

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 11 OCTOBER 2016

PUBLIC BODIES' CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES: ANGUS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND PLACE

ABSTRACT

This report gives an overview of Angus Council's compliance with its climate change duties, with measures to improve performance relating to sustainability and climate change.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the contents of this report in accordance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- (ii) agrees the content of the report for submission to the Scottish Government and notes the progress that directorates have made in embedding climate change and sustainability into their policy and operations.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our carbon footprint is reduced
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our nature and built environment is protected and enjoyed

3. BACKGROUND

As members will be aware, Angus Council has duties under Section 44 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland to adapt to a changing climate; and to act in the way that it considers most sustainable. The Act gave the Scottish Ministers powers to require public bodies to report on their compliance with these duties.

Since 2009, Angus Council (along with most other local authorities in Scotland) has reported annually and voluntarily on its progress in addressing climate change and sustainable development, through Scotland's Climate Change Declaration. Following three consecutive years of missing Scotland's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, the Scottish Government chose to use its powers to make annual reporting on climate change mandatory for around 150 "major players" in the public sector (this includes all local authorities). The first year of mandatory reporting covers the period 2015/16.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The report template covers the following mandatory topics: profile of reporting body; governance, management and strategy; emissions, targets and projects; adaptation; procurement; validation. Recommended topics relating to wider influence across the Council

area are: wider impact and influence on greenhouse gas emissions; other notable reportable activity.

The report is largely retrospective, scrutinising performance over the period 2015/16. In questions relating to future works, the report refers to exploratory work on an area wide, joined up approach to climate change called a Strategic Energy and Climate Action Plan.

Governance, management and strategy

Inclusion of carbon reduction as an objective in the Council's Single Outcome Agreement demonstrates high level commitment to addressing climate change. A comprehensive list of policy documents and action plans further shows how Services and officers are working to embed climate change consideration across the board. A Climate Change Action Tool workshop is planned for later in 2016, to scrutinise existing governance and management arrangements and identify any areas for development.

Emissions, targets and projects;

Angus Council is one of only a few Scottish local authorities that can demonstrate a steady and substantial reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from its built estate over time. This report widens that scope to include water, waste, staff travel, fleet and street lighting. This extended scope and the evolving field of carbon accountancy pose challenges in terms of the amount and complexity of data required. The overall picture, however, is of ambitious and progressive projects, with strands of Transforming Angus playing a key role.

Adaptation;

Adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. Angus Council has carried out two assessments of the impacts of severe weather events on life in its area. Recommendations from these reports included embedding consideration of climate change in corporate and community risk registers to ensure that all Services consider them.

Procurement;

Procurement is singled out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act due to its potential to contribute to the climate change duties and targets. A report was submitted to the Procurement Sounding Board at its meeting on 8 December 2015 which proposed a series of next steps to devise an Angus Sustainable Procurement Plan and self-assessment against the 'Flexible Framework

Validation;

A member of the Governance and Consultancy Unit has cross checked and validated the report against evidence and was satisfied by information supplied.

Recommended reporting on area wide issues;

Angus Council controls only a small percentage of greenhouse gas emissions across the whole of the Council area, however, it can indirectly support and encourage change by working with Community Planning Partners. This section notes that CO₂ emissions per capita have decreased by 28% between 2005 and 2014, due to changes in the national electricity mix, improved energy and fuel efficiency and changes to agricultural and industrial practices.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

8. CONSULTATION

The Strategic Directors of Children and Learning, Communities and Resources, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Corporate Improvement and Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix I: Public Bodies' Duties Report 2015/16