

Appendix 1: Overview and Detailed Summary of Projects

Project Name	Weighted Assessment Score	Amount Requested	Total Project Cost	Amount Recd for Approval	Panel Recommendation
Biodiversity Projects					
Angus Coastal Swifts Project – Montrose to Monifieth	2.4	43,000	43,000	25,000	Part Fund
Landuse and Nature Based Solutions Project Officer Angus	2.95	67,850	176,230	67,850	Approve
Angus Habitat Mapping - Phase 1	2.95	50,000	90,500	50,000	Approve
Downie Moor Carbon Storage & Habitat Restoration Feasibility and Design	2.6	24,000	30,000	24,000	Approve
Local Nature Conservation Sites Enhancement – Grant Scheme	2.4	30,000	30,000	0	Reject
Angus Climate Forum – Community Biodiversity Engagement	1.8	20,000	20,000	0	Reject
Climate Change / Net Zero Projects					
LED Lighting Installations in Schools (5 Schools)	2.6	569,500	569,500*	108,500	Part Fund
Angus Rural Mobility Hub Fleet Decarbonisation Support	2.5	400,000	400,000	0	Reject
Air Source Heat Pump Design – Rosemount Primary School	2.55	45,000	45,000	45,000	Approve
Improved Recycling at Secondary Schools	1.95	14,000	14,000	0	Reject
Sustainable Food / Good Food Nation Staff Resource	1.8	181,522	181,522	0	Reject
Angus Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	3.1	40,000	50,000	40,000	Approve
Road to Net Zero Study for the Non-Housing Building Estate	3.5	150,000	150,000	150,000	Approve
Learning for Sustainability Coordinator	3.8	65,000	65,000	65,000	Approve
Climate Resilience Grants	3.15	50,000	240,000*(tbc)	50,000	Approve

Summary and Recommendations Report

Biodiversity Projects

Project Name:	Angus Coastal Swifts Project – Saving our swifts from Montrose to Monifieth
Funding Request (£)	£43,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Tayside Swifts Interest Group has undertaken a wide range of projects in the past including in Kirriemuir and Forfar but has yet to focus on the coastal towns in Angus – and to create a future legacy for widening the project to encompass communities and volunteers.</p> <p>This proposal is for a swift nest conservation project from Montrose to Monifieth involving council staff, local communities, and volunteers.</p> <p>The project will involve the installation of 100 woodcrete nestboxes and a further 10 triple nest boxes at a cost of £11,500, equipment hire for installation £4,500, consultancy support to volunteers to progress the project £15,000 (5 towns), publicity £4,000 and interpretation boards £8,000.</p> <p>Delivery over a 2-year period.</p>	
Panel Score: 2.4	

Panel Commentary: The Tayside Biodiversity Partnership has a proven record of working with Angus Council to deliver strategic priorities and largescale projects that benefit communities and local priority species. The project would help to expand the existing swifts initiative to new areas, raise awareness and upskill volunteers.

There was some discussion around the potential ongoing maintenance of interpretation panels so suggested this element be removed. There was also discussion around the number of boxes and therefore suggested that this be reduced to 3 coastal towns rather than 5.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in Part. Inland Angus settlements have previously hosted projects via a range of funding streams. A landscape scale project will enable conservation activity on a notable scale on the Angus Coast.

Project Name:	Land use & Nature-based Solutions Project Officer Angus
Funding Request (£)	£67,850
% of Total Project Cost	38%
<p>The River South Esk Catchment Partnership has had a part time project & strategic coordinator since 2008. The availability of environmental project funding has never been higher, to maximise opportunities and to ensure funds are secure for project delivery a further member of staff is required. Opportunities to engage with landowners such as farmers and estates will be maximised by being housed within the Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust rather than within Angus Council.</p> <p>The role would deliver on the ground climate, biodiversity and nature network and restoration focused workstreams. In particular, the post will further mainstream climate issues in the Angus land use community and will support the delivery of Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-26 themes such as farmland and upland habitats where the greatest delivery challenges lie.</p> <p>The Proposal is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1x project officer post for 2 yrs. ▪ Contract: Full-time ▪ Duration: Fixed term 23 months (2 yrs.) – with potential for extension. ▪ Salary: Circa £30-35K p.a. 	

<p>▪ Location: Flexible although onsite work in Angus will be carried out on a regular basis. The Esk Rivers and Fisheries Trust main office is Kinnaird, Brechin and will be the main base.</p> <p>▪</p> <p>If successful, the recruitment process would begin immediately. Housed within the ERFT and managed by the Trust Director on a day-to-day basis. A project board would outline the officers' objectives and monitor progress through a two-year workplan. The project board would comprise of the ERFT, Angus Council Environment & Climate Change Team, RSECP and CNPA.</p> <p>Match Funding Cairngorms National Park Authority cash contribution = £60,000 ERFT – in-kind housing etc. = £48,380.00</p>	
Panel Score: 2.95	

Panel Commentary: Unique opportunity to work with partners to deliver land use partnership projects across angus. The post will deliver multiple climate, biodiversity and resilience projects.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. High level of match funding available from Cairngorms National Park Authority and in-kind management provision from Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust enables maximum spend to save.

Project Name:	Downie Moor Carbon Storage & Habitat Restoration: Feasibility and Design
Funding Request (£)	£24,000
% of Total Project Cost	80%

Downie Moor is an area of land of approximately 60ha owned and managed by Angus Council, located 7.8km northwest of Carnoustie and 9.5km southeast of Forfar. The site management is currently for native woodland however the site is not viable for commercial forestry as it is too wet and inaccessible. Following wind blow from Storm Arwen in 2021, there is opportunity to reconsider management plans at Downie Moor to ensure future management is sympathetic to the habitats present and maximises benefits for biodiversity and climate change.

Downie Moor is not currently being managed to its full potential, and there is an opportunity to capitalise on current funding streams available for nature restoration works to make the site an example of good practice; demonstrating how nature-based solutions can reverse biodiversity loss and help to address climate change, potentially being able to offset an amount of Angus Council carbon emissions.

The feasibility study and design will be solely delivered by an external consultant. It is anticipated this work will take one year to complete.

Carrying out a comprehensive Carbon Storage and Habitat Restoration feasibility study and design is the first phase of restoring the habitat at Downie Moor. Commissioning the study itself will provide the following benefits:

Focusing funds that may be available to Angus Council through future allocations of the Nature Restoration Fund, or other funding streams, to maximise the outputs of any restoration project for the benefit of biodiversity and to mitigate climate change. This will capitalise on the opportunity for funding for restoration work on Angus Council managed land. Habitat restoration delivered as a result of the study has the potential to provide the following benefits:

1) Restored habitat could contribute to carbon offsetting by restoring a natural asset. Due to the nature of the site in question, there is great potential for its role as a 'carbon sink' which could provide a future financial benefit through the UK Emissions Trading Scheme or to help balance against unavoidable emissions created within the running of Angus Council.

2) Restored habitat at Downie Moor could help mitigate the effects of climate change and pollution at a neighboring Angus Council owned site: Crombie Country Park. The park is managed by ANGUSalive and any income generated relies upon the habitat being healthy in order to attract visitors.

Match funding totaling £6,000 provided by:
 Angus Council Direct Award Nature Restoration Fund 2023/24 allocation 15% = £4,500
 Environment and Climate Change Team budget 5% = £1,500

Panel Score: 2.6

Panel Commentary: A novel approach to delivering multiple climate and biodiversity benefits on Angus Council owned semi natural land. Flood storage and carbon sequestration can deliver biodiversity benefits, contribute to the wider nature network and could offset Angus Council corporate emissions.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. Match funding maximises the impact of the fund. Unique approach to Angus Council owned land management.

Project Name:	Angus Habitat Mapping – First phase
Funding Request (£)	£50,000
% of Total Project Cost	55%
<p>The Angus Habitat Mapping Project will provide baseline data in addition to expediting the development of a meaningful Nature Network Connectivity Map. This is fundamental for the development and delivery of projects which will contribute to Angus Council strategies relating to both Climate Change and Biodiversity.</p> <p>It is anticipated the first phase of this project will take three years to complete: December 2026. Funds will be committed by the appointment of a consultant before ending financial year 2023/24 who will undertake the habitat mapping supported by an expert panel.</p> <p>Total project cost: £90,500 Requested funding: 55% total project cost = £49,775 Match funding: 45% total project cost = £40,725</p>	
Panel Score: 2.95	

Panel Commentary: Project outputs have the potential to benefit multiple services and deliver strategic and community benefit. Match funding increases impact of award from this fund.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. Critical piece of work to deliver multiple long term Angus Council and Angus wide strategy and projects.

Project Name:	Local Nature Conservation Sites Enhancement – Grant Scheme
Funding Request (£)	£30,000
% of Total Project Cost	100 %
<p>Angus Council designated 28 Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) in November 2023. LNCS are areas of land recognised for their biodiversity or geodiversity value.</p> <p>Angus Council underwent an extensive process of identifying and designating sites. These were then assessed on their merit to meet criteria set out by NatureScot which are species diversity and rarity, habitat diversity and rarity, the extent of the site in local context, and connectivity to other areas of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Many of the sites identified have thrive and exist due to their current management. Some have been identified as in need of intervention to retain their biological interest. This project aims to facilitate landowner management that will benefit the sites and potential buffer areas.</p>	
Panel Score: 2.4	

Panel Commentary: A unique opportunity to work with Angus land managers in proactively safeguarding some of the most important ecological sites in Angus. The project contributes to arrange of strategies and Angus Council's statutory biodiversity duty.

Recommendations and Reasons: Reject. Whilst the grant scheme will be an important tool to help protect and enhancing some of Angus's most biodiverse sites there is significant resource required to implement.

Project Name:	Angus Climate Forum – Community Biodiversity Engagement Projects
Funding Request (£)	£20,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>Angus Climate Hub, is a community organisation which aims to raise awareness of climate change within Angus along with supporting community individuals/groups to work together, building connections and sharing resources.</p> <p>The Angus Climate Hub aims are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share skills, ideas and resources, between community groups. • Support and develop community led climate action across Angus. • Support communities to contribute to local, regional and National decision making. • Support understanding of climate change and its direct impact on existing inequalities. <p>Angus Climate Hub supports community projects which aim to improve sustainability, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate climate change impacts, increase community resilience, and promote climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Funding will allow further project delivery focused on biodiversity led by communities, will raise awareness of climate change, improve biodiversity and increase community resilience to the impacts of a changing climate within Angus.</p>	
Panel Score: 1.8	

Panel Commentary: Angus Climate Forum is based on an effective partnership working model being adopted nationally to deliver community led climate benefits. A focus on biodiversity and climate in Angus will contribute to the delivery of Tayside Local Biodiversity Action Plan aims.

Recommendations and Reasons: Reject. Whilst there is considerable value in undertaking events and supporting community ownership of climate change projects in Angus fulfills many Angus Council strategic objectives it provides less value in terms of delivery.

Climate Change / Net Zero Projects

Project Name:	LED Lighting Installations
Funding Request (£)	£569,500
%of total project cost	100%* (SALIX loans could be used to support)
Brief Project Description:	
<p>LED lighting is currently the most efficient type of lighting available. Depending on the type of light fittings being replaced, energy and carbon savings of 20-50% could be achieved.</p> <p>Option to part fund through Salix Loan funding but still has to be paid back and therefore minimises the savings to the council's energy budget until the loan is paid back. Up to £300k in loans is available.</p> <p>This project proposal involves the design and installation of new LED lighting systems to the following schools which will significantly reduce their carbon footprint, helping towards the Councils Net Zero carbon emission targets set out in the Transition to Net Zero Action Plan. Separate applications were submitted for each school however these have been amalgamated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbroath Academy (Whole) - £250k • Arbroath High School (Phase 2, Ground and First Floor) - £175k • Carnoustie High School Retained Facility Phase 2 - £25.5k • Inverbrothock Primary School Arbroath (whole) - £77k • Inverkeilor Primary School (whole) - £6k 	
Panel Score: 2.6	

Panel Commentary: The project delivers a clear spend to save and underpins elements our transition to net zero action plan. This is a large sum therefore the panel felt that we only direct to some schools.

Recommendation and Reasons: Fund in part.

Project Name:	Angus Rural Mobility Hub – Fleet Decarbonisation Support Programme
Funding Request (£)	£400,000
% of Total Project Cost	66%
<p>The mission of the Angus Rural Mobility Hub (ARMH) in Brechin is to accelerate the transition to a lower-carbon rural economy. It will act as a driving force to decarbonise the strategic transport network across the northeast of Scotland, support economic growth in low-carbon sectors, and support Angus' reputation as a great place to live and work.</p> <p>One of the key barriers to fleet decarbonisation is awareness and confidence amongst firms. In order to support wider decarbonisation beyond the ARMH, it is proposed through the Fleet Decarbonisation Programme, that ARMH will incorporate technical assistance to firms interested in their options around decarbonisation.</p> <p>This proposal is to procure the Programme out to an organisation with experience providing advice to businesses on electrification and decarbonisation of fleets. This will involve a programme of expertise which offers firms a tailored report setting out their clean refueling options, with costings and practical steps to take. This will look at options deriving from biogas, electricity and hydrogen in a fuel agnostic way, offering support from hard infrastructure irrespective of fuel. This will be offered in the knowledge that clean refueling supply and services can be obtained at ARMH, giving the confidence to businesses of guaranteed supply.</p> <p>The Fleet Decarbonisation Programme is revenue cost budgeted at £600,000 for the 3 year period. This breaks down to £100,000 per year for the provision of advice to businesses on electrification and decarbonization of fleets and £100,000 per year to provide grant support for businesses to enable the transition of their fleet to cleaner fuels and deliver the outlined benefits to the area.</p>	
Panel Score: 2.5	

Panel Commentary: Strong links to the Tay Cities Deal and support of implementation of the Rural Mobility Hub, however benefits to Angus Council were less tangible. The panel felt that £100k of the total requested could potentially be funded.

Recommendations and Reasons: Reject.

Project Name:	Angus Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
Funding Request (£)	£40,000
% of Total Project Cost	80%
<p>Angus Council works with neighbouring local authorities on a range of climate and biodiversity topics. This includes sharing good practice and cross boundary project work. An opportunity has arisen to work with Dundee City Council and Peth & Kinross Councils with support from Adaptation Scotland to develop a regional 'Tayside Adapts' approach to Climate Change.</p> <p>To date, Angus Council has not undertaken a dedicated stand-alone Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment. The Angus Sustainability & Climate Action Plan contains a risk and vulnerability assessment of its actions and previously two Local Climate Impact Profiles were carried out although these are now more than a decade old. Funded by Adaptation Scotland these were carried out in the early days of adaptation assessment.</p> <p>Proposed outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritised list of impacts with recommended adaptation options for the highest priority impacts, along with viable co-benefits of recommended options. ▪ Adaptation Risk and Opportunity Assessment Report, comprising- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of past extreme events ▪ Cost of flooding ▪ Register of risks and prioritised adaptation options for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Council Operations ii. Infrastructure and the built environment iii. Local communities including their health and wellbeing iv. Natural Environment – including terrestrial and aquatic v. Economy, Industry and Business 	
Panel Score: 3.1	

Panel Commentary: The project has the potential to contribute to several statutory workstreams within Angus Council. Data collected through the delivery of the project can advise local adaptation resilience plans and long term strategy.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. A regional approach to climate change adaptation will provide most impact for Angus. Working at pace with neighbouring local authorities is critical.

Project Name:	Air Source Heat Pump Design – Rosemount Primary School
Funding Request (£)	£45,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>There needs to be significant changes in the approach to how we provide heating and hot water to our buildings if we are to meet Net-Zero by 2045. It is relatively simple to consider alternative fuel sources or technology in a new-build project where alternative methods can be designed from the outset. But the council estate will not be fully replaced by 2045, therefore significant changes will require to be made to our existing buildings.</p> <p>This proposed project is to carry out a study regarding the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) to an existing building. The proposed school to carry out this study is Rosemount Primary School, Montrose as the building has a number of benefits including the presence of underfloor heating</p>	

which lends itself to an ASHP installation due to the lower water temperatures which make ASHP more efficient. The knowledge gained from this project will enable more ASHP projects to be identified to progress the decarbonisation of the council's property estate as per the Councils Transition to Net Zero Action Plan.	
Panel Score: 2.55	

Panel Commentary: A large scale project that will identify Angus wide opportunities to reduce emissions from Angus Council building stock. External support is critical in identifying opportunities to be taken forward by Angus Council staff.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. Fulfillment of this project will support outputs from the Road to Net Zero Study for the Council's non-housing Building Estate project if approved.

Project Name:	Improved recycling at secondary schools
Funding Request (£)	£14,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>This proposal to provide bins for recycling in all secondary school classrooms in order to capture drinks containers and paper used by schoolchildren. The recycling will allow the materials to be used as a resource, instead of being incinerated as non-recyclable waste, which will in turn reduce carbon emissions as required by the Councils Transition to Net Zero Action Plan. There is also the creation of the culture that recycling is something you should do as a matter of course.</p>	
Panel Score: 1.95	

Panel Commentary: Waste reduction is a key theme in Angus Council's Net Zero ambitions. The project can influence behavior change with an often hard to reach audience. The panel however felt that there were other initiatives that could prove better value.

Recommendations and Reasons: Reject.

Project Name:	Angus Sustainable Food
Funding Request (£)	£181,522
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>"The Scottish Government have a vision that by 2025 Scotland will be "a Good Food Nation", where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day."</p> <p>The project will enable the delivery the Good Food Nation Act, introduced in response to growing concerns about food security, environmental sustainability, and public health. The main goal of the Good Food Act is to establish a comprehensive framework that encourages the production, distribution, and consumption of nutritious and ethically produced food. It seeks to support local farmers, minimize food waste, and ensure fair wages and working conditions for food industry workers.</p> <p>Additionally, the act aims to reduce the carbon footprint associated with food production, thereby mitigating the impacts of climate change and promoting environmental conservation. The key objective of this project is to provide internal and external resources to develop an Angus Food Partnership to effectively deliver on the statutory duties laid out in the Good Food Nation Act.</p> <p>The proposal looks for the appointment of 2 x officers (Project Lead for Food Policy and Delivery)(Sustainable Food Coordinator) for a 23 month period alongside the development of a Sustainable Food Place Angus Platform.</p>	
Panel Score: 1.8	

Panel Commentary: The panel recognized the importance of additional resource to support this work but felt that its alignment to climate change strategy was much weaker than other proposals and also some elements underpinned this.

Recommendations and Reasons: Reject.

Project Name:	Learning for Sustainability – developing a curriculum for our local contexts
Funding Request (£)	£65,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>The Angus Education Plan contains a commitment to a review of our curriculum, including an audit of learning in relation to Learning for Sustainability. This directly links with the Angus Council strategy on a page commitment to climate change and the drive towards net zero.</p> <p>This project will involve staff from both Education and Lifelong learning and Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth. The project will be focused on the development of the curriculum for Learning for Sustainability and assist with the integration of place-based approaches within the curriculum.</p> <p>This project aligns directly with Scottish Governments priorities, expressed within National Planning Framework 4, of tackling the nature and climate crisis and underpins Angus Council’s commitment to not just engaging but working with children and young people to shape the places they live through the Local Development Plan and how we implement Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child within place-based work; thus linking the curriculum to places based working and giving young people a much stronger say I decision making about what happens in where they live and Angus overall.</p>	
Panel Score: 3.8	

Panel Commentary: A valuable, unique role within Angus Council that potentially provides input into various services projects. The delivery of strategy outputs in several biodiversity and climate is welcomed.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. A continuation of the post will build on previous success and satisfy the demand identified for learning for sustainability opportunities.

Project Name:	Road to Net Zero Study for the Council’s Non-Housing Building Estate
Funding Request (£)	£150,000
% of Total Project Cost	100%
<p>Angus Council has approximately 140 operational buildings and carbon emissions from these represent 40% of our total carbon emissions. In order to help meet the Scottish Governments Net Zero targets, the councils property estate must decarbonise.</p> <p>This proposal is to engage with consultants to produce a report on the feasibility of best value technological solutions and overall costs to reduce carbon emissions to decarbonise councils’ property estate and contribute to Net Zero targets. A number of buildings in our portfolio will be selected which represent typical types/construction. The results will be applied to the remaining buildings that fit into each type/construction. The study will consider the investment costs versus carbon emissions savings of various solutions/options ranging from do nothing to full Enerphit refurbishment. Intermediate options will consider the improvement of the building fabric at different scales; the installation of low carbon heating systems; photovoltaic panels and other low carbon technologies. This will allow the Council to make best value decisions on how buildings can contribute to our overall Net Zero emissions targets, together with the level of investment required in future years. Following this a pipeline of projects to 2045 would be identified and delivered subject to funding. This will also ensure sufficient information is available to apply for new funding opportunities.</p>	
Panel Score: 3.5	

Panel Commentary: Constraints including limited staff resource is recognised a key driver for this spend to save focused project. A positive impact can be delivered across Angus Council properties.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full. Potential to make a significant inroad into Angus Council's net zero targets.

Project Name:	Climate Resilience Grants
Funding Request (£)	£50,000
% of Total Project Cost	25% (pending confirmation of other sources)
<p>Climate change is resulting in more frequent weather events such as the recent storms in Angus which resulted in widespread damage and flooding. As part of resilience measures this funding would support a grant scheme to support householders and businesses with the purchase of property level protection and resilience measures.</p> <p>A similar scheme was undertaken in Dumfries and Galloway with support from Scottish Flood Forum who undertook the relevant surveys and provided advice on the type of measures. Scottish Flood Forum have indicated they would be willing to support a similar scheme in Angus, supported by workshops.</p> <p>The remaining Scottish Government funding for Storm Babet could be directed as further match funding for this fund as well as available funding support from Angus Rural Partnership and current additional funding bids.</p>	
Panel Score: 3.15	

Panel Commentary: Funding would support communities to become more resilience in understanding the impacts and preparing for future events. There is a good source of match funding and this would help boost the funding available.

Recommendations and Reasons: Fund in full.