

**REPORT TO EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE –
8 OCTOBER 2020**

CARBON BUDGET SIX-MONTHLY UPDATE AND COVID-19 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE LESSONS LEARNED

1 Reason for Report/Summary

- 1.1 The report provides the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update and is brought to the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Sustainability Committee following the decision of Aberdeenshire Council at its meeting on 18 March, 2020 (Item 10) - Carbon Budget 2020/21.
- 1.2 This report includes lessons learned across Education and Children's Services during Covid-19 relating to sustainability and climate change, as requested by the Sustainability Committee at its meeting on 20 May, 2020 (Item 5).

2 Recommendations

The Education and Children's Services Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Acknowledge and comment on the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update, as attached in Appendix 1.**
- 2.2 **Acknowledge and comment on the Education and Children's Services Covid-19 sustainability and climate change lessons learned.**
- 2.3 **Determine any further actions required by the Director of Education and Children's Services with regard to the Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget or from the Covid-19 sustainability and climate change lessons learned.**

3 Purpose and Decision-Making Route

- 3.1 All Directors are required to submit Carbon Budget six-monthly updates to their relevant policy committees, and additionally to the Sustainability Committee, following the decision of Aberdeenshire Council at its meeting on 18 March, 2020 (Item 10) - Carbon Budget 2020/21.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 The Carbon Budget was set at the meeting of Aberdeenshire Council on 18 March, 2020. For Education and Children's Services, the target for carbon reduction for 2020/21 was set at 380 tCO2e, which is 11% of the Council's overall target of 3400 tCO2e. At the same meeting, each Service was instructed to update their policy committee on a six-monthly basis. This is the first update.

4.2 Over the subsequent months, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted every aspect of the work of Education and Children's Services, providing examples of lessons learned in our use of resources.

Working practices have changed significantly during the last 6 months:

- Teaching staff delivering education to pupils through home schooling
- School support staff working from home to support this home schooling
- Members of the workforce deployed to work in the Childcare Hubs set up across all 17 clusters to support keyworker parents with childcare across extended hours, weekends and holidays
- Staff providing additional support in care homes
- The office-based workforce relocating to their homes to continue working throughout lockdown
- Management teams working throughout the lockdown period in incident and recovery management alongside school managers, preparing initially for reduced numbers of pupils returning to schools in a blended learning approach and later for the full return of pupils and staff to school buildings
- Teams updating working practices to work remotely
- Processes converted to use electronic forms instead of paper
- Meetings undertaken through Skype and Teams instead of face-to-face
- Children and young people have continued with their education initially through home schooling and, more recently, back in their school and nursery environments

4.3 Due to this, it should be noted that, for the current energy budget, there has been a positive impact due to this significant change in circumstances with the majority of staff working from home and central sites, and school buildings predominantly empty for 5 months. Lessons learned have included the significant reduction in resources used in the areas of energy and paper with functions stopped in establishments and staff reducing their impact by the avoidance of travel. Staff have remained productive and teams have worked hard to learn from this experience. Streamlining of processes has been achieved. For example, invoice processes being moved from all secondary schools to a central support team, and HR converting their forms to electronic for processing which has had a positive impact on the work of support staff in ECS.

4.4 Whilst the projects previously identified have not progressed as planned and this has led to a shortfall in the impact of the expected carbon reduction in these areas, as above, the reduced use of facilities has had a positive effect on the energy used. The effect of this can be seen in the reports in Appendix 2. For example, Uryside School in June had a 57% reduction from the previous year on the kWh used, from 51,074 down to 22,137. Kemnay Academy, across the four months from April to July, 2020, had a reduction in energy consumption of 72%. With schools now populated, savings at this level will not continue although they are an indication of the savings which can be made if equipment and lights were turned off in a similar way each night, every weekend and holiday. Work will be undertaken to support this in schools going forward. A similar reduction is seen in the figures for Woodhill House and Gordon House.

- 4.5 Food waste recycling is being extended to all schools within Aberdeenshire from this term. Colleagues from Waste Management have undertaken work to survey the school estate and have started delivering 240L food waste bins to all schools for weekly collection. General waste collection is being reduced by 280L in the majority of schools. This work will continue over the coming months and information is being collected on the impact of food collection and reduction in general waste.
- 4.6 At Appendix 1, there is an updated version of the Action Plan update that went before the meeting of the Sustainability Committee in May, 2020. Most of the projects listed within Appendix 1 have been delayed as a result of Covid-19 and limited carbon reduction has been identified. It is anticipated that further progress will be made as the Service moves from response to recovery from Covid-19 and a further update will be brought back to the Education and Children's Services Committee meeting in March, 2021.
- 4.7 Due to the necessary short-term reprioritising of work over the last six months, there has not been the opportunity to undertake work on identified additional projects for 2020/21. However, a number of initiatives have been identified which will be implemented within Education and Children's Services when the ongoing impact of Covid-19 reduces. These include at this stage:
- Development of a Sustainability Policy in collaboration with pupils and school staff detailing energy and waste management strategies such as:
 - Energy budget management for schools with incentives for reduced use in schools.
 - Expand food recycling in all school areas
 - General waste recycling in all schools
 - Use of sustainable resources
- 4.8 It is important to note that there may be a potential negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic now that schools have returned, with increased ventilation required. Heating systems may have extra demands on them due to opened windows to increase air flow to mitigate a possible spread of infection. The impact of this will be seen in the data for the next six months. The varying ages of the learning estate present a number of challenges in managing the required ventilation and heating levels. Work is ongoing nationally and locally to provide guidance on the balance of ventilation and heating.
- ## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk
- 5.1 This report supports the embedding of the key principles of 'climate and sustainability' and 'our environment' in the new Strategic Priorities of Aberdeenshire Council.
- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing	X		
Equalities		X	
Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Town Centre First			X
Sustainability	X		
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X

- 5.3 The financial and staffing implications of meeting Carbon Budget targets are potentially significant and will be addressed on an individual action or project basis. Implications will need to be identified at Aberdeenshire Council level to inform the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.4 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out for the overall programme of Carbon Budget work. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken at project level.
- 5.5 A Town Centre Impact Assessment has not been completed as part of the Carbon Budget process, as no direct impacts on town centres have been identified. However, further developments and projects will need to be assessed for potential impact on town centres.
- 5.6 Specific risks in setting the Carbon Budget have been identified as part of the Carbon Budget process. The following Risks have been identified as relevant to the Carbon Budget on a Corporate Level:
- Risk ID ACORP010 - Environmental Challenges; and Risk ID ACORP006 - Reputation Management within the Corporate Risk Register.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider this item in terms of Section E1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the approval of policy issues and resource matters in relation to Education and Children's Services.

Laurence Findlay

Director of Education and Children's Services

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18 September, 2020

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Education and Children's Services Carbon Budget six-monthly update

Appendix 2 - Education and Children's Services sample energy reports

Appendix 1: Carbon Budget Action Plan 2020/21

Summary of Carbon Budget Monitoring 2020/21 by Service	EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES								
	Base Budget	May-20 Forecast	Aug-20 Forecast	Nov-20 Forecast	Feb-21 Forecast	Forecast Savings			
		2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21	Better than Budget	Worse than Budget	Net Variance	Comments
		tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e	tCO2e				
	Education and Children's Services	380	167						Figures have been impacted by the closure of schools from mid-March to August 2020.
3.1 Macduff Aquarium-Replace Seawater chiller									The seawater chiller replacement project is nearing completion at the time of writing. The new chiller arrived on site on 3 August. The associated pipework has been replaced and the heat exchanger unit was re-positioned. Commissioning was intended to take place on 11 September 2020.
3.2 Education Green Champion Programme-to be rolled out across all 17 academies.									No progress as schools have been closed.

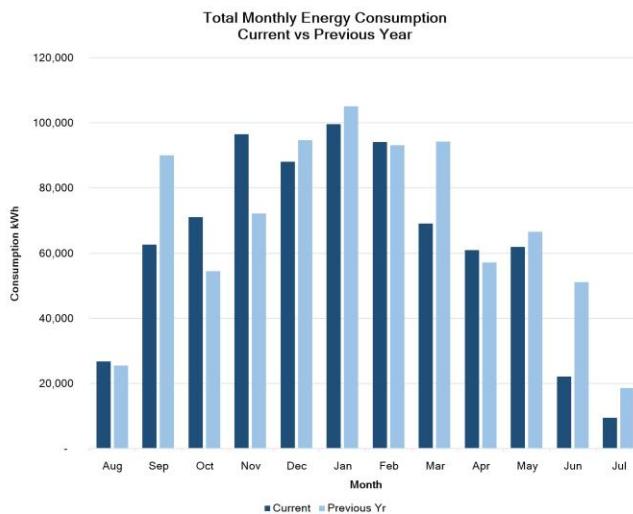
3.3 Replace current ovens with more energy efficient ovens- instead of like for like.								No progress as schools have been closed.
3.4 Replace sterilising sinks with dishwashers								No progress as schools have been closed.
3.5 Resources and Circular Economy Commitment - Framework Development								
3.6 LED Lighting at Alford Ski Centre	400	400	200					This project has been delayed however it is hoped to be completed by the end of the year.

Appendix 2 – Energy Usage Reports –
a) Uryside School

Total Energy Previous Year Comparison - Consumption and Cost

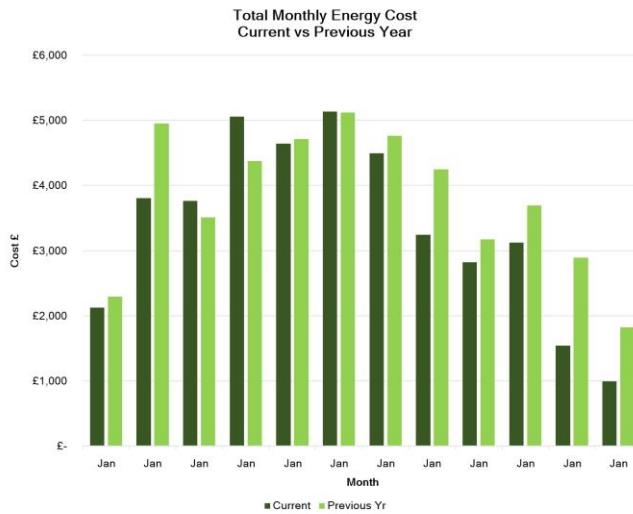
Aberdeenshire COUNCIL	Name: Uryside Primary School	Energy Management Reference: 0954
	Address: Inverurie	CAG UPRN: -
	Postcode: AB51 6AS	Starting: August 2018
	Financial Code: E053135	Ending: July 2020

Total Energy Consumption (kWh)



Month	Total Energy Consumption		
	Current kWh	Previous Yr kWh	Diff %
Aug-19	26,703	25,403	5
Sep-19	62,613	90,024	-30
Oct-19	70,985	54,410	30
Nov-19	98,450	72,228	34
Dec-19	88,039	94,670	-7
Jan-20	99,609	105,130	-5
Feb-20	94,182	93,140	1
Mar-20	69,093	94,199	-27
Apr-20	60,972	57,093	7
May-20	61,852	66,538	-7
Jun-20	22,137	51,074	-57
Jul-20	9,389	18,599	-50
Total	762,022	822,509	-7

Total Energy Cost (£)



Month	Total Energy Cost		
	Current £	Previous Yr £	Diff %
Aug-19	2,124	2,291	-7
Sep-19	3,804	4,954	-23
Oct-19	3,764	3,507	7
Nov-19	5,059	4,376	16
Dec-19	4,639	4,711	-2
Jan-20	5,136	5,120	0
Feb-20	4,495	4,762	-6
Mar-20	3,243	4,249	-24
Apr-20	2,820	3,171	-11
May-20	3,126	3,693	-15
Jun-20	1,539	2,891	-47
Jul-20	989	1,822	-46
Total	40,738	45,547	-11

Please contact the Energy Management Team if you would like more information. Email: Energy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

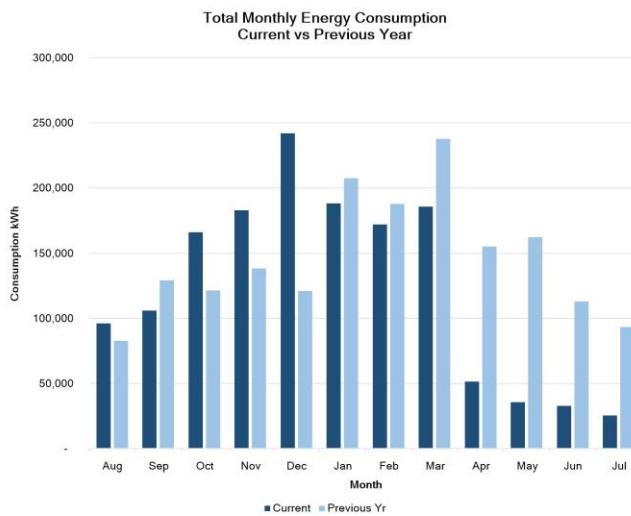
b) Kemnay Academy

Total Energy Previous Year Comparison - Consumption and Cost



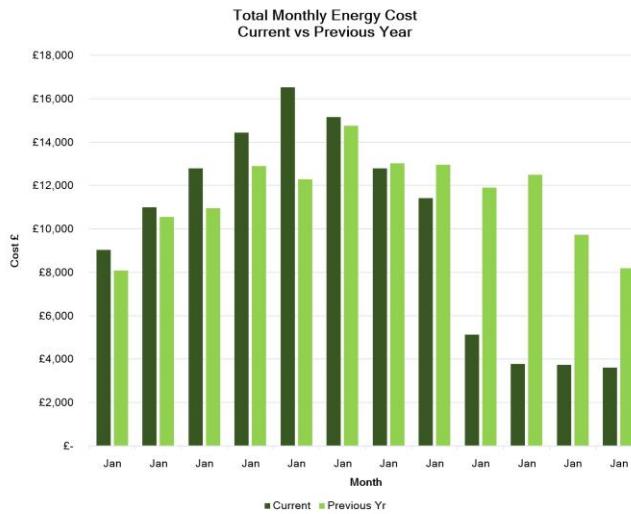
Name:	Kemnay Academy	Energy Management Reference:	0002
Address:	Kemnay	CAG UPRN:	151085963
Postcode:	AB51 5FW	Starting:	August 2018
Financial Code:	E313505	Ending:	July 2020

Total Energy Consumption (kWh)



Month	Total Energy Consumption		
	Current (kWh)	Previous Yr (kWh)	Diff (%)
Aug-19	95,995	82,492	16
Sep-19	105,865	129,219	-18
Oct-19	165,904	121,366	37
Nov-19	182,990	138,231	32
Dec-19	242,122	120,813	100
Jan-20	188,145	207,359	-9
Feb-20	172,153	187,976	-6
Mar-20	185,694	237,753	-22
Apr-20	51,203	154,990	-67
May-20	35,463	162,126	-78
Jun-20	32,553	112,988	-71
Jul-20	25,485	93,183	-73
Total	1,483,571	1,748,407	-15

Total Energy Cost (£)



Month	Total Energy Cost		
	Current (£)	Previous Yr (£)	Diff (%)
Aug-19	9,033	8,076	12
Sep-19	11,003	10,559	4
Oct-19	12,781	10,959	17
Nov-19	14,434	12,901	12
Dec-19	16,533	12,272	35
Jan-20	15,150	14,747	3
Feb-20	12,780	13,013	-2
Mar-20	11,419	12,947	-12
Apr-20	5,121	11,899	-57
May-20	3,769	12,483	-70
Jun-20	3,736	9,736	-62
Jul-20	3,599	8,195	-56
Total	119,357	137,786	-13

Please contact the Energy Management Team if you would like more information. Email: Energy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk