



REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON 10 MARCH 2020

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTING 2018/19

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the Council's 2018/19 Climate Change report.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (A) (49) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the formulation and review of Council wide policies, strategies, priorities and objectives in standards and levels of service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee consider and note:**
 - i) **the content of the reporting template set out in APPENDIX I; and**
 - ii) **the progress made in embedding climate change and sustainability within the Council's operations.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 requires Public Sector Bodies to publish annual climate change reports. This is intended to demonstrate compliance with Public Sector Bodies' climate change duties, to engage leaders and encourage action.
- 3.2 Moray Council has a duty under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to helping Scotland adapt to a changing climate and to act in a way it considers most sustainable. Moray Council submitted its first mandatory report in November 2016, covering the period 2015/16.
- 3.3 At a Special Meeting on 27 June 2019, Moray Council agreed a Motion recognising that climate change is an ecological emergency and that the Council would produce a climate change strategy with the goal that it is

carbon neutral by 2030 (paragraph 6 of the Minute refers). It is anticipated that the draft Climate Change Strategy will be considered by the Full Council on 8 April 2020.

4. **PERFORMANCE**

4.1 It should be noted that the report relates to the financial year 2018/19, prior to the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in June 2019.

4.2 A copy of the submitted report is contained in **APPENDIX I**.

Template

4.3 The reporting template covers the following mandatory topics:

- Profile
- Governance, management and strategy
- Corporate emissions
- Targets and projects
- Adaptation
- Validation

Profile

4.4 An initial overview of the Council's scale sets the context for the wider report.

Governance, management and strategy

4.5 No specific climate change plan or strategy document was in place during 2018/19. Each service set out actions to address climate change in their strategy documents and action plans. This included the Local Development Plan, Waste Strategy, Energy Policy, Fleet Management, Flood Risk Management, Procurement and Street Lighting and the Local Housing Strategy. It was therefore incumbent on each specialist service area, such as energy, waste management, flood risk, procurement, housing and planning, to ensure that their strategies were aligned to the priorities established in Moray 2027, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).

Emissions, targets and projects

4.6 Council priorities to address climate change included continuing to reduce energy consumption by 2% per annum, implementing a LED replacement street lighting programme, preparing a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) with Aberdeen City and Shire and Angus Council, working in partnership with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils to deliver a joint Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen and implementing climate change policies and supplementary guidance within Moray Local Plan 2015.

4.7 Overall carbon emissions reduced by 1,300 tonnes, relating predominantly to electricity and natural gas.

4.8 Carbon emissions from the Council's non-domestic buildings in 2018/19 were 21% lower than in 2017/18. Contributory factors which would have impacted on the above performance included:-

- Lower consumptions for all utilities except water
 - Reduced carbon intensity of grid electricity
 - Decreased heat requirement due to warmer weather
 - More street lighting provided from LED technology
- 4.9 In 2018/19, there was significant investment in energy reduction projects, including the continuing roll-out of LED street lighting, boiler insulation and the conversion of 8 sports halls to LED lighting. Related carbon savings across all projects exceeded 600 tonnes CO₂.

Adaptation

- 4.10 Climate change adaptation in Moray focused on flood risk. Flood risk management plans are prepared for watercourse catchments which detail flood risk areas and mitigation measures which factor in climate change. The Moray Local Development Plan 2015 promoted a masterplan approach to the development of large scale sites. Masterplans were supported by sustainability statements which included consideration of adaptation through the provision of green infrastructure, well designed sustainable urban drainage systems and resilience to flood risk.

Procurement

- 4.11 Sustainable procurement is recognised by both the Council and the Procurement Team as an important issue. The Council's Procurement Strategy 2019 – 2020 states that “the Council commits to improve our management practices to reduce our impact on the environment”.
- 4.12 During 2018/19, 13 tendered contracts included specific terms in respect of sustainable construction, greenhouse gases, energy efficiency, waste disposal that contribute to climate change duties.

Validation

- 4.13 The report was presented to the Climate Change Strategy working group on the 22 November 2019 and submitted to Scottish Ministers on 29 November 2019. With effect from 2019/20, it is expected that the content and submission of the Annual Public Sector Climate Change Report will be linked to the monitoring, governance and reporting arrangements agreed for the proposed Climate Change Strategy.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

This report demonstrates the Council's progress in contributing to Scotland's ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

The Council's Corporate Plan 2018 -2023 and 10-year LOIP make no specific reference to energy efficiency or carbon emissions reduction, with the exception of the Energy from Waste project.

The draft Corporate Plan 2019-24 identifies addressing climate change as a key Council priority.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Order 2015 introduced mandatory reporting on climate change.

(c) Financial/Risks Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of the reporting and the projects identified have already been agreed.

(d) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications as a result of the reporting and the projects identified have staff resources allocated.

(e) Property

There are no property implications.

(f) Equalities

There are no equalities implications.

(g) Consultations

The Acting Head of Housing and Property Services, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Head of Economic Growth & Development, the Design Manager, the Legal Services Manager, the Equal Opportunities Officer and Tracey Sutherland (Committee Services Officer). Comments received have been incorporated in this report as appropriate.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Council continues to undertake work to reduce its corporate emissions in terms of reducing energy consumption in buildings & infrastructure and improving the efficiency of its vehicle fleet.

6.2 The Council is committed to work in partnership with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils to deliver a joint Energy from Waste facility in Aberdeen. This will divert waste from landfill and recover energy in the form of heat to a district heating network and electricity to the grid. There has also been continued significant investment to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock with the installation of efficient heating systems and improved insulation.

6.3 In terms of climate change adaptation, flood risk management is an ongoing priority.

Author of Report: Ronnie Macdonald, Energy Officer
Background Papers: As referred to in this report.
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