



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: Yula Kampourpoulou (07747485569)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a meeting of **CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP** to be held on **ZOOM** on **WEDNESDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2022** at **11.00 AM**.

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, 28 February 2022 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

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 Cabinet Steering Group held on the 10th November 2021.

- 3. UPDATE FROM NET ZERO RCT STAFF EVENT - 17 JANUARY 2022**

To receive a verbal update of the Performance Manager on the net zero staff event held on the 17 January 2022.
- 4. UPDATE REPORT ON OUR PROCUREMENT RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

To receive the report of the Head of Procurement which provides the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with an update on responses undertaken towards Climate Change.

17 - 24
- 5. UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM PROJECT**

To receive the report of the Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction, which provides an update on the proposed Solar Farm Project.

25 - 30
- 6. UPDATE REPORT ON REDUCTION OF SINGLE USE ITEMS**

To receive the report of the Head of Procurement, which provides the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with an update on the reduction of single use items.

31 - 38
- 7. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES**

To receive a verbal update of the Director of Corporate Estates on the following matters:

 1. The Tree Planting Project
 2. EV Charging Strategy & the Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 8. UPDATE REPORT ON THE EDINBURGH DECLARATION**

To receive an update on the Edinburgh Declaration and the role of Local Authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

39 - 44
- 9. SUMMARY REPORT OF OUTCOMES ACHIEVED IN RECENT YEARS**

To receive the report of the Director of Corporate Estates, which summarises the outcomes achieved in recent years in tackling Climate Change.

45 - 60
- 10. 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 A Crimmings respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

Councillor J Barton, Councillor S Belzak, Councillor M Norris, Councillor E Webster, Mr C Harries - Friends of the Earth, Ms H Richards - Friends of the Earth and Mr I Thomas - Welcome to our Woods

Officers:

Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive

Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Paul Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services

Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development

Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services

David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager

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 virtual meeting of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group held on Wednesday, 10 November 2021 at 10.00 am.

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

Councillor R Lewis Councillor M Norris
Councillor A Crimmings Councillor J Barton
Councillor S Belzak Councillor E Webster

Officers in attendance: -

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Mr R Waters, Service Director – Frontline Services
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Ms L Lawson, Performance Manager
Mr A Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction
Mr R Wistow, Ecologist

Invited External Representatives of the Steering Group: -

Ms H Richards – Friends of the Earth
Mr I Thomas – Welcome to our Woods

9 Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group and welcomed County Borough Councillor J Barton to the Group. The Chair also informed the Group that County Borough Councillor M Webber was no longer a member of the Group and thanked her for her contributions to the Group and confirmed County Borough Councillor A Crimmings will take over the role of Vice Chair.

10 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

11 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June

2021 as an accurate reflection.

12 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy and Implementation Plan

The Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction presented Committee Members with an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway on developing a Council Strategy for Electric Vehicle Charging (EVC) and how it relates to the wider RCT Council Net Zero and Carbon Reduction commitments.

Members were reminded that in April 2021 the Electric Vehicle Charging and Transportation Working Group was set up, comprising officers from across all Service Groups, under the leadership of the Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction Team.

The first part of the project has been the development of a Strategy to cover the future of Electric Vehicle Charging. Members were informed this lays out the aspirations of the Council and sets the scene for future development of EV Charging that is under the Councils remit.

The EVC Strategy has been updated and subject to approval by Cabinet is ready to be published, having progressed through internal consultation with stakeholders and a 2nd public consultation exercise. Members were given detail regarding the extensive consultation exercise that took place through the Councils 'Let's Talk' engagement platform with a dedicated project titled 'Let's Talk EV Charging'. The remarks, requests and other information that were submitted as part of the consultation were then collated into a report and fed into the final strategy document.

Members were informed the next steps will be the development of an Implementation Plan aimed at giving a clear road map on how to proceed, who to speak to, and how proposed works will need to be planned and implemented. The Implementation Plan will also contain an 'Action Plan' stating clear goals for the Council, including short, medium, and long-term targets for the Council to aspire towards, in the transition to the use of electric vehicles.

Member's attention was also drawn to the comprehensive impact assessment process that was undertaken with colleagues in the Welsh Language Service and the Diversity and Inclusion Service when developing the strategy.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report and acknowledged the work undertaken to establish the robust Strategy noting the strategy appears well thought out with thorough consideration for safe and accessible locations for all residents.

One Member praised the in-depth consultation process that had been carried out and how the comments from this process have been taken into account and fed into the final strategy showing the value in listening and engaging with members of the public and wider groups to ensure inclusion of those with disabilities and potential barriers to accessing an EV charging network.

Another Member queried information viewed outside of the meeting regarding to a UK Government restriction being placed on the use of EV Charging during peak hours. Officers responded that details of the specific restrictions mentioned by the Member were not known but that due to the complexity and capacity of the power network it is possible that there will need to be discussions held with

power suppliers regarding the introduction of an intelligent charging operation at specific times which ultimately may lead to the shaping of charging habits by EV users. Members were assured that future discussions will be ongoing with power suppliers to ensure the most suitable approach is adopted.

One Member raised the matter of charging points and accessibility to charge in terraced streets noting the presence of cables trailing across pavements and requested the Council provide clear guidance for residents on the legality of this practice in line with other Local Authorities. Members acknowledged the difficulty faced by the street scene in many locations particularly across the North of the borough in relation to terraced streets and accessing suitable charging points. Officers raised the potential health and safety risks this poses by having cables on pavements and highlighted from the report that as part of the strategy alternatives to at home parking were included as a possible solution in these circumstances. Members were also assured that guidance on the suitable practice of charging an electric vehicle at home including advice regarding the legal position of trailing cables from homes to vehicles is included as part of the implementation plan.

Most Members were in agreement that the development of the strategy is a positive move and moves the wider discussions on electric vehicle use on to the next stage. The group praised the efforts of and thanked Officers for their work in developing the strategy.

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

- To consider and note the feedback obtained from the public consultation in respect of the Electrical Vehicle Charging Strategy, and provide the above feedback to the Cabinet in respect of the adoption of the proposed strategy and its publication.
- To receive further reports to the Steering Group, providing further updates on progress with the development of an Implementation Plan.

It was noted that one Member (County Borough Councillor S Belzak) abstained from voting on this item commenting that further investment in bus transport would be better for the environment than Electric Vehicles.

13 The Council's Carbon Footprint Project

The Director of Corporate Estates provided an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the Carbon Footprint Project to measure and understand the Carbon Footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council activities for the Financial Years 2019/20 and 2020/21. The Director of Corporate Estates also covered the associated new Welsh Government Carbon Reporting requirements for the same two Financial years and wider aspects relating to future for achieving the longer-term Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Net Zero and Carbon Reduction commitments.

Members were reminded that a previous report was presented in June setting out the Council's Carbon Footprint for 2019/20. The Officer drew Members to section 4.3 of the report which showed a reproduction of this data.

The Officer continued to advise Members that this was the first phase of the project with the second phase being work to calculate the Carbon Footprint for 2020/21 to identify the impact of Covid-19. Members were informed that the

Council commissioned the Carbon Trust to carry out the with the full report being provided as Appendix A.

The Officer pointed out to Members that the calculations were completed in conjunction with the Carbon Trust using a calculator widely used in other public sectors. Members were advised that at the time Welsh Government had not produced a calculator, so the Council proceeded with Carbon Trust. Members were informed that during the course of the year Welsh Government also produced guidelines for Local Authorities to use to calculate and the Council was required to submit data for the 2020/21 footprint along with 2019/20 data for baseline. The Officer stated that the Council were able to comply with deadline set and both sets submitted in accordance with Welsh Government timescales.

The Officer also highlighted to Members section 4.11 of the report which sets out the similarities in the reporting process between Welsh Government guidelines and the Carbon Trust calculator however it was acknowledged that there are some differences which were outlined and explained to Members.

The Council will continue to calculate Carbon Footprint in line with Welsh Government guidelines but will also continue to utilise the Carbon Trust calculator for comparison purposes.

The Officer drew Member's attention to section 5 of the report which outlines the establishment of a decarbonisation plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council activities which is a key project to guide successfully towards Rhondda Cynon Taf being a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.

The Chair thanked Officers for their work involved in producing the data and a comprehensive report acknowledging the importance of identifying the current position of the Council. The Chair noted the downward trend in terms of the Carbon Footprint but acknowledged the ongoing challenges to continue this.

One Member queried what work the Council was doing regarding Carbon Capture and whether the Council measures how much Peat habitat there is within the borough emphasising the need to appreciate natural resources that can help mitigate some of the Carbon levels that occur. The Officer advised Members that the offset of natural assets is factored in to the data provided for the Carbon Footprint and he outlined the governance of sub-groups already set up within the Council who are working on projects to utilise the benefits of Peat habitat which feed into overall plan to de-carbonise the Council.

Another Member shared their concern that the Carbon Footprint does not include pension fund investments and the relation to fossil fuel investments. Discussion was held around the role of the Pension Fund Committee and the work being undertaken to look at reducing carbon fuelling investments.

Another Member raised the query of the impact of manufacturing processes on the Carbon Footprint data and if new manufacturers moved into the borough the resulting impact this could have. The Officer advised Members that the data provided within the reports is for Rhondda Cynon Taf as Council and not the borough as a whole however assured Members that Carbon reduction was a high priority for the Councils regeneration department as a whole.

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of this update report as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group
2. To provide feedback to the Cabinet in support the establishment of a Corporate Decarbonisation Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council to provide a clear path and defined timescales for achieving the goal of reaching Net Zero by 2030 and;
3. To receive further reports to the Steering Group in 2022 providing further updates on progress.

14 Key Energy Generation Projects And Related Issues

The Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction provided a further update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the progress made on the development of renewable energy projects and certain Carbon Reduction related issues.

Members were directed to section 5 of the report which detailed an update on current renewable energy projects.

The following projects were highlighted to Members, outlining the successes and future works required with key updates being provided from the contents of the report:

- 5MW Solar Farm Installation;
- Taffs Well Thermal Springs;
- Amgen Developments (Nant y Gwyddon wind turbine and Bryn Pica site)
- 9MW Windfarms;
- 3MW Windfarm;
- Hydro Electricity Opportunities
- ULEV Project;
- Carbon Reduction Programme;
- Carbon Footprint Project

The Officer referenced section 6 of the report which provides Members with an update on initiatives established in support of the work of the Steering Group noting that Officers are meeting regularly and working collaboratively towards the Councils goal of becoming net zero by 2030.

The Chair thanked the Head of Energy and Carbon Reduction for the informative update and was pleased to hear about project developing around Solar and Wind Energy. The Chair recognised the importance of the Taffs Well Thermal Springs and urged for a visit to the site as the project is very innovative. At the request of the group, the Chair identified the need for further exploration into the feasibility of hydro-projects across the County Borough.

One Member raised a query regarding Heat Pumps and the further need for

investigation to identify their efficiency long term within County Borough homes. The Officer acknowledged the importance of the project concerning the Thermal Spring and confirmed to Members that A visit to the Thermal Spring would look to be facilitated. It was encouraged throughout the meeting by the members as its seen as an innovative scheme that benefits the Council and its residents.

The Chair acknowledged the challenge of providing heat pumps for residential use at affordable costs at present but highlighted the work of the Councils Heat and Save team who work with residents currently to provide suitable assistance in installing heat pumps.

Another Member also raised the potential for the Council to revisit Hydro-Schemes within a Community scale to encourage Community ownership, development and involvement. The Director Corporate Estates informed Members that discussions are currently ongoing with one Community Group in Clydach Vale but at present there are currently approximately 14 Hydro Schemes that are being reviewed, some of these which are Community based. He advised Members that the Council would be willing to engage with the Community to determine the viability of co-ownership schemes. One Member discussed the potential for Rhondda Cynon Taff Council to look to pursue schemes that utilise Mines Water as an energy source compared to Warm Springs

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of this update report as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.
2. To receive a future report on the Solar Farm Installation, to highlight and realise the growing potential of these particular proposals.
3. To receive further reports in 2022 providing further updates on progress.

15 Cardiff Capital Region ULEV Strategy And Progress

The Director of Corporate Estates outlined the purpose of the report utilising information presented to Cardiff Capital Region Board to provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway by the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) with their Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy and progress.

The Officer highlighted to Members that Cenex was commissioned to prepare a draft ULEV Strategy for the CCR and a full copy of the strategy was attached at Appendix 1. Further commissions include a Metro Plus ULEV Strategy and a ULEV Taxi Strategy.

Members were reminded that Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the lead Authority managing the funding of the ULEV transformation for the region with the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) providing leadership and overall management of the project.

The Officer drew Members attention to section 5 of the report which detailed schemes being carried out with the additional funding received by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council including ULEV taxi charger provision, ULEV – Provision of Public Use Charging Infrastructure and ULEV – Provision of Bus

Use Charging Infrastructure. Members were also provided with an overview of future opportunities as outlined in Section 6 of the report.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the update report noting the funding pledged in section 4 of the report and the inclusion of strategies for taxi and bus provision. He also highlighted the positives in the strategy contributing to wider efforts across Rhondda Cynon Taf to rolling out EV infrastructure.

One Member noted the decreasing bus services and the impact this has on residents and the ability to provide a ULEV strategy. The Director Frontline Services acknowledged the importance of bus services across the borough but advised Members of the impact of Covid-19 on passenger numbers, services and the effects of driver shortages. Members were assured that work is being done to ensure continuing current provision of services.

Another Member acknowledged the aim for ULEV bus and taxi fleets are ambitious but raised concerns regarding taxi fleets and the preparatory work that would be required to be carried out in line with taxi operators in advance of any changes. The Director- Public Health, Protection And Community Services advised Members that the strategy was informed by consultation carried out with taxi fleet operators across Wales and the outcome of this showed they were encouraged by proposal but identified the need for a pilot operation as being key.

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the contents of this report as an update on the wider regional approach to developing a ULEV strategy

16 Biodiversity and the Local Nature Partnership in Rhondda Cynon Taf

Members were provided with a report presented by the Councils Ecologist. The Ecologist outlined the purpose of the report to provide an update for members on the work of the Council and the Local Nature Partnership in relation to biodiversity in RCT and the future direction of this work.

Members were provided with some background to the report with the Ecologist reminding Members of the importance of the Biodiversity Duty placing a duty on all public bodies to consider biodiversity in the work that it does and the challenges and opportunities this presents in terms of cross departmental working. This process has become embedded in the corporate performance culture of the Council and whilst much of this is routine, it is also encouraging some innovative projects.

The Ecologist referenced the Pen Y Cymoedd wind farm project and discussed the content of the detail set out in the report. He also highlighted the importance of the process of Planning on biodiversity outlining changes to Planning Policy Guidance from Welsh Government as set out in the report.

Members were reminded of the Nature's Assets report presented previously to the committee which has also led to a number of on-going projects associated with peat-bog restoration opportunities, the carbon storage, water management and biodiversity potential of Council owned land, schools, ancient woodlands and trees.

The Ecologist also provided an overview of an engagement project hosted through the Council's 'Let's Talk RCT' platform titled 'Let's Talk Wildflowers' whereby residents were invited to identify areas they would like to see Wildflower management for consideration in future programmes of work. Members were told that the engagement had been well received and a number of responses had so far been received that will be reviewed in the coming months.

Further examples of community engagement were highlighted to Members through discussion around the Local Nature Partnership Plan and the Ecologist informed Members that the new plan was currently in the process of being written. Details of funding received as part of the plan and how it has been spent were pointed out to Members in sections 4.7 and 4.8 of the report.

The Ecologist also updated Members from the report regarding the Living Landscapes project and details of 29 pilot sites that have been identified. Members were also informed about the appointment of two biodiversity apprentices providing an opportunity to undertake practical works on these sites utilising supervision and training input from established staff, including the LNP co-ordinator and the graduate ecologist.

The Chair thanked the Officer for a comprehensive report noting the pleasing update regarding the various projects ongoing throughout the borough and the co-working opportunities these provide.

One Member also commented on the good practice of cross departmental working and the benefits of this across the authority. Praise was also given to the engagement being carried out with local residents regarding biodiversity through the 'Let's Talk RCT' platform.

One Member raised a question regarding the presence of peat bogs and wetlands in RCT and why there may be an increase in these drying out. The Ecologist advised Members that a main reason for this would be drainage patterns.

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **RESOLVED** to:

1. To note the progress made in RCT in recent years and the increasing importance of biodiversity conservation in the Council's work.
2. To support the increased profile that all parties in the Senedd have given to biodiversity, which is reflected in the Programme for Government.
3. To recommend to the Cabinet that the Council take full advantage of any grant funding available to continue and increase work on this issue.

17 **Active Travel Strategy, Measures And Issues In Rhondda Cynon Taf**

The Director of Frontline Services informed Members that the purpose of the report was to outline the strategy of the Council developing active travel (walking and cycling) across Rhondda Cynon Taf, the investment that has either already been committed or is planned and the issues that need to be taken into account when implementing schemes. The Officer highlighted the significance of the report; focusing on the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013, as vital tool which can be

utilised to tackle Climate Change with the focus on enabling meaningful journeys, via Cycling and Walking. The Officer stated that Under the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013, the team are required to produce and submit Active Travel Networks Maps to the Welsh Government by December 2021 with authorization from Cabinet members.

Members were informed that currently the Network Maps are out to formal Consultation until the 22nd of November 2021; so far, 700 responses have been received from the consultation thus portraying the interest in Active Travel.

The Director of Frontline Services highlighted to Members that delivery of the aspirations set out in the strategy will be dependent on funding and directed members to section 5.5 and 5.6 of the report which detail the Councils success in receiving funding towards the Active Travel Scheme. The officer stated Welsh Government will look to invest £70 million in Active Travel infrastructure this year across Wales which will aid in creating a vast portfolio of new assets which will need to be maintained through a range of ways including glitter picking, gritting and potholes.

Members were advised that the appendices attached to the report set out annual progress reports which the Council are required to submit to Welsh Government each year highlighting works and projects undertaken under the Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013. He stated that the Council are required to show continual improvement year on year and highlighted a range of infrastructure initiatives and education / training opportunities outlined within the appendices.

The Chair thanked the Director of Frontline Service for the positive report, and the actions being taken to tackle Climate Change. The Chair referred members back to section 5.6 of the report highlighting the positives in levels of funding from the Welsh Government for 2021/22; however, he did recognize the need for further funding for future projects in the coming years. The Chair urged the members of the Cabinet and community to participate in the consultation which will be formulated and fed back to the Welsh Government in December 2021.

One member was pleased with the efforts taken in the report; however, raised a query regarding litter pollution in the routes and urged the Council to develop litter prevention strategies to tackle this problem. The member suggested the Council utilise community-based groups to prevent litter pollution and raise awareness across the Borough. This was encouraged by members as they recognised the significance of community-based groups as a huge resource to the Council. Another member mentioned the opportunity of the Council collaborating with Transport for Wales initiative 'Green Valley' as another potential avenue to tackle litter pollution.

The Group acknowledged the opportunities that engaging with local community groups regarding litter picking can have on tackling the issue and one Member highlighted the work of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the work that they are carrying out to look into this issue further.

Members thanked officers for their passionate involvement regarding community consultation and ensuring that they are proactive in getting as many views as possible on the matter.

The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group **Resolved:**

- To note the contents of this report for information and the progress made by the Council implementing its active travel strategy.

This meeting closed at 11.45 am

**COUNCILLOR R LEWIS
CHAIR.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

2nd MARCH 2022

AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR RHYS LEWIS (THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION), AND CLLR. MARK NORRIS (CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES)

Author: Marc Crumbie – Head of Procurement

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Provide an update on the work that is taking place by the Procurement Service in support of the Council's ambitions to be net zero by 2030.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the changes put in place by the Procurement Service and the general direction of travel, in support of the Council's net zero ambitions.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide the Climate Change Steering Group with a summary of the actions put in place by the Procurement Service to support the Council's ambition to become net zero by 2030.

4. BACKGROUND & STRATEGIC DIRECTION

- 4.1 During 2021, the Welsh Government issued a Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill for consultation. Following the consultation exercise, the Draft Bill is due to be presented before the Senedd during the summer of 2022.

- 4.2 The procurement duties contained within the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill begin with an overarching duty on contracting authorities to seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas by carrying out public procurement in a socially responsible way. This means taking action to achieve the well-being goals and the fair work goal (*together, the 'socially responsible procurement goals'*).
- 4.3 As a result of the Draft Bill, the ways in which local government organisations procure will require change. Whereas previously there may have been a focus on procurement delivering financial savings, in the future there will be a shift away from the traditional price and quality evaluation towards also ensuring that economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being outcomes are considered for each procurement process.
- 4.4 A Procurement Strategy 2021/24 has been drafted that pulls together all the requirements of the Draft Bill and aligns them (using themes and clear objectives) to the Council's Corporate Plan 2020/24. A very clear theme throughout the draft Procurement Strategy is to support the Council's ambitions to be net zero by 2030.
- 4.5 Section 5 of this report provides an overview of the changes that have been put in place by the Procurement Service to help enable compliance with the Draft Bill, in doing so a shift in focus has also taken place where the potential climate impact of our procuring arrangements are considered at the start of any procurement (planning) process.

5. WHAT ARE WE DOING AND WHAT DO WE HAVE PLANNED?

CHALLENGING FROM THE OUTSET

- 5.1 We're looking to challenge (everything) from the outset. Our Contract Strategy document (the document that gets populated prior to any work taking place) has been updated and will require each service area who wishes to procure to answer the following:
- What the **need and demand** is now, and in the future and how the 5 ways of working are to be applied.
 - The outcomes that will be achieved from any contract.
 - How these outcomes will **support** the delivery of the Council's **Corporate Plan Priorities**.
 - The **current** (if available) **carbon footprint** of the services delivered or the anticipated gross carbon impact of a new project.
 - *The Service Area will be asked to set out what (if any) arrangements will take place prior to the tender process that*

will aim to reduce the carbon impact should a contract be awarded.

- *Designing carbon out of a new build project for example.*

- The **Social Value** that will be delivered as part of the process.
- If there is a **potential local market** that could deliver the requirements of the contract?
- **Options for delivery** are clearly set out (including lotting to support SME's), and a rationale is in place in support of the preferred option.

CARBON - PURCHASED GOODS AND SERVICES

5.2 Our standard documents have been updated.

Procurement Strategy/Initiation Document:

5.3 All service areas that wish to procure will be required to answer the following questions from the outset:

- *What actions have been or will be taken to reduce the amount of Carbon produced as a direct result of this contract? How does it help meet the Net Zero target?*
- *Is there an opportunity to drive reduced GHG emissions in contract delivery?*
- *Where will the above be addressed (i.e. specification, evaluation)*

Invitation to Tender Document

5.4 Our invitation to tender document has been updated to highlight the Council's ambitions to be net zero by 2030. It also re-enforces the key message that contracted suppliers will need to work with the Council to reduce the carbon impact during the life of the contract.

Reviewing the Council's Carbon Footprint (Procured Goods and Services)

5.5 Procured Goods and Services and Capital Asset emissions have been estimated to account for 48,589 tCO₂e which is 63% of the Council's total footprint for 20/21. Of this total, 27,423 tCO₂e have been directly attributed to Procured Goods and Services.

5.6 We have plans to work through the categories identified within the Carbon Trust's report, but in order to have a tangible impact on the carbon footprint associated with procured goods and services, it is essential that our supply chains understand how to establish/calculate their own carbon footprint. We need to move away from metrics (i.e. formulas) being applied to spend, towards capturing the actual carbon

footprint from our suppliers (their Scope 1 ,2 and 3). Only when we have a better understanding of this can we work with our suppliers to put plans in place to reduce. The Carbon Trust undertook a pilot to test our supplier maturity in respect of being 'carbon aware', they concluded that the majority of suppliers contacted require help and support.

- 5.7 To address this, we have appointed a team of graduates who have been tasked with putting arrangements in place whereby the Council can support our suppliers to begin to understand and calculate their own carbon footprint. Lots of tools are available online, but they are/look complicated and could confuse or turn lots of suppliers away from this important area. The Graduate Team is working on developing a simple to use toolkit that suppliers will find easy to use and relate to. This is not something that anybody else in our region is looking at, therefore there is a lot of interest in this piece of work from the WLGA, Business Wales and Welsh Government.

NEW TENDERS / CONTRACTS

- 5.8 Standard carbon questions are now asked during all tender exercises. These questions are:

1. *Is your organisation able to calculate its carbon footprint in accordance with the Green House Gas Corporate Accounting Protocol?*

If you have answered yes to Question 1 please state your current annual footprint:

2. *Would you be able to calculate the carbon footprint in accordance with the Green House Gas Corporate Accounting Protocol of this specific contract?*
3. *What is your organisation doing to reduce its carbon footprint?*
4. *What proposals would you put in place to reduce the carbon emissions from this contract?*

- 5.9 Welsh Government has recently issued a Policy Note (WPPN06/21) which is recommended for implementation in April 2022. We've implemented it with immediate effect.

- For all contracts with an estimated value in excess of £5m, tenderers will now be asked to complete a [Carbon Reduction Plan](#). This is a Plan (commitment) that the tenderer must provide that sets out what actions the Organisation is taking to address its own carbon impact. These Carbon Reduction Plans must be signed-off at Board level.

- These will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis, i.e. if they fail to provide suitable responses then the tenderer will not proceed in the process.
- Note that this is not specific to the tender, but is targeted at the organisation as a whole (specific carbon questions will be asked that relate to the tender/project).

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as a result of the recommendations contained within this report.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no Welsh language implications as result of the recommendations contained within this report.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 There are no consultation requirements as result of the recommendations contained within this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 There are no financial implications as result of the recommendations contained within this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 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 In addition to setting out the 3 Priorities of People, Places and Prosperity, the Corporate Plan 2020/24 identifies one of the biggest challenges the Council faces:

Our greatest challenge will be to deliver the Council's commitment to being "A netzero Green House Gas Council by 2030" which is 20 years earlier than the recommendation of the UK Committee on Climate Change. This is a challenge we are taking seriously, and we look forward to receiving the support from all local residents and businesses in working together to change the way we live our lives to achieve this aim.

11.2 The carbon footprint (2020/21) associated with the Council's procured goods and services is estimated to be 27,423 tCO₂e. This report summarises the work that the Procurement Service is doing in respect of changing its approach to ensure climate change is at the forefront of the procurement planning process.

12. CONCLUSION

12.1 The priorities for the Procurement Service have changed significantly over recent years, external drivers clearly place expectations on the procurement process to deliver change in respect of demonstrating outcomes, delivering social value and helping organisations to tackle climate change.

12.2 This report provides an overview of some of the work that is taking place to deliver change and help the Council deliver its wellbeing objectives and achieve its net zero ambitions by 2030.

Other Information: N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: N/A



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

2nd MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR RHYS LEWIS (THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION), AND CLLR. MARK NORRIS (CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES)

Item: AN UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE PROCUREMENT SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030

Background Papers

None.

Officer to contact: Marc Crumbie

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

2 MARCH 2022

UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

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 Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a further update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway in the development of a 'Land Based Solar Farm', to be located on Council owned land that allows a South facing aspect. The facility will, when constructed, be an asset owned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
- 1.2 For the Steering Group to provide feedback to Cabinet, on the proposals and contents of this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this update report as part of the ongoing work under the remit of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.
- 2.2 Agree that a report can be presented to Cabinet, to recommend the approval of the proposals, as a project.
- 2.3 Receive further reports in 2022 providing further updates on progress as/when deemed appropriate, and/or when more cost certainty is available and needs to be reviewed.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The contents of this report provide contextual information and a key update on this exclusive issue, which is one of the areas of work covered by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. It provides an update on the proposal where the Council has plans to build and finance a credible solar farm, that will make a vastly significant contribution to the Council's ability to offset its Carbon Footprint, and towards achieving its Net Zero Carbon target.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Corporate Estates Energy team has previously reported on the ongoing work to investigate the potential of using RCT owned land for the development of major renewable energy projects for both wind and solar generation, with the assistance of the Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES). These are projects which would be primarily developed by the Council and as such would both contribute to the increase in the renewable energy provision and carbon reduction in the area, whilst also making a positive economic contribution to the financial situation of the Council, which could then be invested in further related improvements, or other services, for the benefit of citizens.

4.2 The name and location of the site has been anonymised at this stage for commercial reasons. Negotiations are in the crucial stages of the process to agree a Power Purchase Agreement / Offtake Contract with a potential partner. The Council has also signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement regarding this sensitive matter.

5. UPDATE ON SOLAR FARM INSTALLATION

5.1 Project Principles:

The project is described as a 6MW Solar Farm and has been given this title because of the combined output of the two 'export aspects' contained within the proposals. Firstly, the magnitude of the grid connection offer that the Council previously accepted from Western Power Distribution, which is set at a maximum of 5MW and to be exported at 33kV. Secondly, the capacity to increase the generation potential for the total size of the solar farm, which takes into account a further export capacity of up to 1MW at the lower voltage of 11Kv, to a potential partner in a local facility, via a private wire arrangement.

As things currently stand, the proposals have three alternative routes we can take, scenarios which can be summarised as follows:

Option 1 is to build the solar farm to take advantage of our secured 5MW grid connection, as a stand-alone entity, that will feed directly into the grid at 33kV and trade the power generated via that sole route.

Option 2 is to combine the setup described above with a private wire arrangement to a local partner, and export to trade at two levels, these being 33kV and 11kV.

Option 3 is to combine both of the above scenarios with the exploration of other opportunities to provide green energy, at a low cost, to future commercial enterprises on a local industrial estate. We hope that this approach will incentivise traditional high energy consumers to relocate to the site, not only for the green energy but also the growth potential of the site. As part of this process, we will also consider creating a sizeable Electric Vehicle Charging Station, powered partly by the solar farm but with battery storage facilities, initially for use by the council and wider public sector fleet, but also in the longer term for commercial HGVs and private vehicles.

At the time of writing, our proposals and financial models are based on Option 2 above.

5.2 Looking Back:

As previously reported in the previous update reports' on 'Key Energy Generation Projects' (presented in June and November), an outline timeline was compiled with the assistance of the WGES. A HV specialist was appointed to advise on the Private Wire and Grid connections, and a Geotechnical / Topographical Specialist to explore, examine, analyse, and report on the ground conditions at the site. Lawyers were also appointed to draft heads of terms for a typical private wire connection arrangement, and WPD have now concluded their report into grid capacity issues at Upper Boat, the result of which does not affect the original terms and conditions of our previously confirmed grid connection offer.

5.3 Timing of Recommendation:

The original timeline indicates that the project was due to be elevated to project status later in this financial year, however, with negotiations on the Power Purchase Agreement with a potential partner now reaching a critical stage, we feel that the time is now right to move our outline proposals to the status of a recognised project.

5.4 Project Proposal Details:

Considering the reasons given above, the decision to grant project status will then enable the necessary approved systems of governance to be put in place for the continued development of the project, and will enable the Council's appointed team to control, approve and execute spending decisions, both in the continuing development phases (identified within the overall programme) and regarding the collaborative opportunities identified in item 5.1 and 5.3 above.

At the time of writing this report, the headline estimated figures that need to be considered are identified in section 9, however it should also be noted that that the project, if realised, has the potential to 'offset' over

1,500 tonnes of carbon per-annum and approaching 54,000 tonnes over the expected lifecycle of the project.

The committed spend on the project thus far is in the region of £130,000 to maintain progress in line with the identified programme. These costs are an investment towards the feasibility and development stages of this potential project and are covered further in section 9.

Looking forward, the budget estimate for the full development and construction costs for this entire project stands in the region of £6.82million (including all fees).

Periodic updates will be afforded to the CCCSG during the progress of the project and further approval will be sought from the Steering Group before the project is taken to the next stage of development.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 This supporting report is for the purpose of update and consequently an Equality Impact Assessment is not required in regard to this report.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This supporting report is for the purpose of update and consequently Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report, however a copy can be made available in Welsh if requested.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 The Council has already had a committed spend in the region of £130,000 to maintain progress in line with the identified programme. This expenditure is funded from existing resources already set aside to support the key energy generation projects.
- 9.2 Looking forward, the budget estimate for the full development and construction costs for this entire project stands in the region of £6.82million (including fees).
- 9.3 It is anticipated that it would be affordable to fund this by use of Prudential Borrowing, with the annual income from the energy generation being sufficient to cover the annual borrowing repayments and the ongoing annual costs and maintenance of the assets. This is subject to a full project report and business case being presented to Cabinet and, if approval is given, a further report to Council to obtain the Prudential Borrowing approval.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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.

The purpose of the report is to provide an interim update report relating to the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway on the development of key renewable energy projects and certain other related issues. Any future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group report will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 This report provides contextual information and a key update on the exclusive issue of the proposals for a Solar Farm, which is one of the areas of work covered by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. It provides an update on the proposal where the Council has plans to build and finance a credible solar farm and recommends that the proposals be recognised by allocation and approval of full 'Project Status'.

Contact Officers: David Powell 01443 424144 and
Anthony Roberts 01443 281146

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

2nd MARCH 2022

REDUCING THE USE OF SINGLE USE ITEMS IN ALL COUNCIL CONTRACTS AND PREMISES

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

Author: Gemma Ellis - Procurement Manager (Operations & Projects)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to:

- 1.1 Provide members of the group with an update of the progress made to reduce the use of single use plastics/items across the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members of the Group:

- 2.1 Note the progress made in respect of removing the ability to order single use items from the Council's online ordering system across the Council, where there is a suitable alternative product.
- 2.2 Acknowledge the impact that Covid-19 has continued to have since the previous report to the Group, in relation to tackling single use plastics/items within the school sector.
- 2.3 Note the work that is progressing with broader 'supply categories' where single use plastics/items are being purchased, with a focus on the Council's cleaning and janitorial contracts.

3. UPDATE – SINGLE USE PLASTICS / ITEMS

- 3.1 Within the previous report (October 2020), the results of an in-depth audit on high use single use plastics was provided which focused on the Council's food and catering sector. Following this review, some immediate steps have been taken, with further analysis and progress required in other areas. Given the desire to achieve a sustainable approach to the Council's supplies, the review

has broadened to include other single use items (i.e. not just plastics) where a more sustainable alternative could be sourced.

- 3.2 Delivering a reduction in single use plastics/items in the food and catering sector for the corporate and school environments has not achieved all the immediate outcomes hoped for during the period as Covid-19 measures continued to have a direct impact, particularly in schools. In the school's sector for example, the disruption caused in respect of temporary closures, reduced menus and supply chain issues faced by our suppliers has hindered progress. However, the following single use plastics have been removed from the online catalogues used in the non-school sector:

Item Description	Quantities previously ordered in a financial year:
7oz Cold Water Cup	42,000
Std Plastic Knife	2,000
Std Plastic Fork	5,000
Std Plastic Stirrer	5,000
Food Box	1,800
4oz White plastic Dish	1,000
Oval salad Pack	3,000

- 3.3 Additional items that have been recently removed from the Council's Purchasing system are listed below (note that these are not classed as single use plastics, but single use items, where alternative or more sustainable options are available):

Item Description	Quantities previously ordered in a financial year:
Paper Plate	8,000
Trifle Dish White	3,000
Single Use Cups	6,500
Wooden Stirrers	2,000

- 3.4 Whilst good progress has been made in this area, not all items can be removed at this stage until suitable alternatives are sourced. For example, the food compartment trays and plastic food pots used by the Meals on Wheels service cannot be removed. These products are recyclable however and should be recycled at kerb side in residential homes. Proactive discussions are taking place with the current supplier, to review the use of suitable alternative products.

- 3.5 The continuing impact of Covid-19 in relation to our schools, and the suppliers that provide us with stock for schools has meant that we've not been able to

progress this work as swiftly as we had hoped. However, we now plan to take action to review the use of single use items across our schools. The key enablers to this being done effectively are:

- To liaise with our suppliers to identify suitable alternative products.
- Ensure that our waste management colleagues at Amgen are included to help us assess whether any suitable products are recyclable.
- Ensure key service areas from the Council are consulted (i.e. Catering Direct).
- To begin the process of engaging with a selection of eco-committees in schools with the aim of raising awareness and ensuring young people contribute to the solutions and their ideas and thoughts are gathered.

3.6 This work will begin imminently.

3.7 In addition to the catering sector, the cleaning and janitorial sector is now being reviewed. Consumables used in this service are typically provided to us in the form of diluted (ready to use) products - in plastic containers.

3.8 Usage data will now be used to liaise with service areas with a view to building a pilot initiative with our current supplier. This will require engagement with our Cleaning Services Colleagues. It is intended that the pilot will trial the use of dissolvable pods containing a concentrated product for certain items that are used on a regular basis. The pod can be put into a pre-existing container (it will need to be thoroughly cleaned prior to use) and dissolved in water, therefore reducing the need to purchase further plastic bottles. In addition to the environmental benefits, the pods are also lower in cost and therefore will offer better value.

3.9 These products are currently being piloted in a neighbouring Authority and we're in the process of liaising with them with the aim of learning.

4. ADOPTING A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO SURPLUS PRODUCTS

4.1 In addition to the review of single use items, it is also important that consideration is given to what happens to items when they come to the end of their useful life for the Council. Adopting a responsible and sustainable approach to managing products that we no longer have a use for is important. Simply sending everything off for disposal is not acceptable. Two examples are provided below.

I.T Equipment

4.2 With a large digital reliant workforce that delivers a wide range of services, the Council endeavours to adopt a modern approach to helping ensure that our staff have access to I.T equipment that suits their needs. Maintaining the performance of I.T equipment is essential, along with adhering to stringent

controls in respect of data security. As a result of this, the Council has a rolling programme of replacement in respect of its I.T equipment.

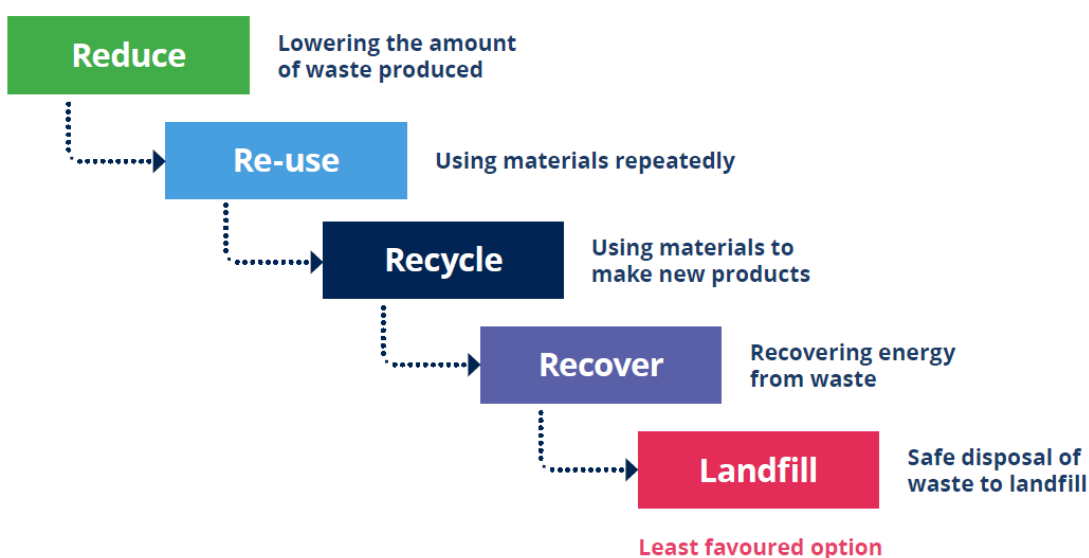
- 4.3 When I.T equipment reaches the end of its useful life with the Council, for example – it may be due for renewal or some items may have developed a fault, it is passed to an approved local supplier. The supplier is:
- An accredited contractor of ADISA (Asset Disposal and Information Security Alliance).
 - This helps ensure that the Councils assets are processed in accordance with the industry's highest standards which reflect current best practice for handling data, performing high-security data destruction, carrying assets and WEEE (Waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment) recycling services.
 - Operates a 'zero landfill' policy.
 - Re-uses as much hardware as possible for professional refurbishment, and re-sale.
 - Devices that are unable to be refurbished are stripped of parts and either:
 - Stocked for the suppliers refurbishment programme, or
 - Down streamed to partners for use.
- 4.4 Of the assets passed to the supplier during 2021:
- *35% were refurbished, and sold on by the supplier,*
 - *20% were stripped for re-use, and*
 - *45% were recycled.*
 - *The recycled percentage includes all items that were stripped as much as they could for re-use before being down streamed for further disposal/recycling, plus all assets shredded to 6mm such as failed hard drives, phones and tablets.*

Office furniture, fixtures and fittings

- 4.5 The Procurement Service is working closely with Corporate Estates to develop a strategy that aligns the Council's objective to have modern agile/shared office space facilities for its staff whilst at the same time managing old furniture, and surplus furniture that is currently held in storage. The increasing transition by our services to digital storage solutions, has also reduced the requirement for local physical storage hardware.
- 4.6 The Council has engaged with the Ministry of Furniture Ltd in recent years who have helped us deliver modern facilities whilst also re-purposing our old stock.
- 4.7 Recent examples include the office refit at Ty Oldway and Porth Plaza where the objective was to utilise existing furniture from our offices (and our storage) and have them upcycled into modern furniture that is fit for purpose. A case study for a different site is provided in this [LINK](#).

- 4.8 In addition to our surplus/old furniture, the refurbishment of our Ty Oldway Office also identified the opportunity to engage with a contractor to collect the floor tiles from the building, take them away and clean them, and re-use them in the office.
- 4.9 Clearly the examples provided within this report are consistent with the waste hierarchy of the Waste Framework Directive (2008). **i.e. re-use and recycle:**

Most favoured option



Source: EU Waste Framework Directive, 2008

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/ SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio economic implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Welsh language implications as result of the recommendations contained within this report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report at this stage.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 Currently, there are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations made within this report.



9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

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

10.1 This report sets out the changes that have been implemented to reduce the Council's use of single use items. It also identifies further work that is required to reduce the use of single use items further. This work supports the Council's ambitions to be environmental responsible, which contributes to the Council's ambitions to be Net Zero by 2030.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 This report sets out the activity that has taken place, together with the planned activity which aims to reduce and eliminate (where practicable) single use plastics/items across the Council.

11.2 The Council is committed to addressing this important issue in support of the Council's ambitions to be net zero by 2030.



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

2nd March 2022

Report of the Director of Human Resources

Author: Gemma Ellis - Procurement Manager - Operations & Projects

**REDUCING THE USE OF SINGLE USE ITEMS IN ALL COUNCIL CONTRACTS
AND PREMISES**

Background Papers: None.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

2nd MARCH 2022

REPORT OF DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

EDINBURGH DECLARATION

Author(s): Richard Wistow - Ecologist
Liz Dean - Environment Planner

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the Edinburgh Declaration and the role of Local Authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members support the signing of the Edinburgh Declaration by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Declaration strengthens the role of Local Authorities within the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in particular, the post 2020 global biodiversity framework being developed at the Conference of the Parties (COP15). This meeting was held over from 2020, with virtual meetings in Autumn 2021 and is due to be completed and signed in March 2022.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Welsh Government is a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration, which is a political statement setting out commitments to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework locally. It believes that this is important to encourage a greater involvement of Subnational and Local Authorities internationally within the new framework and has written to Local Authorities welcoming their support (see appendix one).

- 4.2 The 'Edinburgh Process' has been led by the Scottish Government on behalf of the CBD and the Declaration calls upon the CBD Parties to:
- Take the transformative action required to halt biodiversity loss;
 - Recognise the vital role of Subnational and Local Governments;
 - Support a dedicated decision on a new Plan of Action for Subnational Governments, City and Local Authorities. A decision to be taken at COP15: The Conference of Parties, who signed the UN Convention on Climate Change and are meeting in China in Autumn 2022 (see para 3 above); and
 - Develop a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the post-2020 framework.
- 4.3 Members may be aware that Welsh Government declared a Nature Emergency in the Summer and has created a Biodiversity and Ecosystems Resilience Duty for all public bodies through S.6 Environment (Wales) Act. Their Programme for Government and the re-organisation of Cabinet portfolios demonstrates a desire for the Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies to be considered in an integrated way.
- 4.4 In their letter, Welsh Government recognises the vital role Local Authorities are playing in addressing the impacts of climate change and habitat loss. They believe it is essential to have a healthy and safe natural environment and to ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations. The Declaration recognises the increasingly valuable role of Subnational Governments and Local Authorities in translating global targets into local delivery.
- 4.5 In RCT we have a strong 'track record' in taking forward biodiversity action. This includes:
- 'Action for Nature' the former Local Biodiversity Action Plan, currently being revised and re-presented via a website by the Local Nature Partnership,
 - Strong Planning policy which enables development in the right locations and protects and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
 - A clear S.6 Biodiversity Duty framework integrated into the corporate planning process
 - Integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services with Climate Change work; and
 - Delivery of active biodiversity management and community engagement through the Living Landscape project.

- 4.6 Further information about the Edinburgh Process, the Edinburgh Declaration and signing up is available at [Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework/pages/2-1-introduction.aspx)

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 There are no Equality and Diversity Implications arising from this report.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language Implications arising from this report.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The consultation with the Steering Group will inform the Cabinet decision.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 No financial implications are anticipated arising from this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The Council has a Biodiversity Duty under S.6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

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

- 10.1 The report reflects the priorities in the Council's Corporate Plan and demonstrates a long term and precautionary approach, collaboration between tiers of governance and should encourage stakeholder participation. It should specifically assist the Council in promoting the WFG Act Resilience and Global goals but, because biodiversity is central to human flourishing, should contribute to all the goals in the long term.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Edinburgh Declaration strengthens the role of Local Authorities within the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in particular, the post 2020 global biodiversity framework being developed at the Conference of the Parties (COP15). Having considered the purpose and scope of the Declaration, the Steering Group may wish to recommend to Cabinet that the Council sign the Edinburgh Declaration.

Appendix 1: Letter from Welsh Government

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change
Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

September 2021

Dear

I am writing to invite you to join me in supporting the Edinburgh Declaration: the greater inclusion of the role of local authorities and cities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework - ensuring transformative change for nature over the coming decade.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is currently developing a post-2020 framework for global biodiversity and new global targets. We are moving into the next decade with a stepped up ambition to deliver for nature, and there is increasing recognition of the role of local authorities and cities in translating global targets into local delivery.

On behalf of the CBD, the Scottish Government has been leading the “Edinburgh Process” – an online, global engagement and consultation for subnational, regional and local players – with the aim of securing greater reference to the role of subnational and Local Authorities, including cities, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Welsh Government supports the Edinburgh Process for biodiversity, and in particular the Edinburgh Declaration, a political statement setting out commitments to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework locally. It will ensure people who live in local authorities across Wales can live in harmony with nature and protect valuable local ecosystems for future generations.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to have a healthy and safe natural environment and Welsh Government recognises the vital role local authorities are playing in addressing the impacts of climate change and habitat loss. This framework recognises the increasingly valuable role of subnational governments and local authorities in translating global targets into local delivery.

Through the Edinburgh Declaration we support the call upon CBD Parties to:

- Take the transformative action required to halt biodiversity loss
- Recognise the vital role of subnational and local governments
- Support a dedicated decision on a new Plan of Action for subnational governments, city and local authorities. A decision to be taken at COP15: the Conference of Parties, who signed the UN Convention on Climate Change, and are meeting in China in Autumn 2021 ; and
- Develop a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

I recognise the key role of local authorities in taking forward local level actions for nature and am writing to request your backing for the principles set out in the Edinburgh Declaration. This will demonstrate the global will for a dedicated decision and renewed plan of action for subnational governments and local authorities to be adopted within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at COP15.

Further information about how to sign up to pledge your support for the Edinburgh Process and Edinburgh Declaration is available at [Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Edinburgh-Declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework)

I believe that it is important to encourage a greater involvement of subnational and local authorities internationally within the new framework. I would therefore very much welcome your support.

Yours sincerely

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

02 MARCH 2022

SUMMARY REPORT OF OUTCOMES IN RECENT YEARS

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 Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group, with regards to the key environmental and energy outcomes achieved in recent years and highlight work underway on the development of renewable energy projects and certain other carbon reduction related issues.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The Steering Group Members read, comment on and acknowledge the contents of this report, as part of the ongoing work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.
- 2.2 Further reports are presented to the Steering Group in the future, providing further updates on achievements and progress.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The contents of this report provide background information and key updates pertinent to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. It provides an update on the key energy reduction achievements in recent years and provides further brief details on all the positive measures taken by the Council, in response to the Climate Change Agenda.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In RCT's Corporate Plan 2020-24, 'Making A Difference', the Council acknowledged that delivering on our Climate Change commitment is our greatest challenge. In our plan we committed to delivering priorities, all of which will contribute to and benefit from tackling climate change. The Climate Commitments set out in the plan underpin the work of the CCCSG and set priorities, and as such the content of this report seeks to record the good work undertaken so far, underline what we are doing now and set out what we need to do in the future.

5. WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR ?

- 5.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council purchases 100% of its electrical energy supply from renewable energy sources and since 2009 the Council's commitment to carbon reduction has resulted in a total spend exceeding £9.6million in energy conservation projects up to FY' 2021/22. This focused approach has already produced reductions of around 40% of reported carbon emissions, in relation to our direct energy consumption, and has resulted in annual savings of around £2million per year for our Schools, Care Homes, Leisure Centres and Council Buildings (circa 7,000t., i.e.7,000 Metric Tonnes of CO₂).
- 5.2 All street lights in RCT (approx., 29,700) have already been converted to LED versions, or equivalent, and since 2016 this has resulted in an annual 84% reduction in the reported carbon (equivalent to 5,300t. per annum) by 2018/19.
- 5.3 The Council has installed 108 Solar Panel arrays across Schools and Corporate Buildings, a total already around 2MW and equivalent to 4 football fields in size. As part of an incentive scheme for solar installations, we currently receive approx. £120K in cashback every year and in addition to this we are also saving far more on our own energy costs, by generating our own energy thus reducing our offtake from 'Grid'.
- 5.4 In addition to item 5.3, and new for 2022, we have just completed our largest rooftop solar array project so far, at the Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre, rated at 150kWp, and work has just started on site to install an additional 200kWp array, at Ty Elai, which will take the total solar capacity at Ty Elai to 250kWp.
- 5.4 Apart from installing Combined Heating and Power Units (CHP's) at all our leisure centres with pools, we were one of the first Councils in Wales to install Hydrogen Fuel Cells and now have 21 such units installed in Leisure Centres, Schools and Offices, throughout RCT. We have also previously invested in 8 Biomass boilers, consuming sustainable wood pellets, producing clean energy 'in-situ' to heat some of our Schools.

- 5.5 To date, over 80% of the Council owned buildings have benefitted from an upgrade to more energy efficient lighting, mostly using LED technology, and additional controls have been afforded in many instances to fully optimise savings. Since 2010 the Council has invested some £4.4million on such initiatives, resulting in a savings of over 7million kWh (over 1,800t. of CO₂).
- 5.6 The Council has previously commissioned over 22 Voltage Optimisation units, mainly at very large consuming sites, producing on average around 10% in savings on their electricity bills.
- 5.7 Over 11,000t. of food waste is collected from RCT households every year & recycled at the Biogen site where it is converted into energy, enough to power the equivalent of over 1,000 homes (further information on the work of AMGEN at Bryn Pica and other sites, is included in Appendix A).
- 5.8 In October 2020, a report on the results of an in-depth audit on high use single use plastics were presented, which focused on the Council's food and catering sector. Following this review, some immediate steps were taken, with further analysis and progress undertaken in other areas. Given the desire to achieve a sustainable approach to the Council's supplies, the review then broadened to include other single use items (i.e. not just plastics) where a more sustainable alternative could be sourced, and this subject area is covered 'in depth' in a separate report, brought forward by the Head of Procurement today.
- 5.9 Through various Government grant schemes, the Council has enabled many residents on low incomes to improve the heat insulation in their own homes, working with Housing Associations and other partners. The Housing Strategy Team introduced the 'Arbed am Byth' scheme in Penrhiwceiber, which has recently helped 113 homes out of fuel poverty, by helping facilitate a range of new efficient energy measures (further information on this work is included in Appendix B).
- 5.10 RCTCBC has declared that all new Schools and other Council buildings are to be certified as BREEAM "Very Good" or "Excellent" with EPC ratings of A, including the recent opening of a new low carbon Primary School building in Hirwaun.
- 5.11 The Council has been working with partners across South-East Wales to ensure there is a joined-up approach to tackling Climate Change and this includes working with the ten councils in the Cardiff Capital Region to develop sustainable transport options across the area including the South Wales Metro, trialling Electric Vehicle taxis and buses, with further plans to install Electric Vehicle charging points at major car parks. The Council has already invested in park and ride facilities across the County Borough to help get people out of their car and onto the train/metro. A good example of this is the new transport hub being built in Porth that connects bus and rail transport to make it easier to travel by public transport.

- 5.12 Delivering the Carbon Reduction Programme during the period of the pandemic has been challenging. However, despite this, during 2021/22:
- We have installed LED lighting upgrades at 10 sites.
 - Delivered our largest solar PV installations installed to date at Tonyrefail, Rhondda Fach Leisure and Ty Elai Offices, totalling 400kWp as an addition to our solar portfolio.
 - We have continued to develop water saving measures by installing telemetry devices to our Leisure Centre water meters to provide consumption monitoring features.
 - Tonyrefail Leisure Centre has seen an upgrade to its air handling unit, including heat recovery, and pool covers have been installed at Rhondda Sports Centre and Bronwydd Pool.
 - We have continued to explore the potential of exciting new technology with support from the Welsh Government's Smart Living through their WBRID decarbonisation studies and have been working closely with the Welsh Government Energy Service, scoping and modelling larger renewable energy projects, which are mentioned in further detail later in the report.
- 5.13 Through planning agreements with windfarm developers, hundreds of hectares of peat and associated habitats have been targeted for restoration and their carbon and water storage has been increased, where they have the potential to store much higher amounts of carbon than trees, for any given area of land. We have also invested in the Healthy Hillides project with Welsh Government and the Fire Service, with benefits for carbon reduction, biodiversity and air quality.
- 5.14 The RCT Carbon Footprint Project commenced in conjunction with Carbon Trust in January 2021 and produced a report on RCT Council Emissions for the Financial Year 2019/20, finalised in April 2021. This report gave a comprehensive analysis of the RCT Carbon Footprint for 2019/20. Following the completion of the 2019/20 Carbon Footprint, it was agreed to establish the RCT Carbon Footprint for the Financial Year 2020/21. This exercise commenced in July 2021 and a further comprehensive report on the RCT Carbon Footprint for the Financial Year 2020/21 was finalised in September 2021.
- 5.15 During the Council's progress of the Carbon Footprint project, Welsh Government published its Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide in May 2021 and subsequently clarified the reporting guidance in September 2021. The Welsh Government Carbon Reporting requirement was then that both FY'2019/20 and FY'2020/21 needed to be reported by 31st October 2021, and this target was achieved by RCT.
- 5.16 A system of corporate governance and reporting has been set up, involving a structure of sub-groups and a main working-group, to help develop and support the work of the CCCSG, and more details of this are provided later in the report and in Appendix C.

- 5.17 The Council has recently published its Electrical Vehicle Charging Strategy which was a substantial element of work prepared under the umbrella of the 'Transportation & EV Charging' sub-group, reporting to the CCCSG.
- 5.18 The Council has undertaken several trials of electric vehicles to assess their suitability for purpose, with varying results. Recently, in late 2021, 1 RCV, 2 Large Vans & 2 Small vans were trialled over a short period. The RCV was found to operate acceptably on the flat, however some serious issues were noted when used on hillier terrain. The vans were found to be quite satisfactory in operation.

6. WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW ?

- 6.1 A new Carbon Reduction Programme for FY'2022/23 is in the final stages of approval. The proposed programme has been developed to continue the LED lighting upgrade work and will include a particular focus on solar arrays for the Education portfolio. Work will also continue installing telemetry for water meters and heat saving measures, and we will be also exploring the potential of 'mine water' heat recovery to power heat networks.
- 6.2 At Taffs Well we are installing water source heat pumps to utilise geothermal heat from Wales' only 'Thermal Spring'. Plans are in place to provide a low carbon heating solution for a new school extension block and sports pavilion, with an estimated annual carbon saving of around 17t., and scheduled for completion in early/mid 2022. When complete it is hoped that the lessons learned during this project will act as 'stepping-stones' to future larger heat recovery networks, involving 'mine water', at targeted locations within the County Borough, or in partnership with adjacent authorities.
- 6.3 RCTCBC is already on course to meet the Welsh Government's recycling target of 70% for 2025 and we have Increased our recycling target to 80% by 2025, the only Council in Wales to do so.
- 6.4 The Council has invested in a world leading automated recycling plant at Bryn Pica that has improved the Council's recycling rates and is exploring the option of using the energy generated from the anaerobic digestion plant (Biogen site) to breakdown hard plastics and manufacture alternative products at source. This will eliminate the transfer of the plastic to processing plants and it will create local employment (further information on the work of AMGEN at Bryn Pica and other sites, is included in Appendix 'A').
- 6.5 The Council's Officers are now working, across service areas, to warrant that all future schools are to be elevated above the previously required 'Excellent' BREEAM ratings" to meet the requisite 'Net Zero Carbon - in operation' standard, which aims to further the Council's own carbon neutral objectives, looking towards 2030. EV chargers are also being

introduced to 10% of parking spaces in all new school developments, with a further commitment to allow 'passive infrastructure' for a further equivalent increase, when needed.

- 6.6 Plans are well underway for the development of a 'Land Based Solar Farm' (LBSF), to be located on Council owned land. The facility will, when constructed, be an asset owned and operated by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The project, if realised, has the potential to 'offset' over 1,500t. of carbon per-annum and approaching 54,000t. over the expected lifecycle of the project, and will take the Council's portfolio of renewable energy potential from Solar over the 8MWp threshold. There is also a further feasibility study taking place to develop a second 3MW 'LBSF' at a second site, in an initiative being driven by AMGEN (again - please refer to Appendix 'A').
- 6.7 The Council has been successful in obtaining two grid connections from WPD in pursuit of its aspirations to generate wind energy, one for 4.2MW at 11kV and a second for 6MW at 33kV. Discussions are underway with several wind farm developers, who have plans to construct turbines on land adjoining to that owned by the Council. Respective grid connection offers, of both parties, are currently being discussed in detail with WPD, with some assistance from the developers, to determine usage details and the potential levels of curtailment. The outcome of these discussions will have a major bearing on the future size and shape of the potential projects, and we remain optimistic that the Council will own substantial wind generation capacity in the near to mid-term.
- 6.8 A specialist company has been engaged to reconsider the previous feasibility study (circa 2010) for a potential hydro-electric scheme at Treforest Weir. The outcome of this review is due in mid to late February 2022. The team have also engaged a specialist company to provide a detailed study of the previously published Dare Valley Country Park proposals. This review report has now been received and is in the process of internal review, however the early indications are that we may have a viable project to bring forward. Further reviews of other potential 'Hydro' opportunities are planned for the near future.
- 6.9 We have some amazing biodiversity work going on all around the County Borough to make the most of our amazing valleys and mountains. We are exploring how trees and peatbogs can be used to capture and store carbon. These include a range of 'Living Landscape' projects, ongoing across RCT, from Dare Valley and Clydach Vale Country Parks, to 'Trees for Parks', to 'Green Roof Classrooms', to community growing areas. Tree planting has increased to around 1,200 within the Council's scheme, this FY' and the Council has commissioned a study of our Peatlands with a view to bringing back some 700ha of peatland to good condition, to prevent any further release of carbon.
- 6.10 A number of 'Active Travel' routes have already been established in RCT such as the Taff Trail, Church Village Community Route and Cynon Trail. The focus is now on improving this network, and to develop new routes

that improve connectivity and serve key local facilities such as schools, colleges, places of employment and shops. The Metro will help with this. There will be space for bikes and more regular services in the evenings and on weekends for people to travel in and out of the County Borough.

- 6.11 The Amgen Board have instructed Officers to add additional decarbonisation aims and objectives into the Company business plan. The Board have set a target to source 80% of energy, used in the recycling and sorting process, from renewable energy by 2025 (please refer to Appendix 'A').
- 6.12 Changes to the way we deliver goods and services are being put in place by the Procurement Service, to reinforce the Council's direction of travel, in support of its carbon neutral ambitions. Further details and a summary of these actions are provided in a separate report, brought forward by the Head of Procurement today.

7. **LOOKING FORWARD.**

- 7.1 Appendix 'C' illustrates the governance and reporting structure we have set up for sub-groups and a main working-group, to help deliver actions, measure progress and obtain support for future workstreams, all on behalf of the CCCSG. We have already identified and set up sub-groups for Community Engagement and Comms, Transportation (including EV), Natures Assets, Built Assets & Construction, Energy Generation Projects and our Carbon Footprint. The work of the sub-groups is dynamic and will respond to changing demands. Likewise, the attendees of the sub-groups will also change, based upon the scope of work being delivered at any one time.
- 7.2 Work is about to start on developing the content and conclusions of the Insights and Recommendations report provided by the Carbon Trust in support of the RCT Carbon Footprint Project undertaken during 2021. The next stage of developing the contents of the Insights and Recommendations report into a full-blown Decarbonisation Plan (DP) will be one of the priorities of the Council during 2022/23, the outcomes of which will be used to guide future policy direction and activities in this area.
- 7.3 The DP is just one component part of the wider the Climate Change Strategy. This huge and crucial piece of work looks at the complete picture across the entire County Borough. This plan will be a framework to guide us and shape what we do to reduce both the Council's carbon footprint and that of the wider County Borough, learning from best practice, eliminating barriers, and strengthening our data arrangements, so that we are better able to challenge and demonstrate our progress. Much of the work in this plan is reflected and aligned to other plans, strategies, and policies, across the Council. The plan will work in tandem with the Welsh Government's Delivery Plan for a 'Low Carbon Wales'.

- 7.4 Now the Council has published its Electrical Vehicle Charging Strategy, the 'Transportation & EV Charging' sub-group has now moved on to the next stage and is in the process of compiling an Implementation Plan, which will provide a road map to people and organisations aspiring to provide EVC infrastructure. Included in the document will be an Action Plan to help drive future decisions under the influence of the Council and ensure that we can measure our progress, as an organisation, moving forward.
- 7.5 Working with the Cardiff Capital Region, 2022 will see the further roll out of Electric Vehicle charging points at around 30 off-street locations across RCT. The Council will also be assessing further locations for expansion of these facilities, in accordance with the requirements and targets within the Action Plan, when published.
- 7.6 The Council will continue to work in partnership with like-minded organisations such as the Welsh Local Gov't Assoc', Welsh Gov't Energy Service, CLAW, Cwm Taff UHB, Cardiff Capital Region, Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), National Resources Wales, etc. in order to pool resources, share ideas and partake in collaborative working ventures, etc., all in the collective effort to reduce all carbon consumed and achieve our carbon neutral objectives.
- 7.7 Staff training will be essential to raise awareness further, across all service areas. This will help facilitate and promote behavioural change, whilst giving officers the knowledge and tools that they need to take responsibility for their own carbon footprint, and that of their service area. Also, the recruitment of accomplished staff, plus the thriving programme of recruiting talented graduates, will be key factors in our success moving forward.
- 7.8 A 'Green Space' has been created in Teams, the aim of which is to provide staff with the opportunity to discuss climate change issues and share suggestions on how to reduce their carbon impact. From time to time, members of the 'Green Space' will also be invited to participate as a member of a virtual panel to engage with the Council on climate related projects and work programmes. The objective is that once established, the 'Green Space' will be managed by its members. The 'Green Space', and the whole approach is a pilot, and will be reviewed at the end of August.
- 7.9 The Council have applied to the WGES for grant funding to assist with the cost of replacing existing diesel fleet vehicles with ULEV versions. The application was submitted in mid-December and officers are hopeful that a positive decision will be forthcoming soon. As mentioned briefly earlier, the WLGA have also provided £350k of grant funding to assist the Council in meeting the charging needs of any future EV's that will become part of the fleet during FY'2022/23 and beyond.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 8.1 This supporting report is for the purpose of update and consequently an Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This supporting report is for the purpose of update and consequently Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report, however a copy can be made available in Welsh if requested.

10. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 11.1 All existing 'live' projects are currently funded through relevant cost centres and an existing enabling budget so there are no further financial implications aligned to this interim report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report

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

- 12.1 The Council has committed to becoming a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030 and to work with residents and businesses to ensure the whole County Borough is Carbon Neutral, as close as possible to the 2030 target. This supports the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24 "Making a Difference".

- 12.2 The work set out in this report reflects the Sustainable Development principle of the 'Well-being of Future Generations Act', meeting present needs without comprising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The work described within the report will contribute to all seven national Well-being goals, with more immediate direct contributions to a Globally Responsible Wales, a more Resilient Wales, a Healthy Wales and a Wales of Cohesive Communities.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 This report provides background information pertinent to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. It provides brief information on the achievements of the Council, to date, and the significant contributions already made towards the Council achieving its Carbon neutral targets. It also provides key updates on some other associated strategies and plans to reduce the Council's wider carbon impact.

Contact Officers: David Powell 01443 424144 and
 Anthony Roberts 01443 281146

Appendix 'A'

- Amgen Update.

Appendix 'B'

- Housing Strategy Team Update.

Appendix 'C'

- 'CCCSG', Organogram of Governance.
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Appendix 'A'

Amgen Update Feb-22

(PAPER PREPARED BY LEE FOULKES)

1. AMMENDMENT TO BUSINESS PLAN (2022 – 2027)

Amgen Board have instructed Officers to add additional decarbonisation aims / objectives the Company business plan. The Company has set a target to source 80% of energy used in the recycling / sorting process from renewable energy by 2025.

2. BRYN PICA ECO PARK

- RCT Strategic Project Group and Amgen staff overseeing RIBA Stage 4 Completion for the 4 Unit and Energy Centre Design and Tender Docs.
- Shovel ready project for 2022 / 2023 if funding becomes available.
- Project Team engaged with Welsh Government Energy and Environment Team regarding funding.

3. BRYN PICA

- Resurrected a previously discounted scheme for a 3 MW Solar Scheme at Bryn Pica. Increased payback / rate of return parameters to allow an export only income model.
- Large development area identified and provides to Welsh Energy Service for assessment and modelling.
- Reviewing aspects of Amgen's waste management operations to identify plant and machinery currently dependant on red diesel. Where appropriate developed costed proposal to move to electrical energy source.

4. BRYN PICA PRIVATE WIRE TENDER

- Private wire tender issued on 11.02.22.
- Tender returns on 11.03.22.
- Potential energy saving of circa £500k over 5 year contract period.

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Appendix 'B'

Housing Strategy Team - Update Feb-22

(SOURCE: KERYL LANFEAR)

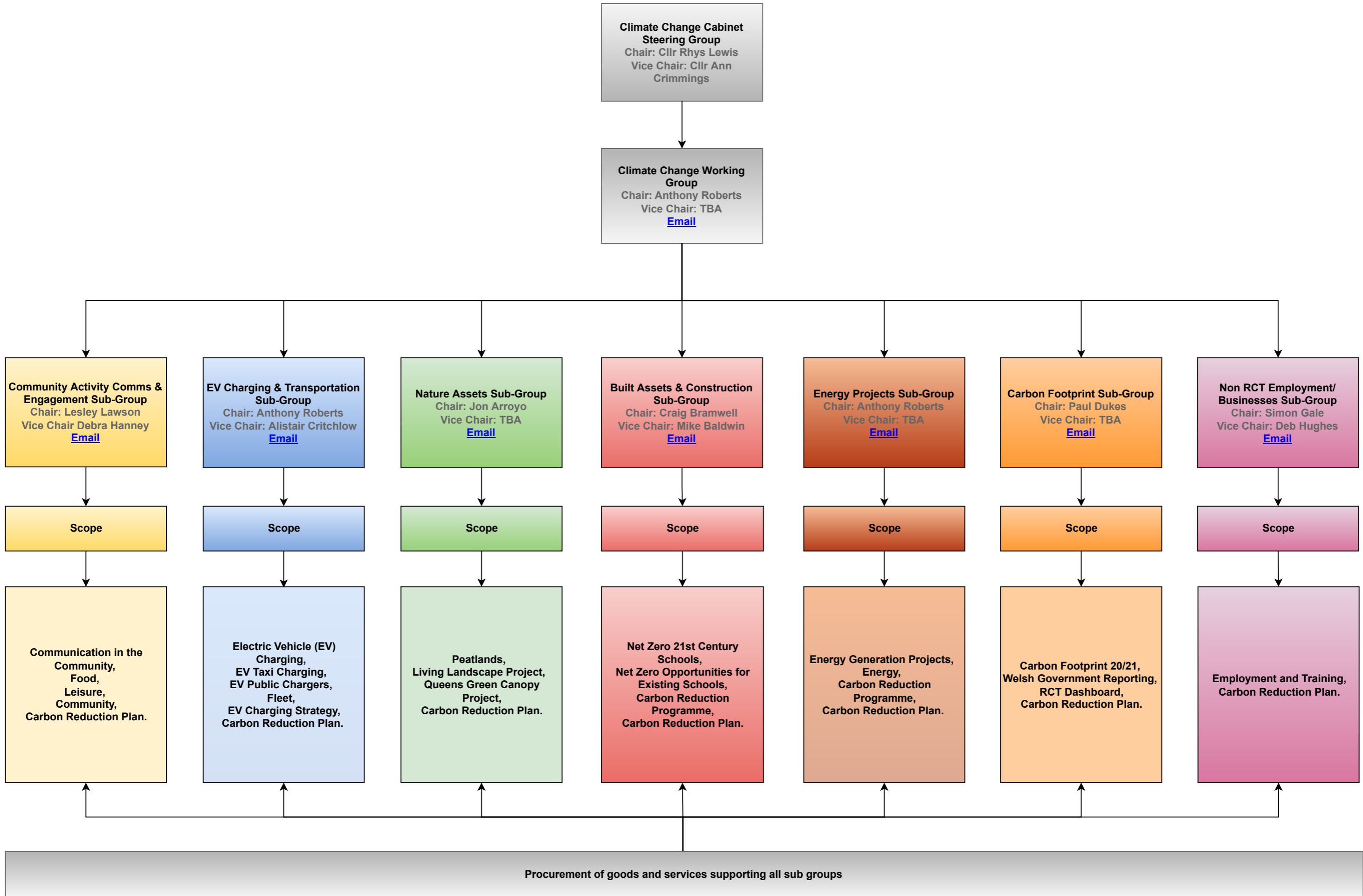
The Councils '**Housing Strategy Team**' have introduced a range of schemes and grants to provide home energy efficiency measures with an aim to address fuel Poverty & reduce carbon emissions for residents within RCT. The schemes introduced by the Council will not only reduce their emissions but also save residents money and improve their wellbeing to meet our Climate Change Targets.

The team are working to address fuel poverty, in a sustainable way, and have running/providing an advice and assistance scheme called Heat and Save. This provides free and impartial advice to residents on tariff switching and access to grants that may be available to them.

The scheme allows self or partner referral to support residents with help and guidance, and to facilitate the correct grant assistance to suit individual circumstances. Opportunities may be available to residents under Eco 3 Flex or the Welsh Governments Nest scheme. In addition to this the Council has just launched a heating Grant as a pilot scheme to further help RCT residents.

One example of the housing strategy team's enabling role, working with Arbed am Byth, is the delivery of energy measures to 113 homes in Penrhiwceiber, with new heat and cost-saving energy measures (since September 2020).

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Procurement of goods and services supporting all sub groups

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