ABSTRACT: This report provides an update on the UK and Scottish Government expectations regarding energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets for the public sector and local authorities. It recommends the adoption of specific targets for the period from 2011/12 to 2020.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

(i.) notes the content of this report

(ii.) approves the recommended energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets.

2. INTRODUCTION

There is currently no longer a definitive energy consumption or carbon dioxide emissions reduction target to be achieved by Angus Council which has been working to achieve the previous national target of 12.5% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 compared to a 1990 baseline.

The Property division has achieved significant progress in reducing the energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions from non-Housing Council properties, particularly the significant increase in energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions resulting from the massive investment in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Report no: 584/11 submitted to the Corporate Services Committee at its meeting on 1st September 2011 reported the significant success achieved against this target.

Achieving improved energy efficiency and reducing both energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions is a corporate objective and fulfilling statutory targets is a collective responsibility.

It is essential that Angus Council establishes a clear corporate target to ensure that the prioritisation, resources and management arrangements are proportionate to the scale of the task ahead.

3. BACKGROUND

Although the UK Government has set greenhouse gases reduction targets of 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 there remains, as yet, no specific targets to be achieved by public bodies including local authorities.

The Scottish Government has, through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, adopted national greenhouse gases emissions reduction targets of 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

The Scottish Government has published a set of Low Carbon Scotland publications comprising:-
• the Low Carbon Economy Strategy, which sets the policy direction for low carbon economic opportunities, and strengthen business confidence in exploiting those opportunities;
• the Public Engagement Strategy, which will explain our approach to informing people about what they can do to help Scotland take action on climate change;
• the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which sets out in detail the actions the Scottish Government is taking to achieve a step change in energy use; and
• the Draft Electricity Generation Policy Statement, which provides evidence on recent important developments in Scottish electricity generation.
• the Draft report on Proposals and Policies which advises how it is intended to deliver annual targets for reductions in emissions to 2022, including a 42% reduction in emissions by 2020.

Note: Italic text has been used to indicate key extracts from the Scottish Government guidance.

The Scottish Government has decided to implement a clear, high-level and transparent target to reduce total final energy consumption in Scotland over the period to 2020 by 12% as detailed in two publications:

• Conserve And Save - The Energy Efficiency Action Plan For Scotland
• Low Carbon Scotland: The Draft Report On Proposals And Policies

This energy consumption target is measured against the 2008/09 base position for Scotland and represents a reduction in energy consumption with a commensurate but differing reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Final energy consumption refers to the energy used by the end user; in the case of a household, this normally covers the fuel which it uses for its heating and any electricity it uses.

The Scottish Government advised, within its Energy Efficiency Action Plan, its intention that the public sector promotes exemplary behaviour.

C4. ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACROSS THE PUBLIC SECTOR

We will provide clear energy efficiency guidance and leadership to the public sector to enable the delivery of energy saving improvements and promote exemplary behaviour.

The public sector needs to play a key role if Scotland is successfully to reduce its energy consumption by the magnitude required to meet our climate change targets.

The Scottish Government advised, within its Energy Efficiency Action Plan, its intention of addressing this need through Action 4.3.

Action 4.3 Working in partnership with the Carbon Trust and public sector representative bodies, we will develop a methodology for setting appropriate energy saving targets for the public sector in Scotland. We will then:

i. set an overarching energy saving target for the sector as a whole; and
ii. ensure, in collaboration with the sector, that all public bodies set individual annual energy efficiency targets.

The Scottish Government has intimated its intention to require public bodies to annually report their energy consumption reduction progress.

Action 4.7 We will promote the reporting of public sector energy consumption, including by:

i. publishing details of the Scottish Government’s weekly energy consumption in our headquarter buildings by Spring 2011. This will be supported by rolling out the installation of Automated Meter Reading equipment for electricity and gas across those buildings that we are required to report on under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme.
ii. working with the public sector to ensure that all public bodies report on their energy consumption, and their progress in attempting to reduce this, at regular internal board meetings.
The current Single Outcome Agreement Performance Indicators for energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions have been adjusted so that from 2011/12 they report progress based upon Angus Council’s CRC Scheme footprint position compared to the outturn for 2010/11, the CRC Scheme base year.

The Property division submits an annual End of Year report on the Environmental Impact of Energy Consumption to the Corporate Services Committee. This report will be adjusted to report progress based upon Angus Council’s CRC Scheme footprint position compared to the outturn for 2010/11. The six monthly Energy Consumption and Carbon Dioxide Emissions progress reports to the Corporate Services Committee already provide an overview report on progress.


**Impact for Public Bodies**

**Milestones in 2020**

*Both the business and public sector will contribute fairly towards reducing Scottish energy consumption by 12% by 2020, the target in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Specifically, in 2020:*

- The public sector will have reduced its energy consumption by at least 12%;
- Individual public bodies will have all set and be monitoring their own ambitious annual energy efficiency targets;
- All businesses will have access to consistent energy and resource efficiency advice.

Maintaining accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard requires achieving an annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of ~2.5% p.a. which will encompass all Angus Council carbon dioxide emissions over time.

4. CURRENT POSITION

The Property division adopted a carbon dioxide emissions reduction target of 2.5% for the purposes of monitoring and managing carbon dioxide emissions in 2010/11, as detailed within the Energy Consumption and Carbon Dioxide Emissions reports submitted to the Corporate Services Committee comprising the status of carbon dioxide emissions for Council non-Housing; Street lighting and Sheltered housing and communal areas.

The Carbon Reduction Member/Officer Steering Group at its meeting on 21st June 2011 confirmed its remit, as detailed in report no: 668/10, and considered and approved a report submitted by the Director of Corporate Services recommending the adoption of the following targets:-

- an annual corporate carbon dioxide emissions reduction target of 2.5% p.a. which has the potential to achieve a 22.5% reduction by 2020 when compared to a 2010/11 base
- an annual corporate energy consumption reduction (energy efficiency) target of 1.5% p.a. which has the potential to achieve a 13.5% reduction by 2020 when compared to a 2010/11 base

as well as noting the following issues:-

- that achieving these targets will require equivalent reductions for street lighting
- that the Scottish Government intends that all public bodies set individual annual energy efficiency targets and that it is anticipated that these will influence the Council’s energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions targets in due course.

The Committee is recommended to approve these reduction targets and to note the associated issues detailed in this report.

5. RISK

Angus Council has a legal duty to participate fully and effectively with the new obligation introduced by the Carbon Reduction Commitment Order 2010 and the new duties introduced by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Failure to perform effectively presents a risk to the reputation of the Council; its
ability to deliver a key Single Outcome Agreement objective and could lead to Angus Council being subject to criminal and/or financial penalty action by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency if it fails to fully comply with CRC scheme requirements.

Failure to achieve re-accreditation to the Carbon Trust Standard presents a risk to the reputation of the Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Implementation of the recommended energy consumption and carbon reduction targets will however require substantial investment by the Council. All such matters will be given due consideration through the Council’s budget setting process in future years.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

Any implications, as a consequence of discharging recommendations detailed in this report, will be managed in accordance with the standing procedures and processes established by the Property Division.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

9. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcome contained within the Single Outcome Agreement for Angus:-

- Our carbon footprint is reduced

10. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Infrastructure Services, the Head of Law and Administration and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

11. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Committee notes the content of this report and approves the recommended energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets.

REFERENCES

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Property/JP/JP