

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**PUBLIC BODIES' CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES: ANGUS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF HEAD OF HOUSING, REGULATORY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES,  
PLACE**

**ABSTRACT**

This report relates to the period 2016/17, giving an overview of Angus Council's compliance with its climate change duties, with measures to improve performance relating to sustainability and climate change.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

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 COUNCIL PLAN/LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN/LOCALITY PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) 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 2009 to contribute to reducing Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions; to contribute to helping Scotland 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, using a standardised on-line report template to ensure consistency between bodies and over time. Angus Council submitted its first mandatory report in November 2016, covering 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 2016/17. The overall picture is positive, with strong and sustained reduction in greenhouse gases, also demonstrating action to strengthen governance in relation to climate change and embed it in policy. Sustainable procurement compares less favourably, with more corporate commitment and resource required to reach a similarly high standard.

A summary of seven key areas scrutinised in the report is provided below, outlining the main strengths and weaknesses:

#### *Profile*

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

#### *Governance, management and strategy*

This section includes an outline of how the new Climate Change Member Officer Group and three supporting working groups have been established to ensure that climate change is embedded in the Council's operations and systems at every level. 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. Also covered are findings of a corporate self-assessment which examined how prepared Angus Council was to meet national climate change targets for 2020, identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

#### *Emissions, targets and projects;*

Since the baseline year of 2010/11, Angus Council's carbon footprint from buildings, water and street lighting has decreased by about 19% with a further 5% fall over the last 12 months. Street lighting alone saw its energy use drop by 16% as a result of low energy technology and improved controls systems. Council fleet used 15% less fuel and staff travel continued its steady decline with around 42,000 fewer miles than the previous years. This is a complex picture, reflecting relatively mild weather, the initial impacts of changes to estate, programmes of efficiency, technological improvements and behaviour change.

#### *Adaptation;*

Adaptation seeks to lower the risks posed by the consequences of climatic changes. Action in 2016/17 included policy work such as the Local Development Plan's policies on managing flood risk and partnership working to mitigate against coastal, river and estuary flood management. Community resilience events were run in Forfar and a number of schools with continued support and awareness raising for businesses. The main opportunity for further development remains in producing a strategic approach to adaptation, embedding adaptation in corporate and community risk registers.

#### *Procurement;*

Sustainable procurement is recognised by both the Council and the Procurement Team as an important issue. A Sustainable Procurement Working Group was established in 2016, however, due to staff resources and other Service priority changes, plans to develop a Sustainable Procurement Plan have not been taken forward over the report period.

#### *Validation;*

The report has been scrutinised by the Climate Change Member Officer Group and supporting working groups on Carbon Emissions, Adaptation and Sustainability.

#### *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 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita have decreased by 24% between 2005 and 2015, due to changes in the national electricity mix, improved energy and fuel efficiency and changes to agricultural and industrial practices. In this section, work with the wider community such as work on fuel poverty, the Smarter Choices Smarter Places active travel programme, local energy generation and the work of Angus Environment Trust are highlighted.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **8. CONSULTATION**

The Strategic Directors of People and Place, 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:

Appendix1:             Public Bodies' Duties Report 2016/17