



Our Ref JG/LP
Your Ref

Councillor Jim Gifford
Leader of the Council

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Mr Paul Bradley
Coordinator
SDG Network Scotland
c/o Edward House
199 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow
G2 3EX

Dear Mr Bradley,

Thank you for sharing the open letter from SDG Network Scotland and giving me the opportunity to confirm Aberdeenshire Council's commitment to supporting implementation of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We commend the commitment shown within Scotland in implementing these illustrated by the significant number of organisations across the private, public and third sectors who are co signatories to the letter.

From an Aberdeenshire perspective, the recently developed Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2017-22, approved at Full Council in November 2017 and available on our website - <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-plan/> - outlines our strategic direction and illustrates our priorities for the next five years. These priorities have been developed collaboratively through an evidence based methodology, taking into consideration the views of our communities.

We can commit to supporting these SDGs through the delivery of our aforementioned Council Plan, where there are a number of areas of commonality and intrinsic links.

For ease of reference, where appropriate we have linked our eleven strategic priorities to one or more of the SDGs. Reference is also made to other appropriate strategic plans that will also support the SDGs.

SDG	Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priority
No poverty	Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities
Zero hunger	Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities
Good Health and well-being	Encourage active lifestyles and promote well-being with a focus on obesity and mental health Support the delivery of the Health and Social Care strategic plan
Quality Education	Provide the best life chances for all our children and young people by raising levels of attainment and achievement

SDG	Aberdeenshire Council Strategic Priority
	Work with parents and carers to support children through every stage of their development
Gender Equality	Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time. Aberdeenshire Council Equality Outcomes 2017- 2021 (http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/20634/equality-outcomes-a4-2.pdf)
Clean water and sanitation	Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities
Affordable and clean energy	Work to reduce poverty and inequalities within our communities Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions
Decent work and economic growth	Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy
Industrial Innovation and infrastructure	Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities
Reduced Inequalities	Aberdeenshire Council Equality Outcomes 2017- 2021
Sustainable cities and communities	Have the right mix of housing across all of Aberdeenshire Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities
Responsible Consumption and production	Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions Environmental & Climate Change Policy (http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/7e90d6e1-a2f7-434f-b5b3-3c64eedc6faf/resource/7aa8aed7-6c8c-48cc-9c29-aec31ca74857/download/environmental-and-climate-change-policyv2.pdf)
Climate Action	Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions Environmental & Climate Change Policy
Life below the water	Local Development Plan – Coastal Zone Guidance
Life on Land	Protect our special environment, including tackling climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions Environmental & Climate Change Policy Local Development Plan
Peace, justice and strong institutions	Deliver responsible, long-term financial planning Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time.
Partnerships for the goals	Have the right people, in the right place, doing the right thing, at the right time.

Through our Scheme of Governance and our performance monitoring and reporting framework, we will monitor progress on delivering our strategic priorities and take action as necessary to improve the pace of change or unblock barriers to progress.

We look forward to viewing a Scottish Plan that illustrates a national contribution to tackling the Sustainable Development Goals, and hope that our local work in Aberdeenshire makes some small impact to the global effort.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Gifford', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Jim Gifford
Leader of the Council