

## **CLIMATE CHANGE/CARBON STRATEGY**

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction are identified as areas for attention in Moray 2023 through various activities including the Local Development Plan and associated policies, active travel, green infrastructure and sustainable construction. There is no direct target on these issues however, focus instead being placed on achieving a reduction in energy consumption in Council buildings, this having a consequential impact on carbon. This narrower focus on energy consumption has continued into Moray 2026 via the targets recently approved by this partnership.

Whilst the current target considers only Council buildings, a Climate Change impacts on every Partner and every strategy within the Partnership.

The Council had its own Carbon Management Plan for 2009 – 2014. Although successful in reducing carbon emissions from transport, buildings and waste, meeting the targets set, poor baseline information meant the programme did not receive an entirely positive response

“Carbon” in the context of the Council’s activities focuses on the direct impact the organisation has through greenhouse gas emissions and on the adaptation actions to mitigate climate change. The sources of these emissions and the main activities relating to adaptation are as follows.

### Education

Energy use in schools and school transport is influenced by strategy, design specifications, maintenance and weather.

### Housing and Property

Energy use in buildings and housing is influenced by influenced by strategy, design specifications, maintenance and weather. Transport is also associated with service.

### Environmental Services

Waste collection, recycling and disposal, improvements is driven by legislation. Transport is associated with the service (fleet management) as well as and maintenance. Flood protection work would be considered as adaptation.

### Social Work

Energy associated with buildings and transport for service delivery.

### Corporate Services

Energy associated with buildings and transport for service delivery.

### Procurement

Procurement must consider sustainable procurement, whole life costings, environmental clauses etc.

### Planning

The Local Development Plan sets policies to influence new development, renewables etc.

### Current Position

Moray 2023 and now Moray 2026 has moved away from Carbon as an overriding strategic objective and focussed instead on the main actions to reduce carbon and combat climate change through energy reduction, waste recycling and flood protection setting relevant targets and aligning resources to deliver savings. An Energy Strategy will be prepared once

further analysis of the consultant's report findings (previously considered by the SCP) has been completed. Sustainable procurement is now a statutory duty.

#### Scottish Government Priority

Climate change and carbon reduction remains a priority of the Scottish Government with established targets for carbon reduction. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to exercise their functions in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets and in the best way to help deliver adaptation and in the way it consider most sustainable.

Many authorities produce an overarching Climate Change Strategy and action plan and resource the delivery of the action plan and monitoring of the strategy in order to do so

Climate change reporting is now a statutory annual report, information is collated from across the Council recording activities. The light touch and limited resource we put into collating this information is evident in the return - but we meet our statutory duties.

#### Future Action

The Sustainability and Communities Partnership have expressed a desire to have a Climate Change/Carbon Strategy. If such a strategy was to be a Community Planning Partnership document it would include the direct and indirect impacts of all partners. Whilst this may be desirable, no resources have been identified across the Partnership to collate and deliver a wider strategy of this nature.

A strategy and action plan for the Council's direct and indirect impacts and adaptation activities could be collated but again this would require the identification of an appropriate level of resource. There are insufficient internal resources to carry out this work at present and it would likely cost in the region of £50k to hire external consultants.

As the main aspects of any such strategy are already outlined as priorities in Moray 2026 for example through targets on diversion from landfill, housing standards and others, the strategy and action plan would effectively pull together the current activities and plans to form one cohesive document. Any current concerns over lack of delivery against the targets in Moray 2026 would not be addressed simply by the production of a strategy and action plan unless the necessary staffing resources and objectives are embedded within the Council and/or its Partners.

The Sustainability and Communities Partnership is asked to consider the implications of this paper and decide:

- i) Whether the Partnership should continue to maintain the current position with regards to Moray 2026 as outlined within the report:
- ii) Whether the Community Planning Partnership should develop an overarching Climate Change Strategy which could apply to the Council and/or its Partners; and
- iii) Whether any resources could be made available within the Partnership to develop and implement the strategy.