

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**8 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**ANGUS COUNCIL TRANSITION TO NET ZERO ACTION PLAN: 2022 TO 2030**

**REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030 is to ensure Angus Council meet the 2030 Scottish Government interim emissions reduction target of a 75% reduction in emissions, enroute to the Net Zero target by 2045. From the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2020/21, Angus Council reduced its emissions by 52.5%. Going forward to 2030, Angus Council must reduce its operational emissions by 5% each year to meet the 75% reduction target.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) approves the Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030 and adopts this as policy for Angus Council.
- (ii) approves the carbon emission reduction targets within the document.
- (iii) agree the projects and initiatives within the Action Plan noting that those which cannot be met from existing budgets will need to secure funding either through the Council's annual budget setting process or from external funding to enable them to go ahead.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN**

- 2.1 The Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030 contributes to the following place priorities in the Angus Council Plan: we want our communities to be strong, resilient, and led by citizens and continue to reduce the council's carbon footprint with the aim of reducing our net carbon emissions to zero by 2045.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Climate Change mitigation and adaptation has been part of Angus Council's activities for over 15 years:
  - In February 2007, Angus Council signed Scotland's Climate Change Declaration.
  - In September 2019, Angus Council declared a Climate Emergency.
  - In March 2020, Angus Council committed to a regional Net Zero carbon status by the year 2045.
- 3.2 Angus Council has a specific strategic aim of reducing the impact of Climate Change by being a major contributor to achieving Scotland's National Climate Change goals, and leaders in clean growth, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.
- 3.3 Significant reductions have already been achieved from the base year of 2012/13 to the end of the financial year 2020/21. Angus Council reduced its emissions by 52.5%. Further action is required immediately to ensure Angus Council achieves its Climate Change strategic aim and becomes Net Zero by 2045.
- 3.4 Going forward to 2030, Angus Council must reduce its operational emissions by 5% each year to meet the 75% reduction target. The key themes identified below, will be used to drive emission reductions within key operational areas to meet the 2030 interim emissions reduction target:

- Leadership, Governance & Procurement
- Buildings, Energy & Infrastructure
- Waste, Recycling & Circular Economy
- Fleet & Business Travel
- Land Use Adaptation

3.5 The Action Plan identifies emissions reduction projects and initiatives within key areas of Angus Council's operations. These are prioritised up to 2030, within available resources, to reduce Angus Council's impact on Climate Change by transitioning to Net Zero by 2045. The Action Plan is a live document; it will evolve as technologies emerge and mature, and as new techniques and practices develop. It will also evolve to reflect the Council's financial position and the resources available directly or through external funding which is secured.

3.6 The progress of the Action Plans and Angus Council's Transition to Net Zero will be reviewed and reported annually in November (2023 onwards), alongside the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Report. A corporate 'Transition to Net Zero' working group has been set up to monitor the progress of the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan throughout the year. The working group consists of representatives from teams who have contributed to the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan and elected members.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are likely to be significant financial implications for the Council arising from the Action Plan but many of the planned actions can either be managed within existing staffing and budgets or have been specifically allowed for in the Council's budget plans e.g. the Monifieth Learning Campus to be built to Passivhaus standards. Some actions will require more work and assessment to quantify the financial implications.

4.2 The Council is being asked to agree the projects and initiatives within the Action Plan noting that those which cannot be met from existing budgets will need to secure funding either through the Council's annual budget setting process or from external funding to enable them to go ahead. Pressures on the Council's revenue and capital budgets are likely to make it challenging to find funds for those actions not currently budgeted for but these challenges will need to be weighed against the implications of not meeting the legislative targets set.

4.3 Grant funding from Governments and other agencies, borrowing and council funds will all have a part to play in enabling Angus Council to successfully meet its emissions reduction target of 75% by 2030.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The following Services were consulted during the creation of the Angus Council Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030: Digital Enablement & IT, Environmental Services, Legal & Democratic, Planning & Sustainable Growth, Roads & Transportation and Strategic Policy, Transformation & Public Sector Reform (Governance & Change and Internal Audit).

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed – see Appendix 2

**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 1: Angus Council – Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030.

Appendix 2: Angus Council – Transition to Net Zero Action Plan 2022 to 2030 EIA.