

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**4 NOVEMBER 2021**

**SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (SECAP) & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)**

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**ABSTRACT**

This report updates the Council on the development of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for Angus and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and recommends that these documents be approved and adopted as Angus Council policy documents.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) approves the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and adopts these as policy documents for Angus Council.
- (ii) approves the establishment of a SECAP Steering Group to replace the Climate Change Member Officer Working Group (MOG) as well as a Community Climate Forum to work in partnership with local communities
- (iii) Agree Angus Council's Priority Action List to be implemented

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL PLAN**

- 2.1 This report contributes to the outcomes contained within the Angus Council Plan, which focus on Economy, People, Place and Our Council.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Reference is made to Item 8 Report No 242/20 of the minute of meeting of the Communities Committee of 29 September 2020, which provided an update on the SECAP.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The overall objective of the SECAP is to support Angus in its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management and the transition to a low-carbon economy. The SECAP will cover the entire county and provide a roadmap demonstrating how Angus can meet its climate commitments. The SECAP will concentrate on measures to reduce Green House Gas emissions, potential adaptation actions in response to the impacts of climate change and measures to provide sustainable, affordable and secure access to energy. ([SECAP](#))
- 4.2 A Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) based on the previous North East Scotland Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Climate Change Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment (RVA) forms part of the evidence base for the SECAP.
- 4.3 The SECAP sets out a series of concrete, deliverable actions with clear timelines and responsibilities and will be arranged according to 6 key sectors including Buildings; Energy; Transport; Land Use & Forestry; Agriculture & Food and Waste, as well as Governance and Process actions.
- 4.4 Following approval by the Climate Change MOG in October 2019 a quick quote procurement exercise was carried out and consultants Urban Foresight were appointed in March 2020, to develop and produce the SECAP and associated documents.

- 4.5 The Angus Council SECAP provides a long list of the potential activities that could be delivered to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change. Urban Foresight have also produced a Priority Action Plan which has been designed to enable Angus Council to implement the SECAP with a shorter, more actionable list of 13 priority projects across most of the original SECAP themes.

This shortlist of priority projects has been informed in consultation with key stakeholders within Angus Council, combined with learnings from best practice elsewhere.

These project activities have been specifically prioritised to build and add value to existing council plans (across all departments), by filling delivery gaps and joining-up resources to support Angus Council commitments to sustainable development, environmental management and a low carbon economy. ([Priority Action Plan](#))

## **5.0 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)**

- 5.1 An initial SEA Screening Report was submitted to the SEA Gateway on the 20th October 2020 and comments from the Consultation Authorities were received on the 9th November 2020. A full Scoping Report was then submitted to the SEA Gateway on the 27th July 2021 and comments from the Consultation Authorities were received on the 31st August 2021. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Environmental Report and have influenced the preparation of the SECAP. ([SEA](#))

## **6. PROPOSALS / GOVERNANCE**

- 6.1 The SECAP requires good governance to ensure effective delivery. Central to this approach is the establishment of a SECAP Steering Group within Angus Council. This will be an evolution of the Climate Change Member Officers Group (MOG) and the three Working Groups (Carbon Emissions, Adaptation and Sustainability) which are currently in place within Angus Council. Members will recall that Report 285/21 approved by Angus Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 agreed the appointment of a SECAP coordinator in order to ensure delivery of the actions contained in the SECAP for 23 months.
- 6.2 Until appointment of the SECAP coordinator, it is proposed that the Climate Change Member Officer Groups and Working Groups continue to work together but without the requirements for any further meetings to reduce resource pressures. Officers will continue to share information between the groups and will provide any update to members as required.
- 6.3 Also to be established is a Community Climate Forum in line with the stated principles of climate action being delivered in close partnership with local communities and being joined-up and integrated. The high-level terms of reference for the Community Climate Forum will allow for the SECAP Coordinator to facilitate engagement around climate action with a broad range of interested parties throughout Angus and to advise the SECAP Steering Group in relation to the SECAP and climate action.

## **7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- 7.1 In line with the principles of working in close partnership with community groups, and integrated working and co-operation, input was sought from a variety of stakeholders in the development of the SECAP. Key stakeholders included representatives from the council, community groups, businesses and third sector organisations.
- 7.2 Due to the limitations imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, interviews were held virtually, bringing together, wherever possible, as many people as possible in a single interview to share ideas and gain new perspectives. The information gained from these interviews played a crucial part in the development of the SECAP and the actions contained within it.
- 7.3 Key stakeholders included Sustainable Kirriemuir, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Circular Tayside, the Cairngorms National Park Authority, the National Farmers Union, Zero Waste Scotland, River South Esk Catchment Partnership and Friends of the Earth Tayside.
- 7.4 The SECAP, SEA and Priority Action Plan will be hosted on Angus Council website ([www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)). These documents and the actions within the SECAP will be reviewed regularly. A full review of the actions will take place every two years to monitor progress and identify remedial actions, or new actions, that need to occur in order to achieve targets. This will ensure that the SECAP

fully considers and reflects changes to technology, market conditions and environmental concerns. In addition to the full review bi-annual updates will be presented to the Angus Community Planning Partnership with progress reported in their Annual Performance Report.

7.5 Members of the public, community and organisations are encouraged to become part of the Community Climate Forum and be part of the SECAP going forward as identified in para 6.3.

7.6 The SECAP is an evolving document as climate challenges and opportunities emerge therefore engagement with communities will be ongoing throughout the coming years to ensure the protection of the environment.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The financial implications for the SECAP Coordinator were identified with in Report 285/21 approved by Angus Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## **9. CONSULTATION**

9.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive, Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No 242/20 - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) – UPDATE – 29 September 2020
- Report No 285/21 - Budget Strategy Update and Use of Covid-19 Funding – 9 September 2021

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