

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 23 APRIL 2024

DETAILED RISK REPORTING TO SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

REPORT BY CATHIE WYLLIE – SERVICE LEADER INTERNAL AUDIT

1. ABSTRACT

1.1 This report presents detailed risk information to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee in line with the programme updated by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee in January 2024 (Report 20/24 refers).

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

2.1 The contents of this report, and the related presentation provide the Committee with a deeper understanding of a key corporate risk that may prevent achievement of the Council Plan, and the steps being taken to mitigate the risk.

3. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to consider and note the information presented about the Climate Change risk.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The following timetable for individual risk presentations, based on the Corporate Risk Register at May 2023 has been agreed for 2023/24:

S&A meeting date	Lead officer	Risk to be presented	Risk Score May 2023	Risk Score Updated	Risk Target
22 Aug. 2023	Director of Finance	Financial Sustainability	25		9
26 Oct. 2023	Director of Legal & Democratic Services	Legislation	9	6 (October 2023)	6
28 Nov. 2023	Chief Executive	Transforming for the Future	15		6
23 Jan. 2024	Director of HR, Digital Enablement, IT & Business Support	IT resilience & Cyber-attack (Business Continuity)	16		8
7 March 2024	Director of Finance	Performance Management	6		4
23 April 2024	Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth	Climate Change	16		12

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 A new programme of risk reviews for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025 will be brought to the June meeting of the committee.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 There will be a short presentation at Committee on the Climate Change risk. The related information from the Corporate Risk Register is included in Appendix 1.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.'

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 This report is about a specific risk from the Corporate Risk Register

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason: - this report does not impact on people. It does not impact on people because this report provides information about risks and their mitigation. Any people impact would be dealt with at other active stages of risk mitigation if applicable.

11. CONSULTATION

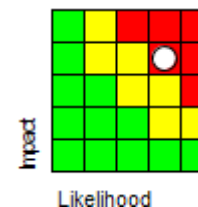
- 11.1 This report was circulated for consultation to all Directors of the Council.

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- Corporate Risk Register – Climate Change



Risk Title

R-AC-COR-00004 Climate Change

Risk Description

Failing to comply with the requirements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to achieve interim targets by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2045 and a failure to manage climate change adaptation will reduce the resilience of communities, businesses, and ecosystems within Angus.

Likelihood

High - action is required immediately within Angus Council, and the wider Angus area, to ensure the Council achieves its specific climate change strategic aim of reducing the impact of climate change by being a major contributor to achieving Scotland's national climate change goals, as leaders in clean growth, environmental stewardship, and sustainability.

Potential Impact

Failure to meet statutory duty including carbon emission targets
 Unacceptable impact on the environment
 Inability to deal with climate change impacts including severe weather events and unforeseen emergencies
 Reputational impact of lack of action or perceived lack of action





Existing Controls





Climate Change Duties of Public Bodies Reporting Requirements (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020	Mandatory annual reporting for compliance with the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.
Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009	Underpinning legislation to tackle climate change.
Strategic Environmental Assessments and Habitats regulations Appraisal	Of statutory plans, policies and strategies ensures Climate Change is considered in their development
Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets (Scotland) Act 2019	Scotland's emissions reduction targets to net zero by 2045, and interim emissions reduction targets.
Update to the Climate Change Plan 2018 – 2032 Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero	Sets out the Scottish Government's pathway to the ambitious targets set by the Climate Change Act 2019.
Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022	Statutory duty on Scottish local authorities to produce Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES)
Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	Determines the future structure of the modernised planning system. Includes NPF4 which is a crucial element of our planning reforms.
Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency	Sets the direction for a new biodiversity strategy which will respond to the increased urgency for action to tackle the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.
Angus Shoreline Management Plan 2	A large-scale assessment of the risks associated with erosion and flooding at the coast.


Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin Flood Risk Management Plan	Developed to detail the actions adopted to reduce the devastating and costly impact of flooding in the Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin local plan district.
Elected Member Updates	Climate Change updates to Cllrs provided three times per annum. Three councillor representatives sit on Angus SECAP Working Group.

Risk Likelihood Score: 4
Risk Impact Score: 4
Overall Risk Score: 16

Additional Controls/Actions to Reduce Likelihood and/or Impact Scores

Controls/Actions	Due Date	Status	Desired Outcome	Owner	Latest Update	Date
AC-COR-00037 Delivery and monitoring of Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (SECAP) actions	31-Dec-2024		Contribution to Public Bodies Duties Report Achieving targets Regular reporting	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change	Completed for 2023/24 and ongoing for 2024/25. A second Climate Change Officer in in post and is responsible for facilitation of the SECAP steering group and review of SECAP progress to date. A review of the SECAP went to Angus Council in Nov 2023. A further update will be provided in November 2024.	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00038 Submit annual Public Bodies Duties Report (mandatory)	31-Dec-2024		Progress on performance towards targets Continued self-assessment	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change; Project Officer - Climate Change	Complete for 2023/24 and ongoing for 2024/25. The 2022/23 submission went to full Council in November 2023. The 2023/24 submission will go to Council in November 2024 for submission to Scottish Govt by end of November deadline.	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00065 Calculate Angus's carbon insetting potential	31-Mar-2025		Determine Angus Council's insetting potential for offsetting 'unavoidable' emissions.	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change; Project Officer - Climate Change	Guidance from Scot Govt, not yet available. Timescale amended to reflect this and available resource to complete.	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00066 Carry out a net zero review of Angus Council	31-Dec-2024		Ensure Angus Council has a clear plan to meet the interim	Team Leader - Environment & Climate	Ongoing corporate monitoring of progress. Report to Council in November 2023 with a further	19-Mar-2024

	reduction compared to baseline).			carbon reduction target of 75% (against base year) by 2030.	Change; Project Officer - Climate Change	update to be submitted on November 2024.	
AC-COR-00067 Produce Local Heat & Energy Efficiency Strategy		31-Dec-2024		Set out the long-term plan for decarbonising heat in buildings and improving their energy efficiency across an entire local authority.	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change; Service Leader - Planning and Sustainable Growth	Funding package of £75k agreed by COSLA and Scot Govt to support the development of LHEES. Consultancy support procured and development of plan progressing.	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00068 Mandatory e-Learning for staff		31-Mar-2024		Staff will be well informed about climate change and how it affects Angus Council, and Angus as a whole. Staff will consider climate change impacts in their work.	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change; Project Officer - Climate Change	In development. Due to be launched in early April 2024 with a time completion period of up to 30th September 2024	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00069 Embed climate change impacts into all Angus Council activities and decisions.		31-Mar-2024		Councillors & management will have an awareness of carbon emissions costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions. Climate Change impacts will be quantified during the decision-making process.	Service Leader - Planning and Sustainable Growth	Sustainable Scotland Network Climate Change Impacts Assessment working groups guidance on inclusion in committee reporting was published in 2023. Angus Council committee report templates now include an Environmental Implications section.	19-Mar-2024
AC-COR-00070 Access to funding via council monies and loans to progress net zero projects		31-Mar-2025		Various small to large scale projects are completed to ensure we reach our interim targets and Net Zero by 2045.	Service Leader - Planning and Sustainable Growth	One off commitment of council funding of £0.75M towards climate change, net zero and biodiversity activity was allocated to projects in February 2024. a further update will be provided in 2025.	19-Mar-2024

AC-COR-00071 Develop and deliver a programme of land use adaptation projects	at a landscape scale, corporately and with stakeholders. Secure external funding for delivery.	31-Mar-2025		Climate change mitigation and adaptation will be achieved on a large scale.	Team Leader - Environment & Climate Change	Multi stakeholder Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) development phase project (£145k) complete and Angus Council awarded £1.4M in January 2024 to deliver a two-year delivery phase. Corporate NRF projects being delivered annually by multiservice teams. Further updates to be provided in 2025.	19-Mar-2024
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Target Likelihood: 3
Target Impact: 4
Overall Target Score: 12

Risk Owner:	Alison J Smith, Director - Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth
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Latest Update	By	Date
Good progress has been made in a number of areas but staff resource and funding is required to maintain or accelerate progress.	Alison J Smith	25.03.2024