

SCREENING REPORT

STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

Aberdeen City Council (ACC)

Title of the plan:

Aberdeen City Council Energy and Climate Plan

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The Council Energy and Climate Plan sets targets and a programme of activity for emission reduction and climate resilience, covering Council estates and operations.

The plan aims to support the work of the Council to meet Public Bodies Duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009:

- In the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of Scotland's emission targets
- To act in the way best calculated to help deliver any statutory climate change adaptation programme.
- Act sustainably.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Climate mitigation and adaptation

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

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STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

In May 2020 the Council approved a Council Energy and Climate Routemap making a commitment to take action on climate change and setting out a phased approach to developing a detailed Council Energy and Climate Plan for Council assets and operations in 2021.

The Council Energy and Climate Plan includes targets and a programme of activity for emission reduction and climate resilience, covering Council estates and operations. This work is informed by Council emissions data and the climate risks affecting the Council, identified in the Council's Climate Risk Assessment.

The plan will consider Council buildings, energy and water consumption, fleet, staff travel, street lighting and internal waste. It will consider resilience of Council buildings, use of blue green infrastructure on Council owned land. In addition, it will encompass actions relating to Council owned housing.

Policy context

- Part 4 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, sets climate change duties for public bodies which include:
 - contributing to the delivery of national emission targets;
 - adapting to help deliver the national adaptation programme;
 - acting sustainably; and
 - reporting annually on progress.
- The Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) Act 2019 has amended the greenhouse gas emissions targets under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and sets target to reduce Scotland's emissions of all greenhouse gases to net-zero by 2045 at the latest. With interim reduction targets of:
 - 56% below the baseline by 2020
 - 75% below the baseline by 2030
 - 90% below the baseline by 2040
- Climate Ready Scotland, the national adaptation programme includes outcomes for climate resilience in Scotland and addresses the risks for Scotland identified in the UK Climate Risk Assessment and through UK Climate Projections (UKCP18).
- The Climate Change (Duties of Public Bodies: Reporting Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020, which amends the type of information to be included in reports prepared annually by public bodies showing compliance with climate change duties imposed under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. This came into force in November 2020 and it requires public bodies to report annually from 2021/22:
 - where applicable, a target date for achieving zero direct emissions of greenhouse gases, or such other targets that demonstrate how the body is contributing to Scotland achieving its emissions reduction targets.
 - where applicable, any targets for reducing indirect emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - how the body aligns its spending plans and use of resources to contribute to reducing emissions and delivering its emissions reduction targets.
 - how the body will publish, or otherwise make available, its progress

towards achieving its emissions reduction targets.

- how the body is contributing to Scotland's Adaptation Programme.

Links with other plans

- Action under this Plan supports the delivery of outcomes under Aberdeen's Local Outcome Improvement Plan, specifically stretch outcome 14 – "Addressing climate change by reducing Aberdeen's carbon emissions and adapting to the impacts of our changing climate."
- The plan will sit within the context of wider city plans relating to energy, adaptation, transport and waste. Specifically, the plan sits in the context of the Net Zero Vision for Aberdeen; and supporting Strategic Infrastructure Plan.

A wider policy context has been considered in the development of the Council Energy and Climate Plan. This includes:

Additional Legislation

- Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definitions and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019
- The Energy Performance of Buildings (Scotland) Regulations 2008
- Transport (Scotland) Act 2019
- Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Planning (Scotland) Act 2019
- Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012

National plans and policies

- Scotland's Climate Change Plan (RPP3)
- Climate Ready Scotland, the Second Climate Adaptation Programme
- National Transport Strategy
- The Future of Energy in Scotland: Scottish Energy Strategy
- Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing

Regional plans and policies

- Regional Transport Strategy

Local plans, policies, strategies

- Local Housing Strategy
- Local Transport Strategy
- Strategic Infrastructure Plan
- Aberdeen Open Space Strategy
- Aberdeen Nature Conservation Strategy

<p>Description of the Plan:</p>	<p>The purpose of the Council Energy and Climate Plan is to set a Net Zero target and cover direct and indirect emissions for Aberdeen City Council assets and operations in addition it will integrate climate resilience actions for these areas.</p> <p>The plan will include high level commitments covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce CO2 emissions and other greenhouse gases • Support a reduction in fuel poverty • Contribute to actions to improve air quality and human health • Fostering and formalising collaborative partnerships • Engage with staff, improving skills and knowledge • Improve resilience of Council assets and operations. <p>As well as, a wide range of actions for a 5 year period, covering themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings: including energy efficiency, renewables, district heating • Mobility: transitioning fleet from fossil fuels, active and sustainable staff travel • Other operations: streetlighting upgrades, blue green infrastructure, internal waste minimisation and water management. • Leadership and governance: integrating climate change into Council process. • Awareness and behaviour change: building staff awareness and understanding.
<p>What are the key components of the plan?</p>	<p>Transition to Net Zero for Council assets and operations. Building climate resilience for Council assets and operations.</p>
<p>Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?</p>	<p>This plan seeks to improve the delivery of Council emission reduction and adaptation measures. This will be in consideration of other PPS such as the Building Performance Policy and the Local Housing Strategy which have both been through SEA.</p> <p>This plan is focused on Council assets and operations, though in doing so it is recognised it can make a small contribution to the delivery of a number of city strategic outcomes covering waste, air quality, local housing and local transport. Relevant city strategies for these areas have also been through SEA.</p> <p>SEA has also been completed for specific city PPS relevant to this plan, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powering Aberdeen – Sustainable Energy Action Plan. • Aberdeen Adapts: Climate Adaptation Framework. <p>The Plan can support the Council part in the delivery of actions to meet stretch outcome on addressing climate change, set out in the Aberdeen Local Outcome Improvement Plan.</p>
<p>In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan</p>	<p>Components covering buildings, mobility and other operations (streetlighting upgrades, blue green infrastructure, internal waste minimisation and water management).</p>

that are likely to require
screening:

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Box 10)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Buildings theme	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	<p>Proposed priorities for actions are concerned with improving energy efficiency, reducing energy demand and making a transition to clean energy to reduce emission from Council buildings and there is the potential for positive effects on climatic factors.</p> <p>In addition, increasing the resilience of buildings and using scope of influence to address emission reduction for Council housing stock.</p> <p>These actions would result in a positive effect in reducing the Council’s CO2 emissions. As well as a positive effect in terms of improving the fabric and condition of Council buildings to support climate resilience and maintain building lifespan.</p> <p>In turn these may have a positive</p>	<p>Effects on climatic factors are likely to be positive but are not considered to be significant in the city magnitude, contributing a minimal reduction to the city carbon footprint.</p> <p>Effects on water are likely to be positive but are not considered to be significant in the city magnitude.</p> <p>Effects on material assets are likely to be positive and are considered to be significant in the city magnitude.</p> <p>No significant direct effects to the environment and human health are anticipated.</p>

											<p>effect on material assets and cultural assets, although minimal in magnitude. It could also have a positive effect on human health ie reducing risk of damp and supporting a reduction in fuel poverty.</p> <p>Implementation of specific actions around clean energy infrastructure would be considered on a case by case basis.</p> <p>However, when the magnitude of actions are considered against the wider city context it is recognised that the positive effects will be minimal.</p>	
Mobility theme	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	<p>Proposed priorities for actions are concerned with a transition from fossil fuels for the Council's fleet vehicles and consideration of an integrated infrastructure to support charging and refuelling of these vehicles. Also covered are actions to promote active and sustainable staff travel.</p> <p>In magnitude, significant effects are unlikely on emissions reduction and adaptation measures (climatic factors).</p> <p>Effects on human health are likely to be positive through encouraging and promoting active travel and contributing to a wider actions to improve air quality. Though as these are focused on staff they are</p>	<p>Effects on climatic factors, air quality and human health are likely to be positive but are not considered to be significant in the city magnitude.</p> <p>No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.</p>

											not considered to be significant in the city context.	
Other operations theme	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	<p>Proposed priorities for actions are concerned with reducing emissions from street lighting will make a positive contribution to a reduction in the city carbon footprint, although this is unlikely to be significant (climatic factors).</p> <p>The development of blue green infrastructure initiatives on Council owned land, can also contribute to climatic factors, air and biodiversity although in scale these are not considered to be significant in the city context.</p> <p>Actions to minimise the Council's internal waste in line with the waste hierarchy and consider opportunities for actions in support of circular economy principles (material assets) and opportunities for water management (water) around council assets and to support Council services. Again while these actions will make a positive contribution to the Council they are not considered to be significant in the wider city context.</p>	<p>Effects on climatic factors, air, biodiversity, water and material assets are likely to be positive but are not considered to be significant in the city magnitude.</p> <p>No significant direct environmental effects are anticipated.</p>

STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING

Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:

(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

1(a) the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources - The Council Energy and Climate Plan is limited to the Council's own assets and operations, with consideration for Council housing. It sets a framework for projects in this context that is intended to influence and drive a cultural change within the council in relation to reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. Positive effects from implementing this PPS include a reduction in emissions and adaptation measures relevant to building fabric, reduction in water, waste/ circular economy actions. In addition, action to reduce emissions from fleet and transportation can contribute to wider improvement actions for air quality and the development of nature-based solutions. However, actions will be limited to Council assets, operations and Council housing. The effects are not considered to be significant in relation to the city as a whole.

1(b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans including those in a hierarchy - The Council Energy and Climate Plan is an internal document. It is anticipated it will influence some other internal PPS in relation to resource use and assets. Council housing development that takes place, within the life of this plan will have been considered in SEA processes relevant to the Local Housing Strategy and the Local Development Plan.

1(c) the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development - The plan is relevant to the integration of environmental considerations. It aims to have a positive effect on climatic factors promoting sustainable development for Council's own assets and operations and setting out actions to reduce carbon emissions and address climate adaptation, resource use, aspects of just transition, waste minimisation and share information on actions with relevant partners and stakeholders

1(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan - With measures to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, encourage the use of renewable energy sources and improve climate resilience of Council assets and operations the effects of the plan are likely to be positive. Measures in the plan will also include natural solutions in relation to Council owned assets and operations. A transition to low carbon fleet and measures to staff travel can contribute to an improvement in air quality. The plan will consider any environmental problems such as disruption to wildlife and habitats through potential developments including renewable energies for Council premises on a case by case basis.

1(e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment (for example, plan linked to waste management or water protection) The Council Energy and

Climate Plan is relevant to a number of EU Directives and their accompanying Acts and Regulations: Energy Performance of Buildings Directive – 2010/31/EU – which sets energy performance standards for buildings and the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU.

EU Directives, 93/116/EC, 2009/28/EC, 2003/30/EC and 2006/32/EC – setting conditions for fuel consumption in vehicles, promotion of renewable energy, biofuels in transportation and energy end use efficiency and services. The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC, on concepts related to waste management. Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC re water management.

2 (a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
This plan seeks to improve the delivery of Council emission reduction and adaptation measures and sets out actions covering the period 2021 -2026. This will be in consideration of other PPS, such as the Building Performance Policy; and the Local Housing Strategy. The plan aims to make a positive contribution to wider city plans to reduce emissions and address the long-term impacts of climate change.

2 (b) The cumulative nature of the effects - There will be a positive cumulative impact from a reduction in carbon emissions, contributing to wider city and national targets. The cumulative impact from flooding, will be taken into account in any flood risk measures implemented for Council buildings. There is the potential for wider cumulative effects through partnership action or the wider roll out of measures.

2 (c) Transboundary nature of the effects (i.e. environmental effects on other EU Member States) - Action to reduce carbon emissions have a global impact. The plan will progress a reduction in carbon emissions, contributing to wider city and national targets. The Council contribution to these targets is limited in the city context. There may also be some positive regional effects in areas such as procurement and in knowledge sharing.

2 (d) The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) - This plan is not likely to create any discernible risk to human health and the environment.

2 (e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) - This plan is limited to the extent of Aberdeen City Council assets and operations – as well as consideration for Council owned housing. Within that context the plan is likely to have positive effects, however in relation to the size of the geographic area the effect is likely to be minimal.

2 (f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to-

- (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;*
- (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or*
- (iii) intensive land-use.*

The plan will look at measures to improve the resilience of Council owned cultural heritage buildings and consider measures to improve the energy efficiency of these buildings, with consideration of historic character in any retrofit activities. These will be localised and small in the wider city context.

The plan will consider use of Council owned land to support mitigation and adaptation. No environmental quality standard or limit values are likely to be breached. Measures to support a reduction in fossil fuels from fleet and staff travel can contribute to an improvement in air quality.

2 (g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status- This PPS is not likely to affect any national or international designations, such as SACs.

In conclusion, this is an internal plan and limited in scope of influence. It is not deemed to have a significant impact on mitigation and adaptation in the city or regional context, either directly or indirectly. It is considered that most effects will be positive and that in the wider context, there are no significant environmental effects arising from this plan. Therefore, the Council has considered that a full SEA is not required.

When completed send to: SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

