22,020.00	21,664.00	2,687.00	46,371.00	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	
Year 1 carbon footprint	16/17	17,704.90	18,347.31	3,173.58	39,255.00	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Changes in estate and provision and accuracy of data account for the significant changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 2 Carbon Footprint	17/18	17,867.11	15,767.82	2,257.46	35,892.39	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Changes in emission factors and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint. Biomass from wood chips has been included as a scope 1 emission source because it is not 100% renewable.
Year 3 Carbon Footprint	18/19	17,015.18	12,176.07	1,899.20	31,090.45	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Changes in emission factors; and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 4 Carbon Footprint	19/20	18,544.97	10,315.87	1,700.40	30,563.24	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Changes in emission factors; and provision and accuracy of data account for changes in relation to the total footprint.
Year 5 Carbon Footprint	20/21	15,762.4	8,382.9	1,782.8	25,929.3	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Consumption figures are significantly lower than 2019-20 due to the reduced use of assets and reduced business travel during the COVID-19 restrictions
Year 6 Carbon Footprint	21/22	15,910.80	6,037.2	4149.80	26,159.1	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Consumption figures are slightly higher than 2020-21 due to the increased use of assets and operations following the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.
Year 7 Carbon Footprint	22/23	15,575.1	9,153.5	2,775.5	27,503.9	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Consumption figures are slightly higher than 2021-22 due to District Heating being added to scope, temporary changes to some corporate waste disposal methods and a change in Home Working calculation by the Scottish Government.

### 3b – Breakdown of emission sources.

Emission Source	Scope	Consumption Data	Units	Emission Factors	Units	Emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
<b>Buildings</b>							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	27,123,751	Kwh	0.19338	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	5,245.19	Usage through corporate assets. There has been a 1% increase in electricity consumption. This is due to the addition of Union Terrace, ex Police HQ, new ELCs and Schools
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	27,123,751	Kwh	0.01769	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	479.82	Usage through corporate assets.
Natural Gas	1	62,441,335	Kwh	0.18254	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	11,398.04	Usage through corporate assets. There has been a decrease of 4% in gas usage. This is in line with a 4% reduction in degree days compared to 21-22 meaning the gas usage has adjusted to match the temperature.
Gas Oil	1	207,050	litres	2.75857	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	571.16	Usage through corporate assets. There has been a 19% reduction in gas oil usage. As gas oil is not ordered every month this reduction may just be due to the timing of orders.
Heat and Steam: District Heating		8,330,541	Kwh	0.17073	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	1,422.27	Public buildings heating by DH.
Heat and Steam: District Heating Transmission and distribution losses)		8,330,541	Kwh	0.00899	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	74.89	
Biomass	1	645,830	Kwh	0.01053	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	6.8	180,000 kg of woodchips consumed for the biomass plant.
Water Supply	3	216,046	m <sup>3</sup>	0.10000	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>3</sup>	21.60	Usage through corporate assets. Water consumption is back to pre-Covid levels and any further increase is probably greater hygiene use following covid.
Water Treatment	3	216,046	m <sup>3</sup>	0.19000	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/m <sup>3</sup>	41.05	Usage through corporate assets. Figure is 95% of water supply.
<b>Street Lighting</b>							
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	12,351,647	Kwh	0.19338	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/kWh	2,388.56	From Streetlighting.

Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	12,351,647	Kwh	0.01769	kg CO2e/kWh	218.50	From Streetlighting
<b>Staff Travel</b>							
Average car - unknown fuel	3	402,991.00	km	0.17067	kg CO2e/km	68.78	From car hire.
Average car - unknown fuel	3	491,390.2	km	0.17067	kg CO2e/km	83.87	Essential car users (grey fleet)
Average car - unknown fuel	3	617,398	km	0.17067	kg CO2e/km	105.37	Casual car users (grey fleet)
Rail (national rail)	3	178,087	km	0.03549	kg CO2e/passenger km	6.32	Information received from suppliers.
Coach		16,797	km	0.02733	kg CO2e/passenger km	0.46	Information received from suppliers.
Car – petrol (average)	3	13,901	km	0.17048	kg CO2e/km	2.37	Car club information.
Car – hybrid (medium)	3	8367.44	km	0.10999	kg CO2e/km	0.92	Car club information.
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	2	1,582	Kwh	0.19338	kg CO2e/km	0.31	Car Club information (onsite charging)
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	3	1,582	Kwh	0.01769	kg CO2e/kWh	0.03	Car Club information (onsite charging)
Grid electricity (Generation) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	2	3799	Kwh	0.19338	kg CO2e/kWh	0.73	Car Club information (offsite charging)

Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses) Car – Battery electric Vehicle (Medium) Km	3	3799	Kwh	0.01769	kg CO2e/kWh	0.07	Car Club information (offsite charging)
Long haul flight (economy class)	3	7,444	km	0.14063	kg CO2e/passenger km	1.04	91% decrease Policy decision by new Partnership to travel abroad less frequently, if at all.
Short haul flight (economy class)	3	11,054	km	0.15102	kg CO2e/passenger km	1.7	Less travel by Councillors and Staff with more video conferencing and online participation in events/meetings.
Domestic flight (economy class)	3	20,323	km	0.24587	kg CO2e/passenger km	5	Less travel by Councillors and Staff with more video conferencing and online participation in events/meetings.
<b>Waste</b>							
Paper and board (mixed recycling)	3	79	tonnes	21.28019	kg CO2e/tonne	1.7	Increase largely due to improved reporting on wider sites. Previously reported on 4 main sites only.
Organic food and drink composting	3	38	tonnes	8.91058	kg CO2e/tonne	0.3	From 3R Schools. Provided by a report from the waste contractor
Organic food and drink composting	3	238	tonnes	8.91058	kg CO2e/tonne	2.1	From corporate premises.
Garden Waste	3	28	tonnes	8.91058	kg CO2e/tonne	0.2	From corporate premises.
General waste to landfill	3	1,745	tonnes	446.20411	kg CO2e/tonne	778.7	From corporate premises: Residual waste has been bulked and transported as refuse derived fuel since June 2017 rather than landfilled. A fire resulted in a temporary requirement to move to landfilling our general waste between 12th July 2022 - 28th February 2023. After which waste was disposed of at local Energy from Waste facility.
General waste - combustion	3	236	tonnes	21.28019	kg CO2e/tonne	5.0	Energy from Waste (EfW)
Mixed recycling	3	314	tonnes	21.28019	kg CO2e/tonne	6.7	From corporate premises (including glass). Based on scheduled regular uplifts so data does not include bulky uplifts. Use volume to weight conversion factors.
WEEE (Mixed) Recycling	3	8	tonnes	21.28000	kg CO2e/tonne	0.2	IT provided information from contractor

General waste to landfill	3	134	tonnes	446.20411	kg CO2e/tonne	59.7	3R schools. General waste to landfill provided by a report from the waste contractor.
Mixed recycling	3	43	tonnes	21.28019	kg CO2e/tonne	0.9	3R schools. Mixed recycling provided by a report from the waste contractor
<b>Fleet</b>							
Diesel (average biofuel blend)	1	1,378,137	litres	2.55784	kg CO2e/litre	3,525.05	Used within fleet services, increase in consumption due increased activity due to easing of COVID 19 restrictions.
Petrol (average biofuel blend)	1	25686	litres	2.16185	kg CO2e/litre	55.5	Financial data used to calculate estimate consumption within Fleet services.
Gas Oil	1	6,694	litres	2.75857	kg CO2e/litre	18.47	First year reporting due to reporting improvements.
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	493,972	kWh	0.19338	kg CO2e/kWh	95.52	Fleet EVs charged from Onsite source (split from Buildings electricity)
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	493,972	kWh	0.01769	kg CO2e/kWh	8.74	Fleet EVs charged from Onsite source (split from Buildings electricity)
Grid electricity (Generation)	2	4491	kWh	0.19338	kg CO2e/kWh	0.87	Hydrogen used by Fleet vehicles. First year of reporting due to data flow improvements.
Grid electricity (transmission and distribution losses)	3	4491	kWh	0.01769	kg CO2e/kWh	0.08	Hydrogen used by Fleet vehicles. First year of reporting due to data flow improvements
<b>Other</b>							
Homeworking emissions	3	2,345,655.70	FTE Working Hour	0.34075	kg CO2e/FTE/annual working hours	799.3	Estimate based regular VPN usage.
<b>Overall Total Emissions</b>						<b>27,503.9</b>	

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

Technology	Renewable electricity		Renewable heat		Comments
	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	Total consumed by the organisation (kWh)	Total exported (kWh)	
Biomass			645,830		180,000 kg/ of woodchips consumed for the biomass plant.

### 3d – Organisational Targets

Name of target	Type of target	Target	Units	Boundary / scope of target	Progress against target	Year used as baseline	Baseline figure tCO2e	Units of baseline	Target completion year	Comments
Corporate emissions	Absolute	Net zero	tCO2e	Council assets/ operations	41%	15/16	46,371	tCO2e	2045	At the latest
	%	75	tCO2e					tCO2e	2030	At least
	%	48	tCO2e					tCO2e	2025	At least
Energy	Annual % reduction	2%	Annual %	Energy use in buildings		14/15		kWh/m <sup>3</sup>		.

#### 3da - How will the body align its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emission reduction targets? Provide any relevant supporting information?

A Carbon Budget for the Council is being rolled out to support delivery of the Council Climate Change Plan. The Council approved the approach to carbon budgeting for the Council in February 2022 and an overarching carbon budget for the period April 2021 – March 2025, setting out the timeline for a phased roll out of the carbon budget. In 2022/23 this targeted and involved a deep dive of emissions from assets (energy), accelerating data collation and analysis of this data and producing quarterly returns. Timeframes and processes for data collation are being accelerated to ensure carbon data is accessible to inform the Commissioning Cycle/ budget setting process. Monthly updates on progress with the carbon budget are provided to the Climate Oversight Group. The approach is:

- Targeted: to high emission sources, addressing complexity of data.
- Allocated: to relevant Clusters/ Operations based on their scope to influence.
- Informed: data on carbon saving, actions, pressures shared.
- Phased: refined and rolled out as data flows improve.

The 2023/24 Carbon Budget was approved alongside the Council financial budget in March 2023.

Climate change is embedded in core business systems:

- Climate change is integrated across Corporate, Cluster and Operational Risk Registers requiring monthly progress updates on control actions by risk owners and regular review by the Risk Board.
- Committee report templates ask for information on climate/ environmental risks and an Environmental Implications section was included in the Committee Report template 2022, asking

report authors to identify and state any positive or negative impacts on the environment arising from the report. This sits alongside sections on financial and legal implications.

- The priority scoring matrix for assessing projects under the Council Condition and Suitability Programme (for Council assets, property and estates) continues to include scoring on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation.
- An update on the Statutory Performance Indicator on emissions management is produced annually.

**3db How will the body publish, or otherwise make available it's progress towards achieving its emissions reduction targets?**

- The CCR must be made publicly available and provide information in a transparent and accountable manner, in line with the relevant guidance. The report will be published on Sustainable Scotland Network website (alongside previous years) with a link to view via Aberdeen City Council Climate Change website pages. A word document will be submitted to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee and will be available publicly.
- Furthermore, an infographic highlighting a breakdown of progress towards emission reduction targets which will be published on the Aberdeen City Council website and internally on the Staff Intranet 'Green Workplace' site and key messages posted on our corporate social media page.
- Climate Change Target appears in the Community Planning Partners LOIP and further information can be found in The Council Climate Change Plan and project register on the Council Climate Change webpage.

**3e - Estimated total annual carbon savings from all projects implemented by the body in the report year**

Emissions source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Electricity		Data and monitoring actions are being progressed to support future reporting.
Electricity		
Natural Gas		
Other heating fuels		
Waste		
Water and sewerage		
Business travel		
Fleet transport		
Other		

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

Please note, only projects implemented, completed with one full year of CO2 savings data available during the 2022/23 reporting year are required in this section. As some projects span multiple years, a phased approach based on 'year' has been adopted for reporting purposes.

Project Name	Funding Source	First full year of CO2e savings	Estimated or actual?	Capital cost (£)	Operational cost (£/ annum)	Project lifetime (years)	Primary fuel / emission source saved	Estimated carbon savings per year (tCO2e/ annum)	Estimated cost savings (£/ annum)	Behaviour change aspects including use of ISM	Comments
<b>Continued Streetlighting LED Replacement Programme 21/22 phase</b>	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	Estimated	7.5 m	-	7	Electricity	400	17,000	no	Full carbon savings to emerge by 23/24. Project completed March 2023.
<b>Fleet Replacement Programme 21/22 Phase</b>	Innovate UK, Transport Scotland, HyTrEc2, Energy Transition Fund, Fleet Services	22/23			-	5	Diesel	-	n/a	no	During 21/22 added 49 low emission vehicles to the Council's Fleet. Carbon savings to emerge.
<b>Miltimber Replacement School</b>	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	Estimated	16 million	-	3	Gas Electricity			no	Miltimber replacement school was completed in 21/22 Carbon savings to emerge.



<b>ACC Fleet dedicated Electric vehicle charge point rollout 21/22 phase</b>	Transport Scotland, Energy Saving Trust (Scotland), Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), Civitas PORTIS EU funded project	22/23	-	£92,000 for 21/22	£75,000	1	Petrol Diesel	-	-	no	Works included installation of 8 EV chargers for up to 16 fleet vehicles.
<b>Heating Controls (BEMS) 21/22 phase</b>	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	-	-	-	1	Gas electricity	-	-	unknown	Various upgrades to controls and other minor works.
<b>Condition &amp; Suitability Programme 21/22 phase</b>	Aberdeen City Council	22/23	Estimate		-	-	Electricity Mains gas, oil, water	-	-	no	Implementation of building energy efficiency measures through maintenance and upgrade programme.

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

Emission source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
This section has not been populated due to lack of information.			

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

Emission source	Total estimated annual carbon savings (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Comments
Electricity	145.35	Replacement lighting system at Marischal College
Electricity	tbc	Lighting replacement - lit signs and bollards
Electricity	400	Phased Intelligent Street Lighting Programme (22/23 phase)
Natural gas	tbc	New District Heating connections to Tullos Primary School and Greyhope school
Other heating fuels	tbc	Project Doric- fabric first approach to test the potential for fabric improvement in social housing and installation of zero carbon technologies
Waste	0	
Water/ sewerage	0	
Business Travel	tbc	Revision of Staff Travel Policy
Business Travel	tbc	Grey Fleet reduction (use of employee-owned vehicles)
Fleet transport	tbc	Continued Fleet Replacement Programme – transition to electric, hydrogen & hybrid vehicles
Fleet transport	tbc	Full hydrogen and electric refuse collection vehicles
Fleet transport	tbc	Conversion to dual fuel refuse collection vehicles
Other	tbc	Transition to low carbon small machinery - landscaping
Other	tbc	Condition & Suitability Programme.
Other	tbc	Staff Green Champions scheme
Other	tbc	Various Control and Heating upgrades in Schools

**3i - Estimated decrease or increase in the body's emissions attributed to factors**

Emissions source	Total estimated annual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Increase or decrease in emissions	Comments
Estate changes	Unknown	Increase	Addition of Union Terrace, ex Police HQ, new ELCs and Schools. Removal of Fredrick Street Business Centre.
Service provision			
Staff numbers			
Other			

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

Total savings	Total estimated emissions savings (tCO2e)	Comments
Data and monitoring actions are being progressed to support future reporting.		

**3k - Supporting information and best practice**

**Streetlighting Programme**

Since 2016 the Council’s Street lighting team have been carrying out a refurbishment process to convert the existing streetlighting in the city to LED, which completed in 22/23. A phased approach was adopted to install an intelligent street lighting system enabling controls, dimming, and remote monitoring of faults. This programme of work has reduced streetlighting emissions by 68% as of 22/23. In 23/24, full emission savings will be realised and it is likely that further emission savings will come from emission factor changes.

**Fleet transition**

Phase 2 of the Fleet Replacement Programme 2022/23 reflects the Council’s Net Zero ambition to work towards de-carbonising its in-house fleet.

In 22/23, 8 low emission vehicles were added to our fleet, (including Euro VI) bringing the total of low emissions vehicles to 88%. Fleet continue to seek net zero vehicles rather than low emission vehicles but are restricted by EV infrastructure, however work is progressing to overcome this.

8 EV chargers have been installed exclusively for Council fleet vehicles use in 22/23, bringing the total to 16.

Due to data improvements, we are now able to quantify electricity usage from EVs from our Council buildings, enabling us to track usage.

Currently we are unable to quantify the emissions savings from transition work so far, however these figures will emerge as a Fleet Management System becomes fully operational.

We can share some project highlights and updates from the Fleet Transformation Programme:

Dual Fuel Conversion (Hydrogen)

It remains widely acknowledged that hydrogen will be the preferred technology for the large vehicle fleet (rather than electric, which will be comprised mainly of cars and vans). However, there is a limited variety of fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) i.e., 100% H2 on the market at present. Those that are available are currently heavily subsidised by grants as they range from double to triple the price of their diesel equivalent. As such, the Council has been pursuing an interim solution for its large vehicle fleet: hydrogen – diesel hybrids (H2ICEd). This technology injects hydrogen into the diesel engine, and burns with the diesel, to save about 30% in carbon emissions, and conversion costs around £40,000 per vehicle.

There is a plan in place to convert further vehicles over the next two years which will increase Fleet conversions. Further funding and vehicle investigations are required before any further conversions are carried out.

Electric Refuse Vehicle

During this reporting period, a trial of an EV RCV funded by Scottish Government grant was conducted for 8 months. Due to performance issues this vehicle was returned. As technology has developed further, interest in an EV RCV has been developed.

## **Awards:**

### [Local Authority Fleet Operator of the Year](#)

The award recognised the Council's commitment to sustainable fleet vehicles including reducing CO2 emissions through the deployment of road sweepers. The first sweeper was converted to dual fuel, which allows a controlled quantity of hydrogen to be burned directly in the engine - in combination with diesel. Once the nine-strong fleet is all converted, it has the potential to save almost 30 tonnes of CO2, contributing to cleaner air for the city, and taking another significant step towards net zero.

### [Best Practice Award](#)

Aberdeen City Council won the Best Practice Award for its Climate Change Plan at the inaugural Scottish Renewables Net-Zero Energy Transition Awards, A [motion in parliament](#) was submitted by Liam Kerr, North East Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

## **Reduction in Long and short-haul flights.**

A drive towards more video conferencing and online participation at events and meetings along with a Policy decision by the new Partnership to travel abroad less frequently, if at all, resulted a reduction in flight travel during 22/23.

Compared to 21/22 domestic flights have reduced by 71% with an 84% increase in Rail travel. Long haul flights reduced by 91% despite easing of COVID travel restrictions. Plans are in place to refresh the Staff Travel Policy which will strengthen this area of reduction further, particularly to encourage the use of our Car Club consisting of Electric and Hydrogen vehicles.

## **Energy from Waste facility commissioned.**

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, and Moray Councils together, have built an energy from waste facility located at East Tullos Industrial Estate in Aberdeen. The facility, which took its first delivery of waste for fuel in February 2023, for commissioning purposes, processes non-recyclable waste to provide a solution to a landfill ban which comes into force in Scotland in 2025. The facility will produce electricity for the National Grid as well as heat for a district heating network.

In the reporting period Corporate waste was temporarily disposed of to landfill, following a fire at the Materials Resource Facility. Whilst 22/23 emissions increased due to the temporary disposal method, compared to 21/22 waste tonnage decreased by 5%. Since the opening of the EfW facility, corporate general waste will be disposed of using this method and will be reflected in our reporting.

## **District heating**

In the reporting year, 2 further public buildings have been connected to the District Heating network: Len Ironside Centre and Muirfield School. Improved data flow for District Heating allows better tracking of the energy mix and transition to low carbon energy.

## **Council Housing Programme**

The vision of the Aberdeen City Council Housing Programme is: *"To create sustainable integrated communities and places, delivering affordable homes designed for life, which meet citizens current and changing needs, supporting the wellbeing and resilience of our tenants."* The new build programme is delivering 2,000 additional Council homes in conjunction with developers.

In October 2022 the Auchmill development completed and welcomed residents into 92 Gold Standard homes. The first of their kind in Aberdeen, homes are energy efficient and have low maintenance external amenity spaces as well as creation of a new ramp to the A96 which will provide safer access and support more walking, cycling, and wheeling through Active Travel. The design specification for Gold Standard requires energy efficient technologies that make homes greener and cheaper to run, enhanced sound transference, and increased natural light.

Aberdeen Heat and Power (AHP) will be billing tenants and operating the heat network. AHP will be deploying smart meters and app for tenants to manage their heat usage and this data can be used to enable early intervention for maintenance and also help early social intervention to alleviate fuel poverty, working in conjunction with SCARF. The site is designed with cycle storage, EV charging points, good public transport connectivity and is variable needs compliant. Further sites are under construction.

## New School – Countesswells

Countesswells School is a new build school providing a two-stream primary school for 434 pupils and a 60 cohort nursery, as well as facilities that can be utilised out of hours by the local community. The project was designed in 2019 – 2020 to deliver the Authority Construction Requirements (ACR) set by Aberdeen City Council.

The Council's brief from the ACR was for *“the building to deliver efficient energy conservation and management by the careful consideration of:”*

1. **Natural daylight** – The windows and curtain walling were modelled using daylight analysis software to provide an average of 2-3% daylight factor to the occupied spaces, the only spaces that achieved less than this were not permanently occupied.
2. **Ventilation** (natural where appropriate) – The project was design to comply with BB101 Ventilation. Occupant controlled opening windows within the classrooms are designed to provide natural ventilation using a stack effect, with low level windows to draw in cool air and high-level windows drawing out warm air from the rooms, coupled with ventilation openings from the classrooms into the hallways to further aid the movement of air. Hallways are provided with BMS and weather station-controlled window actuators on the high-level clearstory windows and gable windows to create a chimney stack effect, these are able to be overridden by the users to tailor the internal environment to their liking. Larger spaces such as the gymnasium, dining hall and nursery are supplemented with roof mounted windcatchers. Air conditioning was rationalised and provided to spaces that required controlled ventilation parameters, or where natural ventilation could not be provided due to rooms being internal to the floor plan. All air conditioning has heat recovery to minimise energy use.
3. **Solar gain** in summer – This was controlled by passive systems such as low conductivity glass and window blinds, natural ventilation and by cooling provided to large spaces though the air conditioning systems.
4. **Noise control** – The classroom to hallway ventilation openings would have caused noise transfer so the team identified an acoustic attenuation system (MACH) that is installed between the spaces. The design provides a bulkhead that runs down the either side of the hallway to carry the MACH system and makes use of the space above it to create a clear zone for services to the rooms, which are accessed from the hallway side behind removable acoustic panels. Another innovative measure was the use of the Multiplan timber boarding system to the gymnasium and dining hall. This system has identical aesthetics to CLT but with the advantage of being installed after the building is wind and watertight, mitigating the risk of water staining. The acoustician, architect and subcontractor designed a pattern of perforations to the boards, this combined with acoustic insulation behind the perforations provided the required area of acoustic attenuation to these spaces, without the need for plant on acoustic panels which can be damaged by the building users. These measures ensured compliance with BB93 Acoustics.
5. **Floor, wall and roof insulation values** – The thermal envelope of the building was designed to better the insulation values required by the Scottish Technical Standards. The design of the envelope was robust and was developed in collaboration with our construction and subcontractor teams. This ensured that air tightness detailing was considered from an early point, all weathertightness lines were understood and were simple to construct, and all subcontractors understood the extent of their responsibility for interfacing materials and junctions.
6. **Fabric conduction loss in winter** – During the construction the project was assessed using thermal cameras to ensure continuity of insulation and identify any cold spots that needed to be addressed.
7. **Design stage target of EPC A** – The design team undertook a Section 6 compliance report in the pre-construction period which provided assurance of the design stage EPC A rating. The building is powered via a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) system and has Photovoltaic panels on the southern facing roof. The design also makes provision for a future connection to a district heating system. Blanked off insulated flow and return pipes were provided from the site boundary to within the plant room. The plant room can be reconfigured by removal of the CHP which could be replaced by a new plate heat exchanger connected to the district heating. This measure would potentially further improve the energy efficiency of the building.

Other notable measures that saw a reduction in carbon include:

- Timber infill panels to the external walls rather than steel or block.
- Optimising the primary steel frame to remove framing steel where not required for the windows.
- Improved air tightness than originally designed, achieved by good quality control on site.

The efficiency of the building and other measures will be published once evaluated by an independent assessor. The building of the £20.5m new school was completed a month ahead of schedule. The official opening event in April 2023 included a special tree-planting ceremony.

## **Climate Change Highlights from Schools**

**Eco Committees:** 10 schools hold a Green Flag Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful, with 2 further schools in final stages of the programme. The Green Flag Award is a visible indication of a school's commitment to Learning for Sustainability and is an internationally recognised accreditation for excellence in sustainable education.

In 2022 a **Youth Climate Change Group** was established.

The Youth Climate Change President takes a leadership role in mobilising and organising young people to address climate change issues within the community of Aberdeen. They lead advocacy efforts, engage in environmental awareness campaigns, and collaborate with local organizations and schools to promote sustainable practices. Additionally, the president may represent the youth perspective on climate matters in discussions with local government and participate in regional or national youth climate initiatives.

The president, and the Youth Climate Change Group, have been involved in communication with staff at Aberdeen City Council and NESCOL to highlight the climate challenges and have provided a focal point to promote citywide initiatives to other children and young people across the city.

Aberdeen for a Fairer World and the Montgomery Development Education Centre, through the NESCAN Hub are supporting various City schools and classes with climate change resources, such as creating climate plans. In addition, approximately 30 City teachers have attended a Professional Learning session on Climate and a session on Global Citizenship Education including Learning for Sustainability was available to all NQTs in February 2023.

## SECTION 4 – ADAPTATION

### 4a - Has the body assessed current and future climate-related risks? If yes, provide a reference or link to any such risk assessment(s).

- A full strategic climate risk assessment has been completed for risks affecting the Council. The **Council's Corporate Risk Register (CRR)** captures the risks which pose the most significant threat to the achievement of organisational outcomes and have the potential to cause failure of service delivery. The Council Corporate Risk Register included:
  - 'Climate Change (Place)' – the risk of not contributing (where the Council has scope to influence) to a reduction in city-wide emissions and address strategic climate risks for the city where the Council has scope to influence. Including: heavy or reduced rainfall, flooding, higher temperatures and sea levels. In addition, a range of climate risks remain integrated in relevant Cluster and Operational level Risk Registers. This includes the risk; 'Climate Duties – Council Compliance' – the risk of not complying with statutory duties as a Council to reduce emissions, contribute to national targets, adapt to climate change in contribution to the national adaptation programme, and report annually on this work.*Actions support Capability Framework – UC2A (Develop understanding of risk and vulnerability), and UC2B (Consider how you organisations functions might be affected by climate change).*
- Informing Aberdeen Adapts, an **Evidence Base** document to inform the development of **Aberdeen Adapts** was refreshed in February 2022, this aims to build understanding of how climate change will affect the city.  
*Action supports Capability Framework – UC3B (Undertake strategic climate change risk assessment).*
- An assessment of flood risk was carried out for Aberdeen under work in the **North-East [Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2016- 2022](#)** and this mapped areas potentially vulnerable to flood risk under cycle 1 of the plan. The 2022-2028 plan replaces the flood risk management plan for Cycle 1, which was published in 2016. The plan forms part of the statutory obligations placed on Aberdeen City Council and partners SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water, under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. Mapping and Assessment, to identified Potentially Vulnerable Areas (PVAs) was concluded in July 2018 to inform cycle 2 of the plan. Flooding hotspots in each PVA have been identified and these are called Objective Target Areas (OTAs). The **Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028** for Cycle 2 were published in December 2021 and the **[North-East Local Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028](#)** are developed and published in December 2022.  
  
Under the Local Plan, Aberdeen City Council will be continuing to develop the Surface Water Management Plans in consultation with SEPA and Scottish Water and will be continuing with the next stages of current flood studies including:
  - Merchant Quarter
  - Jesmond Drive
  - Preliminary study to undertake a strategic overview of the coastal protection.
- The **Integrated Catchment Study 2015 (ICS)** is helping to inform understanding of surface water and small watercourses flood risk. The ICS is a joint project with Scottish Water.
- The **Footdee Coastal Flood Study (2018)** and Aberdeen Strategic Overview of Coast Protection (2019) are helping to inform understanding of coastal flood risk.
- A **[Strategic Flood Risk Assessment](#)** was undertaken to inform the new local development plan which was ultimately approved by full council in December 2022 and will be formally adopted in 2023. This is to satisfy the requirements placed on local authorities under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, requiring local authorities to exercise their flood risk related functions with a view to avoiding or reducing overall flood risk and promoting sustainable flood risk management. The Assessment was to inform the development planning process and to avoid or reduce flood risk by avoiding areas at significant risk of flooding.

**4b - 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.**

- An update of **Aberdeen Adapts; a Climate Adaptation Framework** for the city, was approved by Council committee in February 2022. The Framework sets out key priorities, goals and key action areas for adaptation in the city. The update identified synergies and interdependencies with the Net Zero Aberdeen Route map which was approved at the same time  
*Action supports Capability Framework – UC3A (Explore future change by developing scenarios and/or storylines for climate impacts and PI2C (Develop an initial adaptation strategy or action plan).*
- The Council approved an Energy Transition Strategic Infrastructure Plan in May 2020, which references Aberdeen Adapts, include the goal of "Aberdeen's infrastructure is adaptable to changes in climate" and some high-level actions relevant to adaptation.
- The Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 approved by Full Council on 3 March 2021, has over 100 mitigation and adaptation actions for Council assets and operations. The plan covers 5 broad themes; Buildings, Mobility, Other Operations (ranging from blue green management, flood risk management, to a number of mitigation aspects), Leadership & Governance, Awareness and Behaviour Change. A **Council Climate Oversight Group** is established and meets monthly. Thematic work programmes involve a broad network of relevant officers working on mitigation and adaptation, leads for each of these work programmes are in place.  
*Actions supports Capability Framework PI2B (Identify a range of potential adaptation actions), PI2D (Take action to deliver adaptation, PI3D (Implement a programme of adaptation actions).*
- Updates on progress with the control measures for climate risks in the Council's Risk Register are provided to the **Risk Board**. Deep dives on Corporate risks including those for climate take place. Relevant information in relation to horizon scanning is also reported. The Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing risk management and receive an annual review of the system of risk management and an annual report on the corporate risk register and related action plans. In March 2023 the Corporate Risk Register and Assurance Map were reported to Committee to provide assurance on the Council's system of risk management.  
*Action supports Capability Framework – UC3B (Undertake strategic climate change risk assessment)*
- A City Resilience Group works to manage city risks which could cause an emergency affecting people and place. Climate is included on the agenda for this group.
- Enabling **prompt response to flood alerts**, the Council continues to operate a Duty Flood Officer rota, checking SEPA Water Levels for the Rivers Dee and Don and monitoring coastal tide levels. Where there is surface water flood risk, the status of priority hakes and gullies are checked so these can be cleared. Signs have been installed at all priority trash screens with contact details for reporting blockages or damages. Monthly visual inspections take place for any defect or issues with the rock armour, seawall structures, including ramps and steps and condition of timber groynes. Beach levels are also monitored on a bi-weekly basis, these can vary naturally along the Aberdeen coastal front, low sand levels present a risk to the stability of the seawall and a risk to the public access and safety.
- The Council is part of the **Grampian Local Resilience Partnership** providing multi agency co-ordination for response and recovery in emergency situations, including severe weather.
- The Council is a participant in the **Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group**, using the **Benchmarking Tool** to assess progress against the Capability Framework. A visual of Council progress against the Capability Framework using the Benchmarking Tool is included in the Council Climate Change Plan 2021 – 2025.

Adaptation is embedded in many Council and partnership policies and strategies including:

- The Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2017), includes policies on:
  - Greenspace network – policy NE1 (p67)
  - Trees and woodlands – policy NE5 (p72)



- Flooding, drainage & water quality - policy NE6 (p74)
  - Coastal planning – policy NE7 (p77)
  - Low and zero carbon buildings & water efficiency – policy R7 (p87)
  - Renewable and low carbon energy developments – policy R8 (p89)
- Supplementary guidance on open space & green infrastructure (p71) and flooding drainage and water quality (p75) with arrangements for Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland, Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Impact Assessment, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), Regional SuDS and Waste and Foul Drainage.
  - Supplementary guidance on open space & green infrastructure (p71) and flooding drainage and water quality (p75) with arrangements for Flood Risk Management Planning in Scotland, Flood Risk Assessment, Drainage Impact Assessment, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), Regional SuDS and Waste and Foul Drainage.
  - The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2020) and Delivery Programme was approved by Full Council in March 2020 and public consultation ran for over 14 weeks from 20 May to 31 August 2020. The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (2020) was submitted for the Examination in Public in July 2021. In September 2022 Aberdeen City Council received the Reporters' Report into the Examination in Public, and the Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan (as modified) 2020 was approved by full council in December 2022, thereafter, submitted to the Scottish Ministers and is expected to be adopted in 2023. As of 31 March 2023 three extension letters had been received from the Scottish Ministers stating their required more time to consider the document.
  - The Proposed Aberdeen Local Development Plan 2020 assesses policies against the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** (p14-15). The Proposed Plan 2020 includes policies on:
    - Green and Blue Infrastructure – policy NE2 (p50)
    - Our Water Environment – policy NE4 (p56)
    - Trees and Woodland – policy NE5 (p58)
    - Low and zero carbon buildings, and water efficiency – policy R6 (p71)
    - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments – policy R7 (72)
    - Heat Networks – policy R8 (p73)
    - Energy Transition – policy B5 (p101)
  - Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority published the Strategic Development Plan 2020. It includes the objective: “mitigates and adapts to the effects of climate change and changing weather patterns”  
It acknowledges risk from flooding and storm surges, and increased risk is expected due to changing and more unpredictable weather patterns, extreme weather events and rising sea levels. As well, that “new development should not adversely impact on water quality either during construction or at operational phase. Wherever possible new development should contribute to developing and enhancing blue / green networks and habitat improvement.”  
It includes in targets: To avoid having to increase the amount of water Scottish Water are licensed to take from the River Dee, as a result of the new developments proposed in the Plan.”
  - Since the adoption of **National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)** on 13 February 2023, the Aberdeen City and Shire Strategic Development Planning Authority and the Strategic Development Plan ceased to exist. NPF4 contains policies relating to:
    - Tackling the climate and nature emergency – Policy 1
    - Climate mitigation and adaptation – Policy 2
    - Biodiversity – Policy 3
    - Natural places – Policy 4
    - Soils – Policy 5
    - Forestry, Woodland and Trees – Policy 6
    - Energy – Policy 11
    - Zero Waste – Policy 12
    - Heating and Cooling – Policy 19
    - Blue and Green Infrastructure – Policy 20

- Aberdeen City Council produces and maintains **emergency plans** in conjunction with the **Local Resilience Partnership** members, including the emergency services and other agencies. This is to address specific potential emergencies which may affect the Grampian area as a whole, such as flooding. The Community Resilience project is raising awareness, identifying, and developing community champions and supporting the development of resilience plans across Aberdeen. In December 2022, two new Community Resilience volunteer groups have been established and launched in Bridge of Don and Danestone. In addition, during this time, **Emergency grab boxes** were delivered to over 50 locations across the city and issued a call for further Community Resilience Volunteers. More information [here](#).
- The [Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy](#), considers the future impacts of climate change and highlights the links between biodiversity and climate change. Specifically, the strategy recognises that biodiversity loss and climate change are interlinked and that both threaten the availability of the natural resources. (p15)
- The [Aberdeen Open Space Strategy 2011-2016](#), contains a key objective and series of actions to, “*Maximise opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further biodiversity.*” This is through encouraging (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) SuDS, protecting open spaces for the role they play in flood management and planting native and wildlife friendly species. Open Space and blue / green infrastructure deliver multiple functions including climate mitigation, nature restoration, biodiversity enhancement, flood prevention and water management. This strategy will be updated following the Open Space Audit review, which as part of the Aberdeen City Open Space Audit. A public consultation was carried out in February and March 2022. This consultation asked members of the public that live, work, or visit Aberdeen to provide their opinions on Open Spaces within the city and carried out in two parts. Firstly, it sought the general views on Open Spaces across the city, and secondly, allowed users to select Open Spaces which are important to them from an online map and give feedback on specific spaces. The consultation received a total of 1,363 responses and will add community value to the audit. Work is now ongoing to analyse these responses along with analysis of Open Space across the city under the key themes of accessibility, place, health, community value, biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- The [Local Transport Strategy 2016 - 2021](#) states “we therefore need to build infrastructure, which is more sustainable, climate resilient and adapted to our environment, ecological conditions and landscape setting”. It includes the objectives:
  - To ensure that the transport network is as resilient as possible in case of flooding from extreme weather conditions. (P28)
  - To contribute to Aberdeen’s carbon emissions targets and develop climate resilient infrastructure. (P43)

The Council has started work on the next Local Transport Strategy for Aberdeen. A main issues consultation took place in November 2022. The results will be used to inform the Main Issues Report for the next Local Transport Strategy which, in turn, will be used to inform the strategy itself. The Main Issues Report will also form one of the appendices to the Local Transport Strategy

- [The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan \(NELFRMP\) and North East Local Flood Risk Management Strategies](#). The plan contains the statutory duties that the Council will be required to undertake for the Flood Risk Management Plan 2016-2022. This is to meet statutory requirements under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.  
**Plans and Strategies for Cycle 2:** The Flood Risk Management Plans 2022-2028 for Cycle 2 were published in December 2021 and the [North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028](#) was published in December 2022.  
 Aberdeen City Council is part of the partnership for the North East Local Plan District (NELPD) and comprises of the three local authorities: Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council and The Moray Council together with SEPA and the following Responsible Authorities: Scottish Water; SEPA; Forestry Commission Scotland; and Cairngorms National Park Authority.

- **Aberdeen City Council Business Case** - adaptation is embedded into the Environmental Management section of the Aberdeen City Council Business Case template – “*Building city resilience to projected changes in climate*”, to ensure climate change is considered in new projects and proposals.
- The **ACC Building Performance Policy** covers new build and refurbishment projects for corporate assets. Accompanying guidance and a checklist are designed to support and help inform decision making when considering the construction of new, and refurbishment of, corporate assets. The checklist includes consideration for site selection and assessment, including conducting a climate risk assessment, consideration for drainage, flooding and water efficiency.
- The Community Planning Aberdeen, **Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2016 – 26** includes the stretch outcome for adaptation: 13. Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions by at least 61% by 2026 and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate. Key drivers for community resilience, and the development of community resilience plans, are shown under this outcome, with key improvement measures against these drivers. (P37)  
ACC Committee Report templates require reports to demonstrate links to the LOIP.
- The [Aberdeen City Council Delivery Plan 22/23](#) was approved at Full Council on March 2022. This sets out key deliverables and Commissioning Intentions to support delivery of the LOIP. These include the delivery of Aberdeen Adapts; by developing a bottom-up approach to community resilience to encourage greater ownership and independent action towards understanding communities' risks from climate change and adapting to them.
- [Granite City Growing: Aberdeen Growing Food Together](#) a city community food growing strategy was approved by Council committee in February 2020. This includes the strategic outcome “Embed the requirement to increase biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation within growing spaces through the choice of plants, heritage varieties, site design and management.”
- The [Council Tree and Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan](#) was approved in June 2022.

**4c - 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.**

**Increase awareness**

- **Carbon Literacy Training** funded by the Scottish City Alliance and The Improvement Service was introduced to Elected Members and Senior Managers and covered mitigation and adaptation. The programme of training is set to continue with further cohorts to be released.
- Presentation to the **Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group** (May 2022) on the adaptation journey in Aberdeen including work to develop Aberdeen Adapts and work on climate risk.
- In September 2022, an internal **Climate Change eLearning module: Meeting Our Climate Change duties** was created and rolled out to enable colleagues to play their part in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change.
- **Aberdeen Climate and Nature Pledge** launched in November 2022, alongside the new **Net Zero Aberdeen website** and promoted, by delivering a webinar during Climate Week North East 2023, including various internal and external communications.
- An area of the **staff intranet** “Green Workplace” has been refreshed to provide easy access to ‘Green’ employee benefits and incentives, sustainable commitments and plans, plus a reporting, performance and knowledge hub. This intranet page will continue to be developed over the coming year.
- Where there is **surface water flood risk**, the status of priority hakes and gullies are checked so these can be cleared if necessary. Signs have been installed at all priority trash screens with contact details enabling the public to report blockages or damages.

## **Building Adaptive Capacity**

- The **Council Climate Change Oversight Group** continues to meet monthly, which has oversight of the actions being delivered by the thematic sub-groups for the Council Climate Change Plan. This includes emission reduction and adaptation actions for the Council’s assets and operations. **A Teams channel** continues to be used for the Group files and communication.
- **The Green Champions network** has grown from 63 to 75 Champions, taking part in 8 initiatives, such as, workplace food growing, food waste champions, repair what you wear workshops, active travel challenges, and activities to provide access to reusable period products in the workplace. Success stories of Champions are shared on the internal Green Champion intranet page to continue to promote encourage and inspire further staff action. Phase 2 of the project will focus on expanding champion networks across the city through partnership organisations to share, network, and encourage carbon reduction and sustainable actions. Organisations include the James Hutton Institute, University of Aberdeen, NHS, and Police Scotland.

## **Deliver Adaptation Action**

- A [property level flood protection grant](#) remains in place. The Council runs a 50% funded grant scheme to assist protecting property from flooding. The grant is for private residences that have either been previously flooded and have sustained damage; are located on a vulnerable area shown on the SEPA Flooding Maps; or are shown on the Integrated Catchment Study Model. The grant has recently expanded to include commercial properties.
- **Sustainable Growth Agreement City Scale Project** in collaboration with SEPA and Scottish Water. A future report may be submitted to Council to seek support to continue to work towards:
  - Managing rainwater and wastewater drainage more sustainably.
  - Investing wisely to protect the water environment to minimise energy and resource use and maximise social and economic benefits.
- **Den Burn Restoration Project.** Plans are being drawn up to restore approximately a 1.5-mile stretch from Maiden Craig to King’s Gate in the west of the city to enhance the wetland habitat and increase biodiversity. Plans include returning the Den Burn to a more natural course and provide paths linking communities. Funding to be secured.
- The priority scoring matrix for assessing projects for potential inclusion in the **Condition & Suitability Programme** was modified in 2021. Projects continue to be scored on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation. This ensures projects which contribute significantly to those factors will likely be included in the Programme. The C&S Programme 2022/23 to 2024/25 is underway.
- **Tree Planting.** Schools and community groups planted oak trees as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative and Aberdeen’s First Wee Forest was planted, led and managed by woodside Primary School. It is Aberdeen’s first and only Wee Forest and is the most northerly of all Wee Forests in Scotland. Work is taking place to map out green space for further tree planting for 22/23, this follows publication of the Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan.

## **4d Where applicable, what contribution has the body made to helping deliver the Programme (Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme – SCCAP2)?**

<p><b>Sub-Outcome 1.1:</b> People in Scotland’s diverse communities are informed, empowered and adapting to climate change</p>	<p>1.1.2 Empowered Communities</p>	<p>Installation of signs at all priority trash screens for communities to report blockages or damages.</p> <p>The Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan includes an Improvement Project Aim for “Community led resilience plans in place for areas most vulnerable to flooding by 2023, leading to resilience plans in place across all areas of Aberdeen by 2026”. 4 Community Led Resilience Plans have so far been developed.</p> <p>Analysis of the findings of an Aberdeen Open Space public consultation held in February and March 2022 to improve accessibility, place, health, community value, biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
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		Now have established 40 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups representing the city. More groups than any other local authority in Scotland.
<b>Sub-Outcome 1.2:</b> Scotland's buildings and places are adaptable to Climate Change	Flood Risk Management Strategies	<b>The North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028)</b> have been developed and published in December 2022. This is to meet statutory requirements under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. The Plan was produced in partnership with SEPA, Moray Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water.
	1.2.1.1 Community Planning	The Council produced a <b>Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan</b> approved in December 2019. An <b>Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan 2021-2026</b> , was approved in March 2021
	1.2.3 Resilient Buildings	Information on home energy savings in Aberdeen can be found <a href="#">here</a> and on the Energy Efficiency Aberdeen website found <a href="#">here</a> . Condition & Suitability Projects are scored on Emissions Reduction and Climate Resilience/Adaptation. Projects which contribute significantly to those factors will likely be included in the Programme. The Property Level <a href="#">Flood Protection Scheme</a> for eligible residential properties continued in this reporting period and in March 2023 the Net Zero, Environment and Transport committee agreed to extend the scheme to include eligible businesses.
<b>Sub-Outcome 2.2:</b> Scotland's health and social care is ready and responding to changing demands as a result of the changing climate	2.2.2.1 Temperature	Some of the policies in this section relate to making the most of the potential for increased outdoor activity due to a projected rise in mean annual temperature, which would have positive outcomes on both physical and mental health. The Council network is developing sustainable travel networks; have produced a <a href="#">Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan</a> approved in December 2019 and <a href="#">Aberdeen Active Travel Action Plan 2021-2026</a> , was approved in March 2021
	2.2.2.5 Air Quality	The Council proposed to introduce a <a href="#">Low Emission Zone (LEZ)</a> in Aberdeen from 30th May 2022. Enforcement of the LEZ is due to start on 1 June 2024. The aim of the LEZ is to improve air quality within the City Centre Air Quality Management Area to ensure compliance with the Scottish Government's air quality objectives, particularly for the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO2) Work is taking place to increase the electric vehicle network in Aberdeen and an <a href="#">Aberdeen Electric Vehicle Framework 2020-2030</a> was approved in March 2021. <a href="#">Further Public charging sites have also been installed</a> . Ongoing work is taking place to transition the Council's own fleet through the Fleet Replacement Programme including the installation of 8 EV chargers installed for up to 16 vehicles installed for dedicated Council use, total now up to 32 vehicles. <b>Aberdeen Local Transport Strategy (LTS)</b> - work has started on the next LTS. The main issues consultation results from November 2022 will inform this.
<b>Sub-Outcome 3.1:</b> Scotland's businesses based on natural resources are informed and adaptable to climate change.	Land Use Strategy	The Council is a member of a (North East) <b>Regional Land Use Partnership</b> being piloted to help develop the approach to land use in support of our green recovery and transition to net-zero. Phase 1 (21/22) to establish partnership structure is complete. Phase 2 is now in the process of developing a Framework which uses a natural capital approach to identify and agree upon current and potential land use opportunities and priorities across the region that support the delivery of Scottish Government's

		targets for climate change, biodiversity, and other environmental objectives.
	3.1.2 Forestry	A focus on clearing damaged areas and replanting due to storm damage following Storms Arwen, Malik, and Corrie In partnership with local communities and sponsors, a number of trees were planted including 400 + street trees. <b>The Strategic Tree &amp; Woodland Implementation Plan</b> was approved and published in June 2022 .
<b>Sub-Outcome 3.2:</b> Scotland's manufacturing, services and wider economy are informed and adaptable to climate change	3.2.4 Building Premises	The <b>Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028</b> , was published in December 2022. The Plan translates the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 into actions over the second planning cycle for the <b>North East Local Plan District Flood Risk Management Plans</b>
<b>Sub-Outcome 4.2:</b> Scotland's devolved supporting systems are resilient to climate change	4.2.2 Water	The <b>Sustainable Growth Agreement (SGA)</b> is an agreement between Scottish Water and SEPA. Under this Agreement, Scottish Water and SEPA are "committed to develop, trial and then seek to deliver (with partners) innovative ways of managing rainwater and waste water drainage to help protect the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Scotland's towns and cities in a changing climate" ACC is not a signatory to the Agreement but agreed to work in partnership with Scottish Water and SEPA to trial a new approach to managing storm water in Aberdeen. This work is still ongoing.

**4e - What arrangements does the body have in place to review current and future climate risks? Provide details of arrangements to review current and future climate risks, for example, what timescales are in place to review the climate change risk assessments referred to in Question 4(a) and adaptation strategies, action plans, procedures and policies in Question 4(b).**

- The **Council's Corporate Risk Register**, this includes place based climate risk; and further relevant risks are included at Cluster and Operational level. The Risk Board meet every 6 weeks and are provided with updates on progress with climate change action and annual updates are provided for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.
- Monitoring processes for the delivery of actions in the **Council Climate Change Plan** are indicated in 4b.
- Progress with the **Nature Conservation Strategy** is reviewed, as part of **Biodiversity Reporting Duties**. This is required every three years under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011. An updated **Biodiversity Duty Report** is in the process of being produced.
- The **North East Local Flood Risk Management Plans for Cycle 2 (2022-2028)** have been developed and published in December 2022.

**4f - What arrangements does the body have in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of the adaptation actions? Please provide details of monitoring and evaluation criteria and adaptation indicators used to assess the effectiveness of actions detailed under Question 4(c) and Question 4(d).**

- Key indicators are set out under each of the priority areas in the approved **Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework**. It is anticipated further indicators will be developed to support the implementation phases of the work.
- This was the second year of implementation since approval of the **Council Climate Change Plan** approved in March 2021. An Oversight Group drives the tracking of this activity, meeting monthly, with regular project deep dives to build understanding, highlight challenges and opportunities.
- The **Risk Board** is provided with updates on progress with climate change controls in the Corporate Risk Register and annual updates are provided for the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee.

- The Council is part of the Adaptation Scotland Benchmarking Working Group and reviews adaptation progress annually against the **Public Sector Adaptation Capability Framework using the benchmarking tool a summary is produced.**
- Biodiversity actions are monitored through implementation of the **Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy.**
- Open space actions are monitored through the implementation of the Aberdeen Open Space Strategy.
- Ongoing flood monitoring helps to assess the delivery and effectiveness of flood alleviation studies and schemes.
- The Council is a partner in the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership, monitoring takes place against key improvement measures for addressing climate change set out in the [Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan](#). An Improvement Charter has been established for community resilience. Progress updates are provided monthly.

**4g - What are the body's top 5 priorities for the year ahead in relation to climate change adaptation? Provide a summary of the areas and activities of focus for the year ahead.**

1. Implementation of adaptation actions in the approved Council Climate Change Plan 2021-2025 for mitigation and climate resilience for the Council's own assets and operations.
2. Further development of Community Resilience Groups in Aberdeen.
3. Progress with the development of cycle 2 of the North-East Flood Risk Management Plan. The Council budget in March 2023 allocated funding for flood protection including grants, flood scheme and sensors.
4. Mapping, expansion and development of blue, green infrastructure.
5. Continuing work to embed climate adaptation in Council processes and procedures.

**4h - Supporting information and best practice. Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the body in relation to adaptation.**

**The Local Resilience Partnership**

Throughout 2022, presentations were given to various outside organisations including the three listed below to highlight the benefits of Community Resilience Volunteer Groups and how Aberdeen City Council can support the initiative.

- Sustainable Cities working Group
- Community Councils
- Community Empowerment Network

These presentations will continue throughout the year.

There has been an enthusiastic up take on volunteering over the past two plus years due to Covid 19 and numerous storms across the area. The Partnership is looking to harness this support to work with the Police, Fire, Ambulance and the Council. Local community groups and personal resilience play extremely important role in the success of an emergency response and the recovery.

Electronic leaflets on resilience and winter preparedness etc are available printed and pdf. More [information here](#).

**It's Your neighbourhood' Groups**

A total of 40 community groups in the city had their environmental improvement work recognised by the 2023 Beautiful Scotland, It's Your Neighbourhood initiative. The initiative is designed to acknowledge the work of community groups recognising community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. It's Your Neighbourhood is a local environmental improvement campaign designed to encourage volunteer groups to pick up their shears and spades in a bid to clean up and beautify their local areas. The campaign is run by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with the Royal Horticultural Society.

## Beautiful Scotland 2022 Awards

Aberdeen 'Communities Together' won 'Best City' and was also joint first in the Rosebowl 2022 and Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Award categories. Judges noted the high value placed on green spaces by the Council and the Public.

## Green Flag Awards

Aberdeen City Council were awarded 9 Green Flag Awards in recognition of well managed parks and green spaces, with seven other parks retaining their green flag status.

## Tree Planting

In February 2022 City Growth and Resources Committee agreed to set aside a sum of £500K from the General Fund Contingency budget, for the Council to deal with the storm damage caused by Storms Arwen, Malik, and Corrie. High risk damaged trees have been cleared, felled and restocked. The funding has also allowed for repair works to be completed. This has included path and fence repairs. To date approximately £350K of the funding has been used and the remainder will be spent in 2023. In addition to the storm damage work, 400+ street trees have been planted during this reporting period.

## Tree and Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan

Approved by the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee in June 2022, the plan sets out the vision, priorities and an action plan stewardship and expansion of Aberdeen City's urban, street trees, rural trees, and woodlands. It provides a long-term framework for ensuring that their qualities are measurable, recognised, properly valued, protected, and permanently enshrined in the environmental fabric of the city.

## SECTION 5 - PROCUREMENT

### 5 a) How do procurement policies contribute to compliance with climate change duties?

**Provide information relating to how the procurement policies of the organisation have contributed to its compliance with climate change duties.**

The Council's **Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy** guides sustainable procurement activity at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under **Scottish Climate commitments**. Policy is sufficiently agile to contribute to broader climate positive aspirations which support global energy transition, application of meaningful circular economy measures and a net zero future. Strategic and practical guidance is provided at key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: **mitigation** (ensuring reduction in greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), **adaptation** (e.g. flood prevention) and **maximising added social, economic and environmental value**.

### **The Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS)**

Embraces the procurement function in: Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and The Highland Council. **2017-2022 Joint Procurement Strategy** fully aligned to: **i) Scottish Model of Procurement** (balance of quality, cost and sustainability) **ii) National Performance Framework** **iii) Public Service Reform Agenda** and **iv) Scottish Government aspirations to: "support Scotland's economic growth by delivering social and environmental benefits, supporting innovation and promoting public procurement processes and systems which are transparent, streamlined, standard, proportionate, fair and business-friendly"**

The Council's **Procurement Mission Statement** commits to delivery of **"ethical and sustainable value for money solutions that support the operational needs and wider strategic aims of the councils and the communities they service to further local and national priorities to the fullest extent possible."** These aims converge with the **National Performance Framework** outcome **"valuing, enjoying, protecting and enhancing our environment"** and wider **vision** for the environment..

Policy/strategy/guidance emphasises a commitment (beyond mandatory thresholds) to **identify: "leverage**



**opportunities (including social, economic and environmental value) aligned to the needs and priorities of our communities”**

## **Policy**

**“The partner councils aim to act as a role model within the public sector by carrying out activities in a responsible and sustainable manner, considering how the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area can be improved by working with all sectors of the business community to achieve increased prosperity. As responsible and ethical buyers, the partner councils aim to embed the key principles of sustainability into procurement activity for the benefit of society, the economy and the environment.”** The policy statement appears prominently in sourcing strategies and tender documents guiding procurers and bidders. Embedded and reinforced communication leads to climate positive measures receiving early, considered focus resulting in higher quality, more innovative bids aligned to local/national priorities and climate change duties.

Policy/guidance reinforces messaging that not all sustainability measures solely achieved through community benefits. Outcomes can be specified as contractual conditions e.g., particular eco standards (or equivalent), product composition and opportunities to introduce circular economy measures. Methods of production, lifecycle costing, environmental performance, reduction of packaging (particularly single use plastic) wastewater standards/accreditation and production methods at any stage of the lifecycle of supply or service promoted.

Zero Waste Scotland Circular Procurement Guidance and Best Practice is promoted in policy/guidance. Procurers are encouraged to consider utilising community benefits and the specification to maximise environmental wellbeing. In addition, the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (<https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/>) strongly promoted as a free resource to support suppliers on their own journeys to a net zero future.

Sustainability tools are promoted in policy and guidance: i) Sustainability Test, ii) Prioritisation Tool and iii) Lifecycle Impact Mapping. Policy/guidance recognises that councils have influence and responsibilities beyond the geographic areas they serve. Sustainable procurement measures/community benefits can be captured at the following levels: **Local** (Council/area specific); **National** (Scotland/UK) and **Global** (e.g. fairly traded/ethically sourced goods/carbon emission reduction.) Guidance prompts that many national strategic objectives are addressable locally (employment & skills, Real Living Wage, health and wellbeing, poverty, biodiversity, reduced road miles/reduced carbon emissions etc.) As an overarching theme, sustainable procurement strongly recognised as a means of increasing **prosperity**. Prosperity of the (local) economy; Prosperity of (local) people; Prosperity of (local) places and Prosperity of the (local) environment.

**5b) How has procurement activity contributed to compliance with climate change duties? Provide information relating to how procurement activity by the organisation has contributed to its compliance with climate change duties.**

The following is illustrative of procurement activity **i)** mitigating CO2 conscious of adaptation **ii)** improving energy efficiency and in many cases **iii)** incorporating meaningful social/economic and environmental criteria:

**Construction** – follows industry terms/best practice (NEC3, SBCC ICE etc), Building Standards/Building Performance polices in addition to “Gold Standard” Housing commitments whilst noting ambitions within the Scottish Government to move to ensure all new housing in Scotland is built to Passivhaus standard. “Gold standard” homes aim for a minimum 27% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions which is achieved partly through using renewable energy to provide 50% of hot water demand. The Gold Standard incorporates other carbon saving measures including more effective insulation and air circulation techniques. Combining renewable technologies with state-of-the-art energy efficiency has the potential to significantly reduce household running costs.

In general, specifications incorporate sustainability, energy and environmental considerations to a challenging but proportionate extent per project. Strong ethos that value for money demonstrated by whole of life costing/best price-quality ratio. Current and future climate/adaptation risks factored into procurement

processes where relevant to safeguarding assets/infrastructure/communities. In the reporting period, procurer and supplier knowledge/awareness of circular economy principles and sustainable opportunities increased.

**Managed Print Contract** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire) From original estate of over 5,000 unmanaged print devices (2016), contract systematically eliminated use of small, inefficient desktop printers requiring regular consumable replacement and rationalised to under 50% by 2018 to ENERGY STAR® power saving models. Supported by a Print Policy driving duplex and mono print as default with imperative to scan and move paper to digital to reduce resources and eliminate waste. Outcomes include reduced print volumes averaging 10% year on year, with estimated 270M fewer sheets of paper used since 2016 (the equivalent to 32,393 trees). Xerox Sustainability Calculator reports a 30% reduction in: Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Solid Waste.

Compared to 2018, 2023 annual electricity consumption and paper use have both reduced approximately 46%. The cumulative reduction over the 5 years is estimated to be 124.8M fewer sheets of paper resulting in saving the equivalent of 14,976 trees. Furthermore, cumulative greenhouse gas emissions avoidance estimated to be 654,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e as a result of reducing electricity, toner, and paper use each year. Contract ensures all removed devices governed via WEEE compliant processes. Used consumables managed through the Xerox Green World Alliance programme to recycle – minimising environmental impacts/maximising opportunities to positively contribute to the global circular economy agenda.

**Energy from Waste** (Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire /Moray Councils) Construction of an Energy from Waste plant working towards fulfilling Zero Waste Plan requirements with the facility now in commissioning and to be fully operational in 2023. Facility will provide a long-term solution for non-recyclable waste produced in the NE of Scotland and will generate significant, wider benefits e.g. low carbon electricity generation and heat for local residents as a sustainable means of reducing fuel poverty. The plant will process circa 150,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste pa. Modern combustion technology utilises flexible, future-proof, cutting-edge process control. High temperature combustion provides electricity and heat from production of steam. Project has potential to heat 10,000 homes otherwise reliant on fossil fuels. The facility will export around 12MW of electricity, and/or 20MW of heat as steam or hot water.

**Torry Heat Network** - Work commenced in March 2022 to construct first phase of a new District Heating System for the community of Torry. A Phase 2 Pre-Construction Services Agreement was entered into in December 2022. Heat will be supplied by the energy from waste plant to dispose of non-recyclable waste from Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils. Work comprises a heat distribution facility and installation of 5.7 miles of underground pipes. Anticipated 733 homes + 6 Public Buildings will be connected to the network. District Heating provides higher efficiencies and superior pollution control than localised boilers and aids reduction of carbon footprint. Heat networks significantly reduce demand for heat generated from fossil fuel sources. Phase 1 Project will deliver carbon savings of at least 32,700 tCO<sub>2</sub> over a 40-year period, thus making a significant contribution towards Aberdeen's climate positive aspirations. Calculations in progress re projected CO<sub>2</sub> savings aggregating Phase 1 and Phase 2. Project will provide warmer homes, lower heating bills and hence assist significantly with local and national priorities in terms of socio-economic deprivation and fuel poverty.

**Aberdeen Hydrogen Bus Projects** – Hydrogen buses only emit water vapour so reducing carbon emissions/air pollution compared to diesel equivalents. Hydrogen fuel cell electric double decker buses as part of the JIVE Project were a world first when launched in January 2021. The current fleet of 15 buses have saved over 1500 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e since becoming operational. This is considered to mark a significant step forward in improving the city's air quality for residents.

**Fuel Cell/Hydrogen/Electric Vehicles/Charge Points**– in the reporting period, two new EV rapid charge points procured (1 for Craibstone Park & Ride, 1 for Virginia Street Car Park) and 3 x fast charger (1 for Summer Street and 2 additional for Craibstone Park & Ride). These charge points capable of recharging 2 vehicles simultaneously - installed and awaiting final connections. Procured but not presently

installed/operational, 10 charge points (2 x rapid and 8 x fast) to be operational by Autumn 2023. 1 x rapid will replace an old fast charger at Kingswells Park and Ride, 1 x rapid will be a new charge point in the car park at South College Street, 1 x fast for Byron Square, 4 x fast additional chargers for Kingswells Park and Ride, 1 x fast a new charge point in the car park at South College Street, 1 x fast will replace another fast charger on Exploration Drive and 1 x fast will replace another fast charger at Chapel Street car park. Warranty, SIM and maintenance agreements on the chargers secured up to the end of June 2024 to ensure units remain connected to Chargeplace Scotland A maximum 2-hour maximum stay time has been introduced at rapid charge points to ensure fair, equitable use. Total charge points listed [here](#).

Partnership working with Aberdeenshire and Highland Councils, collaborative “**Pathfinder initiative**”. Initiative has allowed a consultant to be procured to explore alternative business models for future delivery of public EV charge points. Initiative may ultimately involve collaboration with partners across the private sector to further expand the EV network at pace, harnessing expertise/funding.

**Car Club**, retendered in 2021/22 with Enterprise car club chosen as the winning bidder. The contract commenced in June 2022. As with previous generation of the contract, the purpose of the contract is to:

- Operate a pay as you go on-street car club for members of the public/ organisations to use. This gives people an alternative to having to own their own car by giving them access to one. This can lead to reduced cars in the city and reduced parking pressures. Figures suggest that every car club car can remove up to 17 private cars from the road.
- Provide managed pool cars to Aberdeen City Council staff. There is a fleet of 10 zero-emission cars that can be booked exclusively for staff – 6 are hydrogen powered and 4 are battery EVs – and staff can then overspill into any of the other Enterprise car club cars in the city. Staff can also secure free personal membership to Enterprise so they can use the cars in their own time.
- Have the car club as part of the Development Management process in planning so that, as an alternative to parking provision, developers can provide membership for residents to the car club and, in some cases, fund whole vehicles. This reduces private car dependency. The Council can obtain these benefits through Developer Obligations within the planning function.

In addition, the previous contracted supplier, has maintained a presence in Aberdeen. This gives local people more choice and prevents one supplier having a monopoly (even if the contracted supplier does have access to the designated car club bays across the city)

In March 2022/ 23 the UK's first fuel cell electric Waste truck was launched. A purchase has been funded by the Council through the Interreg North West Europe HECTOR project and was jointly procured with HECTOR partners. The RCV has a tank capacity of 20kg of hydrogen and can drive over 120 miles on one tank saving over 25kg/ CO2e across each year. Fuel cell vehicles have no carbon emissions – emitting only heat and water vapour.

Utilising the Scottish Government Energy Transition Funding for delivering the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, the Council is also on course to retrofit over 35 large diesel vehicles to hydrogen over the next year. First published through the TPPL Framework and awarded to ULEMCo in December 22: [ULEMCo Awarded Contract for Largest Fleet-Wide Hydrogen Conversion - Hydrogen Solutions for Transport | ULEMCo Ltd](#). The programme is on-going with 4 vehicles, including a tractor, retrofitted by March 2023. Each retrofitted Hydrogen Injection Combustion Engine (H2ICEd) vehicle can save between 20-40% of carbon emissions compared their pure diesel equivalent.

**Aberdeen City Hydrogen Energy Storage (ACHES)** –a hydrogen production and refuelling station to the South of the City on Landykes Road, Cove, originally built as a demonstration to showcase the technology and allow demand to build in the region. The facility is owned by Aberdeen City Council and has been operational since 2017. The station uses electricity on a green tariff to produce hydrogen via electrolysis onsite.

In the reporting period, ACHES dispensed more than 1,715 kg of hydrogen over 845 refuelling events servicing both the Council fleet and public vehicles. Several tube trailers were also filled during this period enabling bus demonstration projects in Northern Ireland and Inverness to begin.

**Hydrogen Hub** – In March 2022, Aberdeen City Council and bp formed a joint venture called bp Aberdeen Hydrogen Energy Limited (bpAHEL). The partnership intends to enhance the hydrogen economy in Aberdeen city and the North East of Scotland by building the Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub, a scalable and sustainable green hydrogen production, storage, and distribution facility, powered by a new solar plant and additional renewable energy sources.

For more than ten years, Aberdeen has been at the forefront of hydrogen innovation, with the H2 Aberdeen initiative driving growth of a hydrogen economy and the adoption of hydrogen technologies within the region. The Aberdeen Hydrogen Hub project is now central to helping deliver the city's net-zero vision. By harnessing natural resources, a skilled workforce, and the industrial capacity of the North East of Scotland, the project seeks to help create a thriving new energy sector that builds upon the region's oil and gas heritage.

The project is designed to scale up in line with hydrogen market growth. Phase one targets production from 2025, delivering over 800 kg of green H2/day, sufficient to fuel at least 25 fuel cell electric buses and the Council's fleet of hydrogen vehicles. Additional capacity is designed to support private vehicle refuelling for consumers and fleets.

Future phases see production increase to meet the demands of road and other transport sectors, including rail, and marine. bp's floating offshore wind demonstrator project, part of INTOG, could increase power supply to enable expansion along with potential connection to other local renewable power sources. A final phase anticipates hydrogen for heat and net export – helping to deliver Aberdeen's vision to be a climate positive city at the heart of the global energy transition.

**National Frameworks** - via participation in User Intelligence Groups, the Council works in close collaboration with Scotland Excel (SXL) to improve sustainability credentials in the development of new national frameworks. Comprehensive sustainability test carried out by SXL for each new framework e.g. policies on managing waste, minimising carbon footprint, fair work, innovation and commitments to delivering community benefits explored and subject to robust contract/supplier management. Extensive use made of national frameworks. SXL Contracts Register lists each operative framework and contains a summary of sustainability considerations representing a **minimum** standard which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs" In any framework involving delivery of supplies, increasingly superior emissions class of vehicles/ willingness to work towards a particular standard during engagement promoted. Food related frameworks incorporate reduced packaging/waste and circular economy principles. Scottish Government Frameworks and Contracts cover a wide range of goods and services. Sustainability standards represent a **minimum** which can be enhanced through purchasing decisions made in "call offs." **Utilities Electricity** - Promoting greener power, Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates at fixed rates; range of Energy Efficiency Services as additional services and opportunities to sell energy back to the grid. Natural Gas – sustainable measures and energy performance guarantee option to ensure a range of energy conservation measures. Water – intelligent water management programme for reducing usage with associated reduction in CO2.

### **5c) Supporting information and best practice.**

**Provide any other relevant supporting information and any examples of best practice by the organisation in relation to procurement.**

In the reporting period, the Commercial and Procurement Shared Service (CPSS) continued to engage actively and positively in the net zero/sustainable procurement agenda at a local, regional and national level e.g., via working groups, User Intelligence Groups and statutory consultations. Options continue to be developed and challenged in cross-functional teams e.g. Climate Friendly criteria options and assessment of how impacts can be reliably monitored and reported upon.

Internally, CPSS continue to contribute to themed corporate climate groups. Activity feeds into the Climate Change Plan supporting enabling actions to integrate actions into systems and processes, build internal and supplier awareness, knowledge and capacity building of climate positive/circular economy principles.

In the reporting period, **four** specific commodity areas targeted for specific action to minimise the Council's carbon footprint in: i) Food ii) Building Maintenance Materials iii) Road Maintenance and iv) Office Materials. A pilot of two complementary systems underway looking for reliable and consistent measurement of change/effectiveness in these specific commodity areas and across other procurement activity

- CO2A – Scope 3 Emissions Calculations
- SustainIQ – Community Benefits, Environmental Outcome reporting

This activity will begin to set baselines and thereafter an auditable, transparent route to monitor the Council's journey, recording impacts using common language/metrics and support the creation of real time reporting via dashboards

The Council's Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy guides sustainable procurement at a strategic and operational level, contributing positively and progressively to duties and commitments under Scottish Climate commitments. A template Climate Clause evolved to encourage suppliers to explore the Edinburgh Science Net Zero Toolkit (<https://thenetzerotoolkit.org/about/>) as a free resource to support their own journeys to a net zero future. The reach of the toolkit amplified via the Supplier Development Programme (<https://www.sdpScotland.co.uk/>) Relationships with Edinburgh Science and the Supplier Development Programme deepened in the reporting period.

Significant community benefit outcomes were secured in the reporting period guided by the Council's Sustainable Procurement and Community Benefits Policy, **764** community benefit outcomes imposed or delivered during 2022/23 (including significant high quality job & apprenticeship opportunities underpinned by Fair Work considerations, 1970 hours of local community/3rd sector support imposed or volunteered by preferred bidders and encouragement of donations anticipated to benefit a significant number of local initiatives.) In regulated contracts, the community benefit and fair work criteria inclusion rate was 94.4% across 18 contracts.

Strategic and practical guidance covers key stages: identification of need, specification development, selection/award and contract management. Policy/guidance assists procurers to proactively address key aspects of the duties: mitigation (ensuring reduction in greenhouse gases/enhancing carbon storage), adaptation (e.g. flood prevention) and maximising added social, economic and environmental value in our procurements. A significant and increasing number of outcomes relate to "environmental measures" promoting the Council's leadership role in net zero transition. Community benefits continue to evolve and improve in close alignment to the Aberdeen City Council Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (LOIP) and National Performance Framework. Great care is taken to ensure that requirements do not inadvertently create bidder discrimination and bids evaluated fairly on a "like for like" basis.

Forward pipeline of procurements for FY2023-2024 reviewed opportunities to include climate friendly criteria identified. Projects reviewed on a continuous basis.

**Go Awards Scotland** - CPSS were finalists in several categories in a ceremony held in October 2022 and secured "highly commended" status in the "Best Net Zero Initiative" category for a submission relating to Hydrogen Hub.

**Effective Collaboration/Partnership Working** - CPSS has strengthened relationships with Edinburgh Science, the Supplier Development Programme, community planning partners, the local business community, local third sector interface organisations, Aberdeen Social Enterprise Network and Social Enterprise Scotland to raise awareness of and capability within the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector re sustainable procurement/community benefits/net zero. Approach ensures as far as possible, social value is aligned to community priorities. If social/economic value can be supported by the local 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, this allows increased scope for procurers and suppliers to address "environmental measures" and the net zero agenda.

**Sustainable Food Places Partnership (Granite City Good Food)** – Building on Aberdeen City securing recognition as a Silver, Sustainable Food Place in June 2022, CPSS continues to be involved in this local group. In partnership with other internal/external stakeholders, CPSS supported the procurement strand of requirements. The status recognises Granite City Good Food’s work to promote healthy, sustainable and local food to tackle some of today’s greatest social challenges, from food poverty and diet-related ill-health to using food as part of responses to the climate and nature emergency. The partnership has been a key voice in creating systems change to ensure food can be good for people, planet, and economy. Amongst the key projects within the city, the partnership supported the council in confirming its commitment to the Glasgow Declaration for Food. Partners include representatives from: Aberdeen City Council, NHS, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership and CFINE. The group advocates for change at national level, shares best practice and aspires to localise the Scottish Government’s aspirations to make Scotland a Good Food Nation; a Land of Food and Drink, not only in what we produce but in what we buy, serve and eat.

## SECTION 6 – VALIDATION AND DECLARATION

### **6a – Internal validation process.**

Representatives from the Council’s Climate and Sustainability Policy team collated the information used to populate the Climate Change Report template. The information was gathered from multiple service areas. It is expected that those service areas have provided accurate data and have gained verification of this by their senior management. The Climate Change Report is checked by the Climate and Sustainability Policy team that all areas have been completed, where reasonably practicable to do so.

Senior management have been asked to validate information provided by relevant Officers. The following information has been validated in this way.

- Adaptation
- Car club
- Trade waste
- Domestic waste
- Street Lighting
- Procurement
- Co-Wheels
- Travel
- Fleet
- Energy

Work is being carried out to identify areas for improvement in data collation for the Climate Change Report. The Climate Change Report 2022/23 is submitted to the Net Zero, Environment and Transport Committee for approval. During the committee reporting process consultation is undertaken.

### **6b – Peer validation process**

The Climate Change Report 2022/23 has not undergone peer validation due to time and resource constraints.

### **6c – External validation process**

The Climate Change Report 2022/23 has not undertaken any external validation due to time and resource constraints.

### **6d – No validation process**

Not applicable.

### **6e – Declaration**

*Dated and signed prior to submission.*