



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale, CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Hannah Williams - Council Business Unit (01443 424062)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a meeting of **CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP** to be held at the **BRYN PICA LANDFILL SITE, MERTHYR ROAD, LLWYDCOED, ABERDARE CF44 0BX** on **WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2019** at **2.00 PM**.

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Monday, 16 December 2019 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

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1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they **must** notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Steering Group held on 18th November 2019.

3. TAFFS WELL THERMAL SPRING

To receive a presentation, in conjunction with the report of the Director, Corporate Estates, which outlines the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.

11 - 14

4. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services, which sets out the future work programme for the Climate Change Steering Group.

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5. LOCAL PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

To receive the report of the Director, Human Resources, which provides the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with an overview of the Council's contracting arrangements.

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6. ELIMINATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN ALL COUNCIL CONTRACTS AND PREMISES

To receive the report of the Chief Executive, which provides the Steering Group with an overview of the current guidance that is in place to support organisations when seeking to eliminate single use plastics.

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7. RECYCLING WITH RHONDDA CYNON TAF

To receive the report of the Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services, which updates the Steering Group on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.

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8. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances is of the opinion should be considered at the Meeting as a matter of urgency.

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair:

(County Borough Councillor R Lewis and County Borough Councillor M Webber respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

Councillor M Norris, Councillor A Crimmings, Councillor S Belzak,
Councillor E Webster

Officers:

Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive

Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Nigel Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

Paul Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services

Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services

David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager

Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development

External Representation:

Friends of the Earth

Welcome to our Woods

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group held on Monday, 18 November 2019 at 2.30 pm at the Committee Room 1, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group Members in attendance:-

Councillor R Lewis (Chair)

Councillor M Webber Councillor M Norris
Councillor A Crimmings Councillor S Belzak
Councillor E Webster

Invited External Representatives of the Steering Group:-

Mr C Harries - Friends of the Earth
Mr I Thomas - Welcome to our Woods

Officers in attendance:-

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Lawson, Performance Manager
Ms E Dean, Environment Planner
Mr R Wistow, Ecologist

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the Climate Change Steering Group.

The Chair asked Members to introduce themselves and noted that the Steering Group will provide a forum for the Council to become more ambitious through resetting targets and challenging how the Council operates and approaches challenges in the future to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's code of conduct, there were no declarations of interest made pertaining to the agenda.

3 Terms of Reference

Members were asked to approve the Group's Terms of Reference. The Service Director of Communications & Democratic Services referred Members to the

attached Terms of Reference and noted that the terms were agreed by Cabinet on the 17th of October 2019. Members were advised that the Steering Group includes a cross party membership and it was established under the Leader's scheme of delegation.

The Service Director reminded Members that the aim of the Group is to secure a consensus around the Council's future approach to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030. The Cabinet Steering Group has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach to issues of climate change and the Council becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. Its membership will provide strategic direction and will initially consider any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters. Its membership will consider how the Council can support changes in residents' behaviour, to deliver the necessary actions to respond proactively to climate change and in doing so, support business, communities and residents to reduce their own environmental impact.

The Service Director informed Members that the Cabinet Steering Group will provide the opportunity to proactively discuss and progress the delivery of actions, which emanate from the Corporate Plan, which aims to meet climate change challenges and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

The Service Director also stressed the importance of inviting local interest groups to attend meetings of the Steering Group to ensure that residents and communities are fully and directly involved in shaping its work.

Discussions ensued and a Member noted that there is a significant difference between 'Net Zero' and 'Zero Carbon' and stressed the importance of this distinction going forward. The Service Director reminded Members that the terms of reference are not set in stone and can be amended accordingly.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.

4 Future Work Programme

The Chief Executive presented his report to Members in respect of the Steering Group's Forward Work Programme.

Members were reminded that the Council's Cabinet revisited its commitment to becoming a Carbon Neutral Council, and set an ambitious target of achieving this by 2030, along with the residents and businesses of the County Borough.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the work programme sets an ambitious target and emphasised that the Council welcomes input from other organisations and individuals in helping to achieve the 2030 target.

In respect of frequency, Members were advised that meetings will be held on a monthly basis to provide the Steering Group with the opportunity to consider actions that are needed by the Council in respect of the Corporate Plan and the 2030 Net Zero targets.

The Chief Executive explained that the external members of the Steering Group could also agenda items for consideration, and that space had been allocated in the March meeting to consider these items. If the two external members wished to bring forward any agenda items, the Council officers would be prepared to work with the two members to undertake any research or write draft reports to

support them. The Chief Executive welcomed their advice as to the best way to engage a wide range of community groups that had a direct interest in protecting the local environment.

Discussions ensued and a Member noted that the Council has to empower its communities. The Member emphasised the importance of sharing knowledge and models of good practice, particularly the importance of passing knowledge on to the next generation. Members were referred to the community in Rhydyfelin and how residents have been encouraged to plant over 7000 bulbs in the area during the 2019/20 Municipal year.

In respect of the Council's recycling policy, the Welsh Government has set each local authority the target of recycling at least 70% of its household waste by 2025. Members were informed that the Council is already very close to achieving this target. However, the Council wants to increase this level of ambition to at least 80% of all household waste by 2030. The Group Director- Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services emphasised that the Council cannot reach the 80% target without the commitment of residents throughout the County Borough.

Discussions continued and a number of Members emphasised the opportunities available to empower local communities. The Chief Executive voiced his agreement and stressed the importance of publicising the Council's ongoing work to become Net Zero. Members agreed that the Council will need to work collaboratively with local community groups and town and community councillors. The Service Director of Communications and Democratic Services also stressed the importance of involving community youth forums. The Group agreed that education and engagement will be a key part of the Council's strategy.

In respect of renewable energy, a Member noted that there is currently no correlation between energy consumption and GDP. Another Member stressed the importance of managing resources for carbon consumption and informed the Group that good management of the forestry is how we will secure more carbon.

A Member cautioned that there will be elements that are outside of the Group's remit and that the Group should focus its work and take a realistic approach.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to agree draft four month work programme to the 31st of March 2020.

5 Biodiversity Duty

Members received a presentation, in conjunction with the report of the Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services, which updated Members on the progress made in discharging the Council's Biodiversity Duty.

Members were reminded that the Council is required to report progress in the discharge of its biodiversity duty to Welsh Government. The Director referred Members to Appendix 1 & 2 of the report, which presented the current position and Members were asked to consider and approve the report for submission to Welsh Government.

Members received a presentation in respect of biodiversity from the Council's Ecologist and discussions ensued.

The Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services introduced the Council's Ecologist who with the aid of Power Point highlighted the key areas of the local plan, which set out progress with the implementation of the biodiversity duty in Rhondda Cynon Taf and its significance on both a local and national level. The presentation included reference to the Council's work relating to pollinators and how the Council owned land, which is a rich resource of grass flowers and grasses, is managed.

Following the presentation, the Chair thanked the Ecologist for providing such in depth information and noted that the presentation shows how our landscape has changed over time.

Discussions ensued and a number of Members noted that biodiversity needs to be managed and Members stressed the importance of creating a sense of ownership in local communities. Members agreed that Social Media will play a crucial role in getting the message out to local residents. The Group Director-Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services stressed the importance of getting an appropriate balance in respect of the Council's wider policy and noted the importance of creating a sustainable management solution.

A Member raised a query in respect of the significant loss of insects throughout RCT over recent years. The Ecologist noted that there has been significant loss, however, he emphasised that the climate in RCT is more temperate and consequently the impact in RCT has been less than in other areas.

Following the detailed presentation made by the Council's Ecologist, who responded to many questions raised, Members praised the work being undertaken throughout RCT.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED:-**

1. To endorse the update report on the actions undertaken to further the 'Biodiversity Duty' by RCT; and,
2. To agree for the report to be submitted to Welsh Government, subject to the comments proposed by the Climate Change Steering Group.

6 Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction Update

The Director of Corporate Estates provided Members with a report in respect of relevant developments to Energy and Carbon Reduction.

Members were reminded that the report should be considered as part of the main 'Discussion Paper- Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group'.

The Director reminded Members that the Energy Invest to Save programme for Financial Year 2020/21 is in the process of being finalised but is envisaged to commit the Council to invest at least a further £1.4m on energy and carbon reduction improvements.

Discussions ensued and a Member referred the Group to the considerable

investment that has been made by the Council into more Energy efficient Street Lighting. Members were reminded that all Street lights in the County Borough have now been converted to their LED equivalent , and this, along with part night and dimming policies, have resulted in a 75% reduction in the energy used.

Another Member referred the Group to the £7m that has been invested by the Council in Energy Reduction measures and the estimated energy reductions of over 18m MW of Energy. The Member commented that it would be useful to receive the MW hours that have been saved as a direct result of energy reduction measures.

Discussions continued and a Member emphasised the importance of showing the public what measures have been taken over the past ten years by Rhondda Cynon Taf to invest in energy reduction measures. The Member referred the Group to the Council's policy of agile working and the Council's paper light approach. In this respect, a Member queried what steps have been taken by the Council to install electric charging points throughout the County Borough. The Director of Corporate Estates informed the Group that the Council has added in new Electric Vehicle installation charging points for every new Council project going forward.

In respect of agile working, a Member questioned whether an increase use of IT equipment was good for the environment. The Member commented that agile working could possibly result in an increased use of energy. Discussions ensued and a number of Members agreed that overall, agile working uses less energy consumption and is a positive step towards energy and carbon reduction.

Members noted the need for the Council to promote the work that has already been done by the Authority in respect of carbon and energy reduction and emphasised the importance of sharing knowledge and information. It was noted that RCT are the first Local Authority to form a Climate Change Steering Group to specifically tackle the Climate Change emergency and agreed that as a Local Authority proactive steps need to be taken going forward.

The Group Director- Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services informed Members that considerable work is being done in respect of the Council's fleet policy and that the Council are using pool cars and hybrid vehicles. However, the Group Director also emphasised that technology in this area is still being developed and that there is still a long way to go to tackle carbon emissions. In respect of low carbon vehicle infrastructure, the Service Director of Communications & Democratic Services noted that the Steering Group will monitor infrastructure and the Group's recommendations will be reported back to the Cabinet.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to note the update in respect of Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction.

7 Community use of underused/vacant RCT land

The Director of Corporate Estates introduced his report in respect of a streamlined process to allow Communities to apply for and use underused/vacant Council owned land for the purposes of garden use in support of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

Members were reminded that the Council receives many requests from

members of the public to use to use small parcels of land for various forms of gardening operations. These requests are from both individuals and groups and the land in question is usually small in nature and unused, sitting vacant and often attracting unwelcome uses such as fly-tipping.

The Director advised that in order to protect the Council's position in terms of Insurance cover; Regaining possession of the land at a future date; Mis-use/inappropriate use of the land; the land and/or items placed upon it falling into disrepair, It is important that a formal document is entered into with the third party no matter how small the land parcel but it would be beneficial to create a less detailed, streamlined process for this area of land use.

Members were informed that the procedure currently in place has been reviewed with the above in mind and a simpler application form has been produced to streamline the scrutiny of the applicant(s) ability to take on the project.

Discussions ensued and Members emphasised the importance of involving residents in the process and giving ownership to communities.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Agree to consult with external parties to consider the contents of the proposed procedure and incorporate feedback/comments where appropriate; and,
2. To receive a future report to formally recommend to Cabinet a new procedure to simplify the process for Community use of underused/vacant Council owned land.

8 Chair's closing remarks

The Chair thanked Members for attending and confirmed that the Climate Change Steering Group will continue to meet on a monthly basis.

This meeting closed at 16.16pm

**COUNCILLOR R LEWIS
CHAIR.**

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18TH DECEMBER 2019

TAFFS WELL THERMAL SPRING – GENERATING CARBON FREE ENERGY FOR THE COMMUNITY OF TAFFS WELL

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES

Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates and Steve Lock, Head of Energy Project Management.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide supporting information for the Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group meeting. The report outlines the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Steering Group:

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group and recommend a way forward for Cabinet.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The contents of this report provides supporting information for the Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group meeting presented at the first group meeting and provides an update on the specific area of the Taffs Well Thermal Spring Renewable Energy Project.

4. PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Taffs Well Thermal Spring emerges on the eastern bank of the River Taff in Taffs Well in the south east part of the borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf and is the only natural thermal spring in Wales. The current outlet for the thermal spring water is contained inside a brick-lined well within a Grade II Listed building constructed in the 1800s. The water runs constantly at 21°C and currently discharges through overflow pipes directly into the River Taff.

In terms of technical potential, the Taffs Well spring does not provide a great thermal reservoir at the surface, only being 10oC above normal ground water temperatures, therefore it cannot provide direct heating and a solution using a water source heat pump application is the only viable option.

- 4.2. In recent years there have been two previous feasibility studies led by the Friends of Taffs Well into developing the renewable energy potential of the Taffs Wells Spring in various ways. Then in 2017 the Council's Corporate Estates 'Energy' team assumed responsibility for the project and further work was carried out, including analysis of the technical and practical options for beneficially using the spring water and the viability of the different financial funding options.
- 4.3 This work was then summarised in an internal recommendation paper covering the various issues and options and approval to proceed on the technical and financial basis outlined below was subsequently agreed in early 2019.
- 4.3 In accordance with the content of the internal recommendation paper and the evaluation of the technical options it was agreed to proceed on the basis of providing a heat network to replace the existing heating system at two adjacent RCT Council buildings. For the Taffs Well Park Pavilion (which is currently used as a crèche facility but could have other project-related use in future) the intention is to replace the existing electric heating. For Fynnon Taf Primary School (now including the new school block that is planned) the plan is to replace or integrate with the existing gas fired system.
- 4.4 In accordance with the content of the internal recommendation paper and the evaluation of the financial options the intended plan is that the project will be funded by RCT Council as part of its wider commitments including carbon reduction. The current expected core project is expected to save 37.1 tonnes of CO2.
- 4.5 There is also future potential for developing a second phase of the project by expanding the use of the Spring water into a small but wider District heating network.

5. CURRENT PROJECT SITUATION

- 5.1 Following the approval to proceed to next stage of the project a formal tender process was carried out to appoint an external specialist consultancy to update certain information, and provide final feasibility, planning and procurement advice based on a water source heat pump system. As a result of this process Nuvision Energy Wales (Ltd.) of Cardiff were appointed and commenced work on the project in September. The first report from Nuvision on the feasibility of the project has very recently been received and whilst the details are still being considered there are some key points;
 - That there are no engineering reasons why the heat within the Taff Well Thermal Spring water cannot be used for a renewable energy project incorporating ground source heat pumps to supply both the Park Pavilion and Fynnon Taf Primary School.

- That there is more than sufficient heat within the Taffs Well Spring Water to meet the demands of the current project for the Park Pavilion and Ffynnon Taf Primary School.

6. PROJECT FORWARD PLAN AND TIMESCALES

- 6.1 A number of immediate next steps have been identified from the recent Nuvision interim report including some clarification issues with Western Power and Natural Resources Wales.
- 6.2 Following clarification of these immediate next steps a timescale for the necessary Planning application will be finalised in early 2020. In conjunction with this timescale a final technical specification for the Procurement of the construction phase of the project will also be finalised prior to the formal Procurement process which is envisaged to take place in Spring/Summer 2020. The necessary construction and related other works will then take place with an overall plan for the project to be fully completed by March 2021.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this supporting report. However, should the project proceed to the next phases of development, appropriate consultations will take place as part of the planning approval process.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 The existing early feasibility work is funded through existing approved budgets.
- 9.2 There a number of cost variables that will affect the final cost but overall the cost is unlikely to exceed the expected range of £250k to £300k. However by structuring the financial elements to maximise the Renewable Heat Allowance payment the pay-back on investment could be reduced by several years.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 11.1 This report provides information in the area of the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project future actions as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group which will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

12. **CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 This report provides information in the area of Taffs Well Thermal Spring Renewable Energy Project future actions as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.

Contact Officers; David Powell 01443 424144, Steve Lock 01443 281191

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18TH DECEMBER 2019

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP WORK PROGRAMME 2019- 2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION, COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR R. LEWIS

Author: Hannah Williams, Democratic Services (01443 424062)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To comment and approve the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group Work during the 2019-2020 Municipal Year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group:

- 2.1 Subject to any amendments, approve the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group Work Programme for the 2019-2020 Municipal Year.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that progress is monitored and action can be proposed to Cabinet to respond to the Cabinet's commitment for the Council to be Carbon Neutral by 2030, and to work with residents and businesses within the Borough to ensure the whole County Borough is Carbon Neutral as close as possible to the 2030 target.
- 3.3 The updated Work Programme is attached to this report for Members' consideration and covers the 2019-2020 Municipal Year.
- 3.4 For ease of reference the work programme will also be available on the main Cabinet webpage for Members and members of the public information.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Cabinet Steering Group has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach to issues of climate change and the Council becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. Its membership will provide strategic direction and will initially consider any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters
- 4.2 This Cabinet Steering Group will provide the opportunity to proactively discuss progress and delivery of actions, which emanate from the Corporate Plan, which aims to meet climate change challenges and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- 4.3 The document is a rolling work programme for the 2019 - 2020 Municipal Year, to allow for regular updates and amendments. The work programme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.4 During the period outlined, the work programme may be subject to further change to take into account any additional/deletion reports.

5. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 The work programme has been compiled by members of the Senior Leadership Team in discussion with the Climate Change Champion, County Borough Councillor Rhys Lewis.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. Any investment required to address any of the recommendations will be reported and considered separately.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 This report seeks to set out a Work Programme for the Steering Group to develop and recommend to Cabinet a series of proposals and recommendations to reduce the impact the Council and its residents and businesses have on the environment and respond to the issues set out in the Committee on Climate Change Report – Net Zero. The future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations in this report will be

considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The work programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group seeks to set out an ambitious programme to enable the Council to achieve the 2030 target, and the Council welcomes input from other organisations and individuals in helping to achieve this ambitious target.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18TH DECEMBER 2019

**CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP WORK PROGRAMME
2019- 2020 MUNICIPAL YEAR.**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CLIMATE CHANGE
CHAMPION, COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR R. LEWIS**



**CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP
WORK PROGRAMME
2019-2020**

NOVEMBER 2019				
Report Title	Responsible Officer	Purpose of the report	Previous Committee Consultation?	For Cabinet approval?
Future Work Programme	Chief Executive	To outline the Council's current position in respect of climate change and the proposed future work programme.		
Biodiversity Duty	Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services	To update Members on the progress in discharging the Council's Biodiversity Duty and to seek approval to submit the required update report to Welsh Government.	Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity – 12.12.17	December 2019
Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction Update	Director, Corporate Estates	To provide an update on Corporate Estates energy and carbon reduction.		
Community Use of Underused/Vacant Land	Director, Corporate Estates	To provide a draft streamlined procedure for the community use of underused/vacant RCT land.		
DECEMBER 2019				
Report Title	Responsible Officer	Purpose of the report	Previous Committee Consultation?	For Cabinet approval?
Recycling in RCT	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	To receive an update on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.		January 2020
Local Procurement of Supplies and Services	Director, Human Resources	To receive an overview of the Council's contracting arrangements.		
Elimination of single use plastics in all Council contracts and premises	Chief Executive	To receive an overview of the current guidance that is in place to support organisations when seeking to eliminate single use plastics.		

Taffs Well Thermal Spring	Director, Corporate Estates	To outline the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.		
JANUARY 2020				
Report Title	Responsible Officer	Purpose of the report	Previous Committee Consultation?	For Cabinet approval?
Transportation and the reduction of carbon emissions	Group Director, Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services	To focus on maximising the benefits of the South Wales Metro; consider electrical vehicle charging; opportunities to significantly increase active travel options; how we reduce the impact of the Council's fleet of vehicles, commissioned/subsidised public transport, and licenced taxis and home to school transport.		
Air Quality Management Areas	Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services	To consider what action can be taken in the air quality management areas, to ensure air quality improves across the County Borough.		
Development of Infrastructure to support Low Carbon Vehicle Ownership	Service Director, Democratic Services and Communication	To outline and monitor the progress of recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which were endorsed by Cabinet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 03.09.19 • Cabinet – 24.19.19 	
Community Engagement	Joint report of the Service Director, Democratic Services and Communication External Representatives	To discuss how the Council can work with Friends of the Earth, Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace and other local environmental groups engage residents and businesses to adapt and change how they live their lives to reduce their demand on planet Earth.		
FEBRUARY 2020				
Report Title	Responsible Officer	Purpose of the report	Previous Committee Consultation?	For Cabinet approval?

Energy Generation	Director, Corporate Estates	To set out a series of proposals for the Council to build and finance potential solar, wind and hydro schemes on Council or other public sector owned land and rivers, which will make a significant contribution to the Council achieving its Carbon Neutral target.		
Nature's Assets - Using the Natural Environment to reduce carbon emissions and the effects of climate change	Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services in partnership with National Resources Wales	To build upon the previously considered Biodiversity Report and to discuss a range of projects, which will have a positive impact on improving air quality.	Climate Change Steering Group – 18.11.19	
Strategic and Local Development Plans	Director, Prosperity and Development	To consider the regional SDP and a RCT LDP ten year plans and their policies and commitments to ensure housing, transportation and business infrastructure minimises the carbon footprint.		
MARCH 2020				
Report Title	Responsible Officer	Purpose of the report	Previous Committee Consultation?	For Cabinet approval?
Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group Commitments and Progress	Chief Executive	To receive an update of the progress made and actions to date		

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18th DECEMBER 2019

LOCAL PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION (COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS)

Author: Steve Vaughan – Service Manager (Procurement)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Provide the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with an overview of the Council's contracting arrangements, in particular:
 - Based on the current data that we have available to us, illustrate how much of the Council's current expenditure takes place with suppliers that are based within the County Borough;
 - Put in place a structured approach to reviewing the potential added value to the local economy where contracted spend takes place with suppliers that are not based within the County Borough;
 - How we can adopt a structured approach to building effective networks with local businesses that are based within the area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Steering Group:

- 2.1 Agree that further work takes place to review the Council's top 50 suppliers with the aim of establishing the value that these arrangements have to our local economy;
- 2.2 Note the work that is taking place to develop a detailed understanding of the businesses that operate within the County Borough;
- 2.3 That an update on these actions be presented back to the Group in June 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is one of the largest Councils in Wales. In order to deliver the range of services that it is responsible for, it contracts with a large number of external organisations. The Procurement Service has a key role in supporting and enabling service areas to deliver economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes through the contracting process.
- 3.2 This report provides a brief overview of the regulatory requirements that the Council is legally obliged to follow; provides a summary of spend that has occurred for the first half of the 2019/20 financial year; sets out the next steps in terms of getting a thorough understanding of the baseline data and introduces the theme of how we can better engage with local businesses.
- 3.3 This report compliments recent work undertaken by a scrutiny working group on behalf of the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee. The working group considered how proposals supported by Full Council, following consideration of a Notice of Motion, in respect of establishing a food register, with the aim of promoting and increasing support for local produce, thereby supporting the local economy. The recommendations of the working group have adopted by the Scrutiny Committee and have been received by the Council's [Cabinet](#). The recommendations will shortly receive a formal response from Cabinet.

4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 All Public Procurement is governed by EU Treaty, EU Procurement Directives and UK Procurement Regulations. The Council has an obligation to comply with this Legal Framework and our Contract Procedure Rules set the framework for delivering our procurement activities.
- 4.2 The overriding aim of an effective procurement process is to deliver value for money with effective outcomes. Underpinning all of our processes are the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and fairness.

5. HOW MUCH IS CURRENTLY SPENT WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

- 5.1 During the financial year 2018/19, £227m was spent on goods, services and works. Of this, £51m was spent with organisations based within the County Borough. The analysis of this data was undertaken using the postcode of each supplier.
- 5.2 During the first six months of the 2019/20 financial year, a total of £119m has been spent on contracts relating to goods, services and works.
- 5.3 To provide an initial summary of 'what's spent locally', we are able to analyse our data and map this spend utilising the postcode of the supplier with which we have contracted, as we did with the 2018/19 data.

- 5.4 Based on the first six months of the current financial year, the following can be reported:

Of the £119m:

£74m has been spent directly with organisations that are based within Wales
Of which:

- £70m has been spent with organisations that are based within the South East Wales Region;
Of which:
 - £28m has been spent with organisations based within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- 5.5 Whilst the data reported at section 5.4 is useful, it doesn't fully answer the question of '*how much of our money is spent locally?*'.

- 5.6 At this stage, it is worth highlighting the 'key question' that is being asked of us, contained within the [Forward Workplan which is:](#)

'This report sets out targets and plans to significantly increase the amount of money the Council spends locally, initially focusing on small and medium sized companies based in the County Borough, and South East Wales.'

- 5.7 Without a better understanding of how much is spent locally, we are unable to set any realistic targets. Therefore in order to provide a baseline, we need to undertake a review of our supply chain (top 50 initially) in order to fully understand the impact that our contracting arrangements are having on the local economy.

- 5.8 We will also need to identify the local businesses within the County Borough, which may offer contracting opportunities in the future.

- 5.9 Section 6 of this report sets out how we will undertake a baseline.

- 5.10 Section 7 sets out how we can begin the process of gathering data in relation to local businesses that operate within the County Borough, and what our plans are for the future in terms of seeking to utilise these arrangements, where we can.

6. HOW CAN WE GET A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF 'LOCAL SPEND'?

- 6.1 Whilst the exercise of utilising the postcode of our suppliers provides useful data in terms of mapping local spend, there are methods that we need to explore further in order to provide a more rounded and informed picture. This is an important issue to raise at this stage, as just because spend may be recorded to a supplier who's postcode is outside of the area (England for example), this doesn't necessarily mean that the local economy does not benefit.

6.2 We need to explore the following with our current suppliers:

Concentrating initially on our top 50 suppliers, undertake a detailed review of supply chains:

- How much each supplier within the top 50 spends with companies that are based within Rhondda Cynon Taf? For example:
 - If they sub-contract, then have they sub-contacted to local businesses?
 - If they purchase goods for use, have they used companies based within Rhondda Cynon Taf?

Understanding our suppliers workforce(s)

- Seeking to establish an understanding of their workforces.
 - How many individuals from within Rhondda Cynon Taf do they employ to deliver services to us?

6.3 In addition to the financial aspect of our contracting arrangements, some contracts also require our suppliers to deliver what are known as Community Benefits e.g. apprenticeship schemes on construction projects. At the moment, we do not have a central repository that captures these added-value benefits. This is an area for improvement that we are aware of, and are currently putting the necessary arrangements in place to address this issue ([Link](#)).

6.4 In summary, in order to get a better idea of 'how much of the Council's money is spent locally', engagement will take place with our top 50 suppliers. An update on this review will be reported back to the Group in June 2020.

7. IS THERE POTENTIAL TO ENGAGE WITH AN UNTAPPED LOCAL NETWORK OF BUSINESSES?

7.1 During recent months, the Procurement Service has begun to work in conjunction with the Regeneration Service with the aim of identifying data sets that we have available to us that lists the local businesses within the County Borough.

7.2 Once this work is completed, it is the aim that this data will be used to engage with local businesses. We need to ensure that we conduct our arrangements in an open and transparent manner, therefore we will:

- Provide opportunities for local businesses to come and 'meet the buyer';
- Ensure that local businesses are aware of how to 'do businesses with the Council';
- Liaise with these local businesses in order to establish if they have any potential barriers to delivering contracts for us – supply and infrastructure for example;
- Seek to establish if there is any potential to deliver pilot exercises with the aim of learning lessons along the way.

7.3 As an example of a pilot, the work undertaken through Finance and Performance Scrutiny around establishing a register of food producers and companies in RCT could be developed into a local procurement protocol for the Council's food purchasing areas such as school catering and meals in wheels.

7.4 An update on this area will also be reported back to the Group in June 2020.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this supporting report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the recommendations contained within this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

12.1 The future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

13. CONCLUSION

13.1. This report provides an overview of the Council's contracting arrangements, in particular how the Council is able to demonstrate spend with our local suppliers (based on 'postcode' data).

13.2. The report introduces the concept of establishing whether the contracted spend that initially appears to take place with suppliers outside of the County Borough, adds value to the local economy.

13.3. The Council is keen to explore the potential of how we can utilise local SME's more, therefore work around mapping our local suppliers will take place, with the aim of identifying potential opportunities to introduce them into our supply chain in the future.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18th December 2018

Report of the Director of Human Resources

Author: Steve Vaughan – Service Manager (Procurement)

LOCAL PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Background Papers: None.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18TH DECEMBER 2019

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN ALL COUNCIL CONTRACTS AND PREMISES

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION (COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS)

Author: Marc Crumbie – Head of Procurement

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Provide members of the group with an overview of the current guidance that is in place to support organisations when seeking to eliminate single use plastics.
- 1.2 Identify those categories of spend where single use plastics are currently in circulation, or indeed, have been in circulation recently.
- 1.3 Where the use of materials cannot be avoided, and alternative arrangements have already been put in place, this report sets out the potential barriers to success. The aim of this is to inform debate, utilising the 'Waste Hierarchy', on the most appropriate and responsible way forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Group:

- 2.1 Review the report with the aim of obtaining a greater understanding of the issues that the Council faces in eliminating its use of single use plastics.
- 2.2 Utilising the 'Waste Hierarchy' along with the lessons that we have learnt so far, debate and discuss an appropriate forward work plan that will support the Council's ambitions to eliminate single use plastics as far as it can practicably do so.
- 2.3 Note that a future report will be provided to the Group in April 2020 setting out an action plan to eliminate the use of single use plastics within the Council by 2020.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 This report seeks to understand how the Council can eliminate the use of single use plastics in all Council contracts and premises by the end of 2020.

3.2 In light of this being the first report on this area to the Group on tackling this major issue, and to ensure that the Council adopts an appropriate strategic approach to delivering achievable and sustainable outcomes, the remaining sections of this report have been summarised under the following headings:

- **WHAT IS THE WASTE HIERARCHY?**
- **MAPPING OUR CURRENT & RECENT USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS**
- **HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION?**
- **THE NEXT STEPS**

3.3 When reviewing the information provided, and listening to the views of members of the group, the following key questions may assist:

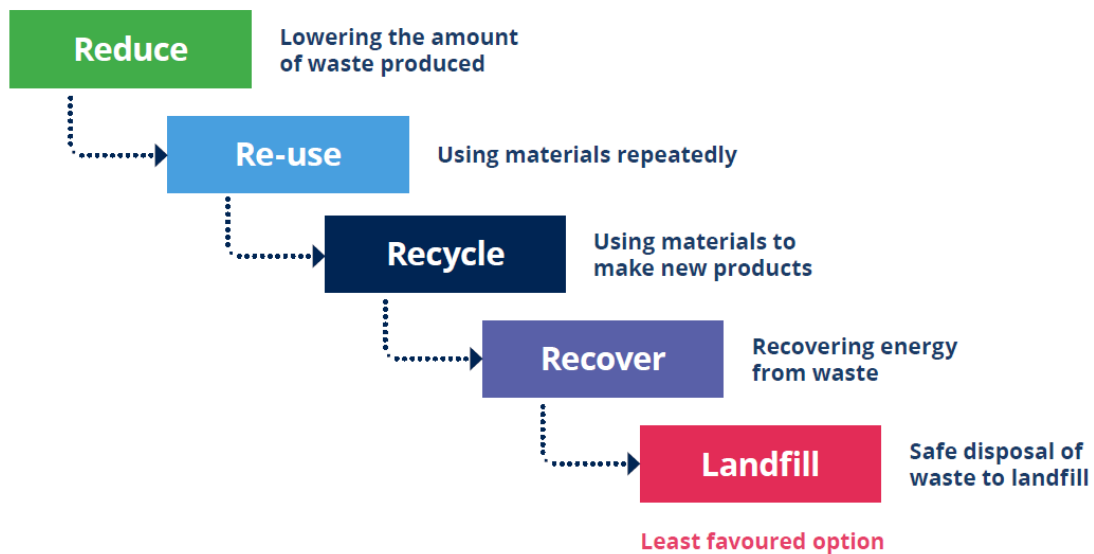
- **Where we are now, and what have we done to date?**
- **Where do we want to get to?**
- **How do we get there?**
- **Embedding arrangements**
- **How will we monitor our effectiveness?**

4. WHAT IS THE WASTE HIERARCHY?

4.1 When reviewing the use of single-use plastics, the Waste Framework Directive (2008) provides a useful and valuable waste hierarchy. The Waste Hierarchy sets out a hierarchy of options for managing waste in terms of what is best for the environment. The Waste Hierarchy is summarised in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Waste Hierarchy

Most favoured option



Source: EU Waste Framework Directive, 2008

- 4.2 A key question at the outset is to challenge ourselves with the question: ‘**Can we avoid using something in the first instance?**’, if we do this, and avoid utilising particular products then this immediately reduces the amount of waste.
- 4.3 WRAP Cymru provides a useful summary for each step of the Waste Hierarchy as follows:

REDUCE – eliminate and/or prevent the unnecessary use of plastic and the need to purchase items. For example, many organisations are now avoiding the purchase of plastic straws in all but exceptional circumstances.

RE-USE – opt for re-usable rather than single-use items. This could include challenging the use of single-use items such as coffee cups and takeaway trays by sourcing durable containers and incentivising their re-use.

RECYCLE – ensure that items which are purchased can easily be recycled (e.g. PET, HDPE and LDPE), are collected within existing recycling systems, and that compostable packaging is used only where it is sent to appropriate facilities for treatment.

RECOVER – ensure that only items that are very difficult to eliminate or recycle (e.g. multi-layer films, laminated paper, and contaminated waste) are collected to be processed through incineration.

LANDFILL – to be avoided as this is the most expensive route for disposal and has the greatest environmental impact.

4.4 The challenge for the Council now, is to apply the waste hierarchy to those areas that we have mapped (refer to Section 5). In particular, the key principle of avoidance should be at the forefront of our minds. Where the use is unavoidable, it will be essential that any alternative / replacement products can be re-used and/or recycled.

4.5 If we replace a plastic product with a product that either cannot be re-used or recycled, then we are at risk of creating a product that requires disposal, which is the least preferred option within the Waste Hierarchy.

5. MAPPING OUR CURRENT & RECENT USE OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS

5.1 In order to deliver an effective strategy that aims to reduce the quantity of single use plastics within our systems, our first task has been to map out where these materials are currently in use.

5.2 It is worth noting at this stage, that work has taken place in the past 12 to 18 months that has targeted the use of single use plastics, and in some instances these products have been replaced with ‘compostable’ alternatives. Both single use plastics and alternative compostable products are listed within the table below.

5.3 Table 1 provides a summary of the mapping exercise that has taken place.

TABLE 1 – CURRENT USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Category of spend / services delivered	Examples of single-use plastics in use
Food	<p>Food that is served within our residential homes, primary schools and day centres is served on plates, and with cutlery – i.e. traditional sit down arrangements.</p> <p>The use of single use plastics and recent alternative materials mainly relates to meals that are served within our comprehensive schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of our comprehensive schools offer the service for children to receive their food in a container that allows them to eat in a place other than the ‘food hall’. This is known as ‘food on the go’. • In order to allow children this facility, the food is placed within a container with cutlery being provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food cartons have traditionally been in the form of polystyrene containers, but these have been replaced recently with compostable alternatives. ○ Cutlery comes in the form of either bamboo or plastic knives and forks.

Category of spend / services delivered	Examples of single-use plastics in use
<p>Hot & cold drink provision at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff canteens • Residential homes for the elderly • Leisure Centres • Tourism establishments • Internal and external events 	<p>Due to the diverse nature of services delivered by the Council, a mixture of arrangements are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of ceramic cups and metal spoons within our residential homes, and some offices where training is provided to staff and external organisations. • We also have arrangements in place whereby single use plastics are used in the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Single use cups for hot drinks ○ Individual coffee sachets ○ Plastic tea spoons ○ Plastic stirrers ○ Single use plastics cups for cold drinks
<p>Water fountains for staff and visitors</p>	<p>Some water fountains have plastic cups put to one side for use.</p>
<p>Vending machines</p>	<p>Vending machines are in use across a number of Council establishments, such as offices, leisure centres and schools.</p> <p>The drinks for sale within these machines are traditionally provided in plastics bottles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been recent developments whereby water is being sold in metal cans, rather than plastic bottles. However, this is not been consistently applied across all of the Council's establishments. • An assessment of whether metal cans are a more suitable alternative than plastics bottles has not been carried out.
<p>Cleaning / Janitorial contracts</p>	<p>Our establishments are currently cleaned by either the Council's internal cleaning service, or an appointed contractor.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the cleaning products in use, they are often held within plastic containers.</p>
<p>The delivery of packaged supplies</p>	<p>The Council receives delivery of supplies ranging from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationery

Category of spend / services delivered	Examples of single-use plastics in use
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I.T equipment • Office furniture
Construction projects	<p>All waste on construction projects is currently managed by appointed contractors.</p> <p>A full review of the Council's standard terms and conditions, particularly around the management of waste in general is required to take place.</p>

5.4 Having mapped out where single-use plastics are in use across the Council, the challenge now is to undertake detailed and thorough audits of these areas with the aim of identifying quantities, evaluating the current disposal arrangements in place and overlay with waste hierarchy principles, in consultation with suppliers.

6. HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT A SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION?

6.1 The following section of this report focuses on the replacement of plastic packaging to deliver 'food on the go' services. The work that has taken place in this area of service provision has provided us with some valuable lessons that we need to take account of.

6.2 Whilst this is one example, it must be noted that it is the Council's intention to review all of the categories listed in Table 1 of this report, with the aim of gathering the required intelligence and subsequently applying the waste hierarchy.

A Case Study – ‘food on the go’

- 6.3 Customers at our staff canteens along with school children in our comprehensive schools eat food ‘on the go’. Previously, food ‘on the go’ would have been provided in polystyrene containers. In an attempt to eliminate the use of these containers, we have sourced what are advertised to be ‘compostable’ products.
- 6.4 These products are marked as ‘compostable’ see Figure 1.

Figure 1



- 6.5 As these products are marked as compostable, there is a ‘fair and reasoned’ assumption that these can be disposed of in our compostable food caddy bins. Alternatively, and given the lack of clarity in this area, this packaging has the look and feel of cardboard / thick paper. As a result, in practice they are also being placed within our paper recycling bins. See Figure 2.

Figure 2



- 6.6 Unfortunately, these products do not compost down within our Anaerobic Digester facility based in Bryn Pica. These replacement products only break down on mass in a suitable facility that is known as an ‘In-Vessel Composting’ facility. There are no such facilities currently operating in Wales.

In summary:

- These products are not compostable within our current food waste stream, and;
- If put into the paper or cardboard recycling facilities, they are classed as contaminants.

6.7 What we have learnt is:

The general awareness of 'Waste Hierarchy' application is very limited.

There has been no consistent approach.

Fair and reasonable assumptions have been made that replacement products are recyclable (within current waste streams).

Some replacement products that have been put in place so far, could be solving one waste issue, but inadvertently creating another.

These are key lessons that we have learned, and will be considered when developing a strategic approach to tackling the matter.

How do we achieve a sustainable solution?

6.8 We need a strategic approach that enables the management of single use plastics out of our systems and processes.

6.9 Overcoming the assumptions described above is a key challenge / factor that we need to take into account when replacing plastic products with appropriate alternatives.

6.10 We need to educate and inform our employees – good waste management awareness and practice in work, will lead to good practice at home.

6.11 The WRAP guidance as referenced in paragraph 4.3 is therefore particularly relevant to us at this stage:

RECYCLE – ensure that items which are purchased can easily be recycled (e.g. PET, HDPE and LDPE), are collected within existing recycling systems, and that **compostable packaging is used only where it is sent to appropriate facilities for treatment.**

7. THE NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 Having introduced the concept of applying the Waste Hierarchy, mapped out where single use plastics are within our categories of spend, and learnt some valuable lessons when piloting alternative sustainable solutions, we need to:

ACTION 1

Undertake a full audit of the categories of spend, with the aim of quantifying volumes.

- This data will help to inform a Council-wide strategic approach to the issues and solutions.

ACTION 2

Review this data and overlay the Waste Hierarchy principles

- Can any of the single use plastics be **avoided**?
- Are there any suitable products available to **replace** single use plastics?
 - A factor to this work will be to ensure that any replacement products can either be re-used and/or easily recycled, in accordance with the principles outlined by WRAP Cymru.

ACTION 3

Report back following the in-depth analysis, and propose appropriate solutions that support the objective.

- This will be in the form of a Council-wide strategy that can be communicated and applied consistently across the Council's establishments / workforce.

- 7.2 In parallel to the above actions, work will take place to review the arrangements currently in place in relation to the compostable food packaging.
- 7.3 In summary, at this stage, we do not have any data in terms of quantities used across our offices, and / or schools. The case study provided within this report demonstrates the barriers faced with successfully delivering the ambition of eliminating single use plastics.
- 7.4 In order to deliver a robust approach to tackling this problem responsibly, an in-depth review of the use, quantities involved and current disposal of all products is required. This will help to inform a strategic approach. It is proposed that a follow up report will be presented to the Steering Group in April 2020, setting out an action plan to eliminate the use of single use plastics within the Council by 2020.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 Currently, there are no direct financial implications upon the Council's revenue budget.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 There are no legal or legislative implications emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

12. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 12.1 This report seeks to set out the arrangements required to support the council in reducing its use of single use plastics, in doing so the recommendations to reduce the impact the Council and its residents and businesses have on the environment and respond to the issues set out in the Committee on Climate Change Report – Net Zero. The future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations in this report will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

13. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This report sets out the guidance that the Council has available to it when seeking to eliminate single use plastics. Whilst elimination is not easy or straight forwards, the Waste Hierarchy principles provide a valuable reference point when seeking to measure how effective any arrangement could be.
- 10.2 Having provided a specific case study that outlines some of the potential barriers to the successful elimination of single use plastics, detailed work will now take place across all categories of spend in order to ensure that a robust strategic approach to eliminating single use plastics from our supply chain is delivered in a consistent and sustainable way.
- 10.3 The Council is committed to addressing this important issue, and progress reports will be presented to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group to ensure appropriate scrutiny.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18th December 2018

Report of the Chief Executive

Author: Marc Crumbie – Head of Procurement

ELIMINATION OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN ALL COUNCIL CONTRACTS AND PREMISES

Background Papers: None.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

18th DECEMBER 2019

RECYCLING WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF PROSPERITY, DEVELOPMENT AND FRONTLINE SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION (COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS)

Author: Nigel Wheeler - (01443 827707)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members of the Climate Change Committee on the recycling performance for the first 6 months of 2019/20, the new Materials Recovery Facility, future developments at Bryn Pica and potential legislative changes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report:
- 2.2 Recommend to Cabinet to change the recycling target to 80% by 2024/25

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This Council as do all councils in Wales has statutory targets set by Welsh Government. This year the target is 64%, failure to meet these targets will result in the Council receiving a substantial fine. The fine is based on performance so every ton we miss the target by, will result in a minimum fine of £200 per ton.
- 3.2 In order to achieve these targets, councils have to develop working systems to deliver these targets through new Materials Recycling Facilities, and true circular economy whilst ensuring they are able to change when there are legislative changes.

4. UPDATE / CURRENT POSITION

4.1 RCT Council incrementally year on year has improved its recycling figure, but last year saw a slight drop in the performance, this was mainly due to the change in way we were able to measure the wood we collected at our Community Recycling Centres and the tonnage in green waste collected at the kerbside due to the weather.

4.2 These changes affected all Councils and not only our Council, whilst other Councils also indicated that they had seen recycling plateau, something we had been concerned about for some time.

4.3 2019/2020 is a target year in regard to the legislation, and the target is that we must achieve a recycling figure of at least 64%, failure to do so would result in the Council receiving a fine. The fine is a minimum of £200 on every ton we fail to miss the target by, so it could be a substantial amount.

4.4 The table below shows our performance during the first 6 months of this financial year. These figures are subject to ratification by Waste data flow and any change will be minimal.

4.5

	Q1	Q2	Total For
	2019/20	2019/20	2019/20
Dry Reuse	379.35	461.61	840.96
Dry Recycling	15710.31	18,161.45	33,871.76
Composting	5,479.19	5,950.82	11,430.01
Total municipal waste	32,105.14	34,841.50	66,946.64
WMT 10(iv) - Dry reuse rate	1.18%	1.32%	1.26%
WMT 10(v) - Dry recycling rate	48.93%	52.13%	50.60%
WMT 10(vi) - Composting rate	17.07%	17.08%	17.07%
WMT 09b reuse, recycling and composting rate	67.18%	70.53%	68.92%

4.6 For the record the performance highlighted in the table, shows that we have achieved the target set out by Welsh Government and puts in a good position to be able to maintain this for the remainder of the year, thus avoiding any fines.

4.7 It should also be noted that these figures are the highest ever achieved by this Council.

4.8 The next target for this Council is the 2024/2025 target of 70% so if we can maintain this performance and improve slightly we are well on course to achieve this considerably earlier than we need to. It is hoped that provision of the new MRF at Bryn Pica will go a long way in taking us over the target and towards 80%. Therefore I feel it would be appropriate to recommend to Cabinet to change the target for 2024/25 to 80% and putting together a marketing campaign informing resident enforcement action will be taken if they do not recycle.

- 4.9 The council has recently invested in a new Materials Recycling Facility at Bryn Pica, it is too early to say the impact this will have on our recycling percentage but based on the early commissioning there will be an increase in the percentage.
- 4.10 It has also been very noticeable that the purity of the material coming out of the MRF is extremely good and in particular the steel and aluminium is of a really high purity and some buyers who have been to see the material stated that it is the cleanest material they have ever seen.
- 4.11 Despite this investment, the MRF is only as good as the residents who recycle and if the material is contaminated there is not a lot we can do, also to achieve 70/80% we need buy-in from all our residents, we still undertake awareness but this is labour intensive, we also use enforcement.
- 4.12 Our recycling collection method is simple, so there is no excuse not to recycle but still we have residents who do not recycle.
- 4.13 The site at Bryn Pica is home to a number of activities:-
- Material Recycling Facility (MRF)
 - Anaerobic Digestion Facility (AD)
 - Mattress Recycling Facility
 - Leachate Treatment Plant
 - Landfill
 - Landfill Gas
 - Education Centre
- 4.14 The challenge in waste is to provide a true circular economy whilst utilising the energy produced.
- 4.15 At Bryn Pica we have land, we have green energy produced through the AD Plant and from the methane produced in the landfill, it is our ambition to develop an Eco Park on site, utilising the energy produced and providing units where businesses can set up and make a product from the materials we collect, basically materials collected in Wales, recycled in Wales utilising green energy, a true circular economy
- 4.16 At present our business case for the Park is under consideration with WG for funding, whilst we have a number of businesses interested in locating to the site, in addition to the private companies, Amgen is looking to develop a recycling process for hard plastics whereby we grind down and wash the plastics and then either sell the material or turn it into a product on site.
- 4.17 The concept of the project has already won a WG award for innovation and the council has already invested its own monies into the project and we are extremely hopeful further WG funding will follow.

- 4.18 Added to this, there is currently a consultation exercise out from WG on Trade Waste Collections with a Waste Strategy Consultation due to come out early in the new year, both could have significant implications on what we as a council do, but I feel we are in a good position to change our service with whatever comes out of the consultation.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no Equality or Diversity implications aligned to this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no Consultation implications aligned to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are Financial implications in failing to achieve the statutory targets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

- 9.1 The recycling processes and future plans we adopt align itself to the Corporate Plan and Corporate Priorities.

- 9.2 This clearly is linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 RCT Council are proud of its recycling services and prides itself being at the forefront of continuous improvement in this area.

- 10.2 This is highlighted with the Eco Park plans and the development of the new Material Recycling Facility currently being commissioned.