



**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: Sarah Handy - Council Business Unit (07385401942)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a virtual meeting of the **CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB COMMITTEE** to be held on **THURSDAY, 21ST DECEMBER, 2023** at **10.00 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 Tuesday, 19 December 2023 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

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1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Note:

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

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Control Steering Group held on the 27th September 2023.

3. THINK CLIMATE RCT' THE COUNCIL'S TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2022-2025: QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

To provide to Members the quarter 2 performance position statement as part of an overview of our progress in delivering the Council's Climate Change Strategy, '[Think Climate RCT](#)' agreed in June 2022.

9 - 18

4. CARBON FOOTPRINT

To provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee with regards to the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Reporting Scheme and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's submission under that regime for the Financial Year 2022/23.

19 - 24

5. EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN COUNCIL ASSETS

To update Members of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee on progress made in the field of Electric Vehicle Charging, within Council Assets.

25 - 30

6. UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

To provide a further update to Members with regards to the work underway in the development of a 'Land Based Solar Farm', to be located on Council owned land located at Coed Ely.

31 - 36

7. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chair 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 C Leyshon and County Borough Councillor A. Crimmings respectively)

County Borough Councillors:
Councillor A Crimmings, Councillor R Lewis, Councillor M Norris and Councillor W Owen

Officers:
Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Paul Mee, Chief Executive

Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development

Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources

Barrie Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director of Finance, Digital and Frontline Services

David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual meeting of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee held on Wednesday, 27 September 2023 at 2.00 pm.

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

County Borough Councillors – The following Councillors were present:

Councillor C Leyshon (Chair)

Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor M Norris

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr S Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates
Ms L Lawson, Performance Manager
Ms E Dean, Environment Planner
Mr A Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction
Mr R Wistow, Ecologist
Mr S Williams, Director for Highways, Streetcare and Transportation Services
Mr C Davies, Corporate Policy & Consultation Manager

Apologies for absence

Councillor W Owen

1 Declaration of Interest

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

2 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd March 2023 as an accurate reflection.

3 Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee Work Programme 2023-2024 Municipal Year

The Service Director, Democratic Services and Communications presented the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee Work Programme 2023-24 to Members.

The Chair emphasised that Members were very keen on attending site visits. A Member confirmed that they welcomed the suggestion of site visits throughout the

County Borough.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee Work Programme for the 2023-2024 Municipal Year, as attached as Appendix 1;
2. To agree to undertake site visits during the Municipal Year to the proposed list of locations:
 - Launch of School Eco Awards;
 - Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf, Rhydyfelin;
 - [Soaring Supersaurus](#), Penrhys;
 - Canolfan Calon Taf; and
 - Welcome to our Woods – [Crop Cycle](#)
3. To receive a future report of the Chair with the findings from each of the site visits.

4 'Think Climate RCT' The Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025

The Performance Manager presented the 'Think Climate RCT: The Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025' to Members.

N.B- Prior to the meeting, Members were informed that item 4 includes a typo in paragraph 4.1, there is reference to 1.5% and not 1.5⁰. The amended report was circulated to Members'

The Chair welcomed the report in this format and commented that she liked the hyperlinks contained within the report. The Chair noted that because procurement lays such a large part of the Council's Carbon Reduction then she would like to see more about procurement in the quarterly reports.

Discussions ensued and a Member noted that the report fits in well with the Council's Corporate Plan and that the report highlights how much work is being done in the background by the Council to hit their targets. The Member referred to the Electric Vehicle report that is due to come to the Sub Committee in December and queried whether we could invite the National Grid to attend the meeting to see what their plans are for the future. The Chair agreed that this was a good suggestion and the Director of Corporate Estates agreed to liaise with the National Grid to arrange a suitable time.

Discussions continued and another Member welcomed the report and commented that it was useful to have all the information in one place and that this a useful tool for the public. Another Member agreed and welcomed this format going forward. In respect of the National Grid, a Member suggested that the Chair has a pre meeting with Officers prior to the December meeting to ascertain what the key issues are so that the necessary challenge can be provided to the National Grid.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To consider the information contained within the report;
2. To invite the National Grid to attend a subsequent meeting of the Committee as part of the Sub Committee's Work Programme; and
3. To note the potential to further embed the Council's response to Climate Change into the business of the Council as part of the development of the Council's new Corporate Plan.

5 'Nature on Your Doorstep': Update on the implementation of the Living Landscape project in Rhondda Cynon Taf

The Director of Prosperity & Development presented the 'Nature on your Doorstep' to Members in order to Members on local places for nature grant funded works undertaken in 22/23 and planned for 24/25.

Discussions ensued and the Chair welcomed the report and noted that Cabinet Members previously met the Apprentices, however, the Chair suggested that it would be a good opportunity for Cabinet Members to meet with the Apprentices again on a site visit. Another Member agreed and noted that the Committee previously met the graduates and that it would be useful for the Committee to meet with the Apprentices.

Discussions continued and a Member noted that we have fantastic nature sites across the County Borough. The Member referred to the Carnetown ponds and noted how pleased he was to see this on the list and once that area has been assessed, the Member requested if Officers could provide an update that could be shared with the community. Officers agreed to get back to Members as the area develops.

A Member praised the Council's work with graduates and Apprentices and noted that this will play a huge part in our planning and development and praised such a detailed report.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED**:

1. To consider the progress reported, the planned expenditure and how this contributes to the broader objective of developing a Living Landscape project across RCT;
2. To arrange a site meeting for the Committee to meet with the new Biodiversity Apprentices

6 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business to report.

This meeting closed at 2.30 pm

Councillor C Leyshon

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB COMMITTEE

21 December 2023

'THINK CLIMATE RCT' THE COUNCIL'S TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2022-2025

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH CLLR CHRISTINA LEYSHON, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

AUTHOR: Lesley Lawson, Performance Manager

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide to Members a first quarter position statement as part of an overview of our progress in delivering the Council's Climate Change Strategy, '[Think Climate RCT](#)' agreed in June 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet Sub Committee.

- 2.1 Considers the information contained within the report.
- 2.2 Takes a view on the potential areas for further consideration as part of the Sub Committee's Work Programme.
- 2.3 Notes the work to progress and further embed the Council's response to Climate Change into the business of the Council as part of the development of the Council's new Corporate Plan.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To assist the Council to meet its 2030 Carbon Neutral targets.
 - for RCT to be a carbon neutral Council,
 - for the whole County Borough to be as close as possible to carbon neutral and
 - to contribute to the Welsh Government's ambition of a Net Zero public sector.
- 3.2 To support the implementation and delivery of the Council's wider Tackling Climate Change Strategy '[Think Climate RCT](#)' and associated strategies/plans.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In recent years there have been growing global, UK wide and national drives to reduce carbon emissions, keep global warming below 1.5°, protect nature and the environment and adapt to the current and projected changes in the climate and more frequent extreme weather events.
- 4.2 In 2019, Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency and set out its approach in its strategy [Prosperity for All: A low Carbon Wales](#). Since then, the Welsh Government has put in place many and varied plans, strategies, targets, milestones, ambitions and deadlines for public bodies to meet. The latest UK Climate Change Committee's '[Progress Report on Reducing emissions in Wales](#)', published in June, indicated that '*while the First Carbon Budget (2016-2020) has been achieved, Wales is not yet on track to meet its targets for the second half of this decade and beyond*'. The report set out 58 recommendations across a number of areas, which are currently under consideration by the Minister.
- 4.3 More locally, whilst the Council had progressed energy saving and other carbon reduction projects, it also recognised the speed, complexity, interconnections and differing geographic and sectoral boundaries surrounding the response to tackling climate change across all the services we provide, purchase or commission.
- 4.4 In June 2022, following engagement with residents, staff and other stakeholders given the Covid restrictions in place at the time, Cabinet agreed the Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy: '[Think Climate RCT](#)'. 'Think Climate RCT' currently provides a structure and framework for our plans to decarbonise the Council and the County Borough. Also, by mirroring the Council's current Corporate Plan in its commitments in respect of Think Climate People: Think Climate Places and Think Climate Prosperity the Council started to embed carbon reduction into the business of the Council.
- 4.5 Since June 2022, there have been numerous reports of progress of projects presented to Cabinet, the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee and to Scrutiny Committees. A high level summary of progress has been included as a standing item in the quarterly Performance Reports considered by Cabinet, Quarter 4 update can be seen at [Section 7](#) for illustrative purposes.
- 4.6 By mirroring the priorities in the Council's current Corporate Plan i.e. Think Climate People: Think Climate Places and Think Climate Prosperity, the Council has started to embed the Climate Change Strategy and carbon reduction into the business of the Council.
- 4.7 This report provides an overview of progress against 'Think Climate RCT' during Quarter 2, with the opportunity to view the detailed plans across each of the Climate priorities. The ongoing work programme to deliver the Climate Change Strategy in 2023/24 will continue to embed within the action planning and reporting for the Council's priorities. Further specific reports, as deemed appropriate, will also continue to be reported to Cabinet, the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee and Scrutiny Committees, in accordance with the agreed work programmes.

5 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 This update considers four areas of focus within the Climate Change Strategy, acknowledging that there are also projects which overlap or do not have a clear 'home'. Where this is the case, the items are included in the areas of 'best fit'.
- 5.2 In Quarter 1, the format of the update was well received by the [Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee](#) at its meeting on 27 September. However, the Sub Committee requested further information in respect of the Procurement element of the Carbon Footprint be included. This has been developed in the Quarter 2 summary for Members' consideration in advance of further and more detailed information reports in respect of procurement issues. At the same time, the Procurement Service is also developing a detailed information/training session for elected Members to support their skills and knowledge in this area.

CLIMATE CHANGE – contributing to our Carbon Reduction Targets

Summary of progress to 30 September 2023

COUNCIL SPECIFIC

Our Carbon Footprint

We submitted the calculation of the Council's 2022/23 Carbon Footprint to Welsh Government in September 2023. The Footprint was calculated in accordance with Welsh Government's national carbon reporting requirements. Whilst it appears there has been a reduction in our [reported](#) carbon emissions of 120,907.4 tonnes CO₂ since 2021/22, any reduction cannot be confirmed until the data is ratified by Welsh Government.

Energy Efficiency and renewable energy

The Council continues to implement its Carbon Reduction Programme, including 7 completed roof top Solar PV installations, and a further 7 installations currently out to tender. We are also progressing the inventory of Council Buildings that will inform programming of further Solar PV installations on suitable buildings. The new process to identify projects for the Carbon Reduction Programme through a review of energy audits and Display Energy Certificate data is strengthening the evidence base to target and prioritise carbon reduction opportunities across the Council's buildings. The [School Eco Awards](#) launched on 6 October also embeds energy/carbon reduction into the award criteria. In addition to the Carbon Reduction Programme, we continue to seek opportunities to fund decarbonisation projects and have sought grant funding of up to £960K since 2022/23. As at mid-October 2023, £947K of grant funding has been awarded.

Fleet

Progress in implementing a plan to transition our fleet to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles agreed by [Cabinet in September 2022](#) has slowed, given its dependence on availability of vehicles and lack of grant funding. However, we are currently working collaboratively with Welsh Government and, currently, seven other Councils across Wales to maximise our procurement and spending power for a joint purchase of electric vehicles so that we can collectively benefit as part of a high-volume order, competing more effectively with demand e.g. from private sector couriers. Further detail will be available in Q3. We are also preparing to implement a new phase of the Fleet Maximisation Project to continue to ensure that services have access to vehicles that best meet their needs, as these needs change. This will allow us to monitor underutilised vehicles and make financial and carbon reduction savings where needed. To further reduce private car mileage travelled by staff, 15 pool vehicles for business travel will be made more widely available from Ty Elai (4), Sardis (3) and Ty Glantaf (8). The Pool cars will be booked through a bespoke in house online booking system, currently being tested. To date

CLIMATE CHANGE – contributing to our Carbon Reduction Targets

2 of the vehicles are currently EV, as the usage grows through the online booking portal, we will monitor daily mileage and hope to roll out more EVs in the pool car network.

Council Buildings, including schools

- Information about our School Investment Projects, including Net Zero Carbon Primary School for Glyncoch, can be found [here](#).
- Delivered a summer maintenance programme that includes boiler replacements and LED lighting upgrades.
- Treorchy Comprehensive School and Ysgol Garth Olwg have been selected to receive Net Zero reports as part of a Welsh Government funded project to provide Net Zero reports for schools across Wales. The Project will be delivered by AECOM.
- Continuing to deliver the Office Accommodation Strategy 'Fit for the Future' and the Council's Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy approved by [Cabinet in May 2023](#) locating Council buildings/services in buildings closer to the people that use, work and visit them and/or are accessible by public transport including the move of the Council Headquarters from the Pavilions, Clydach Vale to Llys Cadwyn, Pontypridd.

Procurement of Goods and Services

Based on the 2021/22 Carbon Footprint calculation, 67.55% of the Council's Carbon Footprint can be attributed to Procured Goods and Services. Of these goods and services, the four highest carbon emitting categories are Construction; Social Care Services; Transportation, Buses, Minibuses and Taxi Services and Fleet Services. The total carbon emission calculated from these categories amounts to 86% of the procured goods and services. As a result, these areas are being prioritised for carbon reduction support.

More widely, all opportunities for business to tender for Council contracts feature standard questions about carbon reduction, including a company's knowledge of its own carbon footprint, ability to calculate and/or reduce its footprint and ideas to further reduce carbon if its tender was successful. Also in its [Policy Note WPPN06/21](#), Welsh Government recommended that companies tendering for a authority contract in excess of £5M, must evidence their own company's plans to reduce carbon through its own [Carbon Reduction Plan](#).

For those companies already supplying goods and services, the Council has developed and tested a Carbon Calculator which companies can use to calculate their carbon emissions. Anecdotal feedback from suppliers that have tested the Calculator to date has been positive. So far as we know, the Carbon Calculator is a unique product as a result has attracted interest from the Welsh Local Government Association, Business Wales and Welsh Government. The Carbon Calculator is scheduled for publication/launch as part of a new Procurement Website during Quarter 3.

Staff Awareness

We continue to raise staff awareness. In the last quarter we have continued to raise our Carbon reduction commitments in staff induction training, management briefings and across the performance management and governance processes. The e-learning module was available for soft launch in September with wider distribution in Q3.

ACROSS THE COUNTY BOROUGH

Think Climate PEOPLE

CLIMATE CHANGE – contributing to our Carbon Reduction Targets

1. Put in place campaigns to support and encourage lifestyle choices and highlighted the Council's work across a range of services and projects including the ongoing campaign for [the roll out of the new recycling arrangements](#) to support the changes introduced in July 2023 with a new 'find your collection day' facility, raising awareness of [engagement events about the Coed Ely Solar Farm](#), the announcement of new allotment sites in Ynysybwl and a range of national climate and environmental campaigns.
2. Promoted eight national/local campaigns including 'Plastic Free July', 'Allotments Week' in August and 'Second Hand September' to residents and staff.
3. Held face to face engagement with residents in Town Centres, libraries and network events as part of ongoing Climate Conversation.
4. Raised awareness of the launch of [the RCT Eco Schools award](#) on 6 October 2023.
5. Officially opened 'Canolfan Calon Taf' at Ynysangharad War Memorial Park on 6 August as part of the Park's centenary celebrations at the 'Big Bite' event. The centre aims to engage people in their local environment, contribute to activities with positive climate impact and increase expertise and a love of nature.
6. Continued to promote and support sustainable local food with a focus on food pantries and working with Bryncynon Strategy project that will increase the coordination and availability of food and the buying power of the consortium.
7. Submitted the Council's bid for 'Sustainable Food Places' Bronze Award in September. Decision will be communicated to the Council in November 2023.
8. Provided support to residents in two energy advice 'roadshows' with Trivallis Housing Association.
9. Continued to work with third sector and community partners to maximise our resources and showcase areas of expertise and numerous environmental volunteering opportunities across the County Borough.
10. The '[Think Climate RCT](#)' webpage continues to be refreshed to ensure it remains up to date, fit for purpose and aligns to the newly released Welsh Government campaign through [Climate Action Wales](#).

Think Climate PLACES

1. The land based Solar Farm in Coed Ely was subject to local consultation between [11 July and 8 August](#). The project is now in final planning stage and if agreed, work will start during 2024.
2. Feasibility studies have been completed for Dare Valley and Treforest Weir hydro schemes, with results due to be received in Q3.
3. Received a favourable feasibility report for a Geothermal Project in the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery. Environmental studies now underway in advance of seeking planning approval.
4. [Announced the development of new allotment](#) site in [Ynysybwl](#) following the securing of Welsh Govt funding. There will be 14 full size plots within the site which is scheduled for completion in March 2024 ready for new growing season.
5. The Amgen 1.5 MW single wind turbine was operational from 15 September. The first five weeks were used as a test period. It is anticipated that the turbine will generate 3,300 MW hours per annum, dependent on wind conditions.
6. Work to procure a 200KW Solar PV development to decarbonise energy consumption at the waste water treatment plant in Bryn Pica has slowed following refusal of a network connection by National Grid. Officers are currently considering options.
7. Worked with [T & C Recycling](#) to legally recycle/reuse seized/forfeited clothing including T shirts, trainers, jumpers, hoodies and tracksuits. Goods went to homeless shelters and homeless people on the streets following rebranding or shredded for disposal as rags.

CLIMATE CHANGE – contributing to our Carbon Reduction Targets

- Continued to use grant funding streams to increase the number of EV charging points in place on Council owned public car parks/public, community centre and leisure/education sites. Further information can be found on the Council's [EV Charging Strategy](#) and [EV Charging Web page](#).
- Started the upgrade [work on the Rhondda Fach Active Travel route at Maerdy/Ferndale](#) and continued to develop Active Travel routes for Treorchy/Treherbert and Cwmbach as part of the Cynon Trail.
- Obtained WG funding for 2023/25 to create an additional 30 'Nature on your Doorstep' sites on Council owned land, supporting the Living Landscape Project. This was accompanied by additional funding for two Biodiversity Officer posts until at least, March 2025. Suitable sites are currently being considered, Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee [27 September](#) refers.

Think Climate PROSPERITY

The Council continues to support people in poverty, which in turn also reduces carbon emissions and making existing homes more energy efficient. We are continuing to develop our new Affordable Warmth Strategy. In the meantime, we continued to deliver strategic schemes including making information available about the Welsh Government's Warm Home 'Nest' scheme and prepared for implementation of ECO 4 Flex Scheme, following the [Delegated Decision](#) on 8 September. We are awaiting the outcome of a joint funding bid by 'Trustmark' and Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB for the Phase 2 Innovation Project. If agreed, this project will support joint targeting of households eligible for ECO 4 or other 'Heat and Save' interventions for residents affected by living in cold related homes. However, we continue to work with CTMUHB to establish referral pathways in the event that the bid is unsuccessful. This quarter

- 37 new Heating Grant applications were received.
- 21 Heating Grants were completed, £73k grants awarded.
- 10 referrals were made to the Housing Energy Officer, for advice on energy saving measures or assistance that could help them with their bills.
- 35 Solar Panel Grant applications were received.
- 34 Solar Panel Grants were completed, £37k grants awarded.

We also:

- [Amended the timetable](#) for the development and adoption of the Council's Local Development Plan to take account of new/proposed changes in respect of Welsh Government policy/arrangements for biodiversity, flood risk, town centres and roads review.
- [Launched the new RCT eco School Awards](#) in Pontypridd High School on 6 October featuring categories for biodiversity and nature, energy and carbon saving and waste and recycling.
- Progressed our plans to develop a Sustainable Toolkit for tourism business owners and continued to work with the Valleys Regional Park on current plans to promote sustainable tourism and strengthen recycling arrangements.
- Worked with Business Improvement Districts, providing information/updates that they can use to access relevant support information in respect of sustainability.
- Finalised preparations for the launch in Q3, of the Carbon Calculator that suppliers can use to identify and reduce their carbon footprints.

The associated action plan can be viewed [here](#)

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

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

7 CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT/INVOLVEMENT

There are no specific consultation implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

There are no stand-alone financial implications resulting from the recommendations set out in the report.

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

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

- 10.1 The Council has committed to becoming a Carbon Neutral organisation 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 and aligns directly to the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 'Making a Difference' – 2020-24.
- 10.2 This report reflects the Sustainable Development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations Act by improving all aspects of Well-being through 'Think Climate RCT'; taking steps to make sure that decisions we take today do not affect future generations from making the decisions they need in the future and contributing to the seven national Well-being Goals as set out in Appendix A of 'Think Climate RCT'.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 The Council has a target to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030, and for the County Borough to be as near to Carbon Neutral as possible by the same date. The Tackling Climate Change Strategy 'Think Climate RCT' sets out a framework of action the Council will take to make significant progress, and lays strong foundations to enable the Council to make progress towards achieving the 2030 targets, as well as contributing to the Welsh Government carbon reduction ambitions for a Net Zero public sector by 2030 and its target for a Net Zero Wales by 2050 or sooner.
- 11.2 This report provides an update of the first six months of 2023/24. Whilst the Council can demonstrate positive steps towards meeting Carbon reductions targets across the Council to date, continuing progress will depend on a number of factors outside our direct control, including access to funding, technology, skills; lifestyle choices of our residents and wider policy direction and integration emerging from Welsh Government. Further embedding of carbon reduction into the business of the Council through the new Corporate Plan will continue to strengthen the Council's own arrangements.

11.3 Achieving our targets requires all stakeholders and communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf to work together. The Council will continue to work with all stakeholders across the County Borough, the region and across Wales

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972
as amended by
THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
21 December 2023

REPORT OF: The Chief Executive

ITEM: IMPLEMENTATION OF TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY '[THINK CLIMATE RCT](#)' - QUARTER 2 PROGRESS UPDATE

Contact Officer: Lesley Lawson

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

21st DECEMBER 2023

UPDATE REPORT ON THE CARBON PROJECT & WELSH PUBLIC SECTOR NET ZERO CARBON REPORT FOR 2022/23

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSION WITH
THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE & CORPORATE SERVICES
COUNCILLOR C. LEYSHON**

**Author(s): Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction, and
Paul Dukes, Principal Carbon Reduction Officer.**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee with regards to the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Reporting Scheme and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's submission under that regime for the Financial Year 2022/23.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report as part of the ongoing work under the remit of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee.
- 2.2 Agree to publish the data on the Council's Carbon Footprint Dashboard.
- 2.3 Receive further reports providing additional updates on progress as / when deemed appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides background information and an update on the current situation regarding the Carbon Footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and its related activities, whilst noting ongoing development in the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) reporting process.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2017, the Welsh Government (WG) set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. Subsequently in March 2019, the Welsh Government published 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' which includes Policy 20: Support the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality. This mirrors Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's own commitment to be organisationally Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- 4.2 In May 2021, the Welsh Government introduced the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon (NZC) reporting scheme. This scheme encompasses over 60 public sector organisations including all Welsh Unitary Authorities, Health Boards and Trusts, National Park Authorities, Welsh Universities, Fire and Rescue Authorities and various other public sector bodies.
- 4.3 Although launched in May 2021, RCT had already calculated its carbon emissions data for 2019/20. As discussions with WG unfolded, WG requested data for both the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years and for subsequent years going forward and we were in a good position to respond to their requests.
- 4.4 The Carbon Reporting process and the adoption of the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear path with defined timescales to achieving the Council's carbon reduction targets by 2030.

5. RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CARBON EMISSIONS 2022/23

- 5.1 The Council's Carbon Emissions for 2022/23 were submitted to the Welsh Government by the 6th of September 2023 deadline. The NZC Carbon Emissions for 2022/23 were 96,639.83 tonnes CO_{2e}.
- 5.2 From the 2022/23 year onward, the Welsh Government has introduced two additional carbon emission reporting requirements namely:
- Refrigerant Gases
 - Anaesthetic Gases

The reporting requirement for Anaesthetic Gas Emissions was introduced primarily for the Health Care Sector and is not applicable to our Authority.

The Refrigerant Gas Emissions requirement does apply to our Authority as the Council provides air conditioning plant and cooling equipment to many of its buildings. The requirement also applies to all the Council's Fleet vehicles which are equipped with air conditioning.

- 5.3 The Refrigerant gas emissions relate to refrigerant being lost to the atmosphere because of equipment failure. It should be noted that the refrigerant gas in old redundant equipment is collected as part of the decommissioning process and does not have to be included within our submission to Welsh Government.
- 5.4 Since the submission of the carbon emission data for the 2021/22 year in September 2022, Welsh Government have advised that errors were identified in the Waste emission element of their Reporting Spreadsheet. Consequently, the Total Waste emissions have been reduced by 1,327.81 tCO_{2e}. As a result, the Council's total reportable emissions for 2021/22, were 118,974.66 tCO_{2e}.
- 5.5 A comparison of the carbon emissions for the Baseline Year 2019/20, 2021/22 and the current 2022/23 submission are set out in Table 1 below:

Emission Category	Tonnes CO_{2e} 2019/20 (Baseline Year)	Tonnes CO_{2e} 2021/22	Tonnes CO_{2e} 2022/23	% Change from Baseline Year	% Change from previous Year 2021/22
Supply Chain	86,728.59	81,676.97	62,733.60	-27.67%	-23.19%
Natural Gas	13,590.39	14,346.60	13,240.13	-2.58%	-7.11%
Electricity	7,775.94	8,271.97	6,544.31	-5.53%	-11.76%
Waste	4,444.99	4,842.35	1,822.27	-59.62%	-37.37%
Street Lighting	848.62	855.38	741.39	-12.64%	-13.33%
Fleet & Equipment	3,750.39	6,007.51	5,866.66	56.43%	-2.34%
Water	243.51	112.01	128.24	-47.34%	14.49%
Other Fuels (LPG)	9.38	87.68	103.6	1004.44%	18.15%
Staff Travel & Home Working	N/A	5,562.37	5,454.05	N/A	-1.95%
Refrigerant Gases	N/A	N/A	5.58	N/A	N/A
Total	116,543.20	118,974.66	96,639.83	-17.10%	-18.77%

Table 1: Rhondda Cynon Taf Council – Net Zero Carbon Emissions

- 5.6 A significant reduction in Supply Chain emissions can be seen in 2022/23 which is attributable in part to changes in the calculation methodology instigated by the Welsh Government, which is explained in more detail in Section 6.
- 5.7 The production of Renewable Electricity Generation continues to increase from 1,119,617 kW during 2019/20 to 1,163,788 kW in 2021/22 and 1,389,680kW in 2022/23.
- 5.8 Unfortunately under the current Welsh Government report scheme, renewable electricity generated by the Council's photovoltaic systems cannot be used to offset the Council's carbon emissions. Equally, although the Council purchases 100% of its electricity from renewable generated certified sources, the Council cannot use this to offset our carbon emissions.

6. Analysis of the Council's Carbon Emissions.

- 6.1 Due to the unique nature of the 2020/21 Financial year (Covid – 19 Pandemic) and its effect on the Council's Carbon emissions, it was decided to use the 2019/20 Financial year as the Baseline Year against which progress towards the Council's 2030 target could be assessed.
- 6.2 The introduction of the new reporting requirements for Refrigerant gases added just 5.58 tonnes CO_{2e} to the Council's total reported emissions for 2022/23.
- 6.3 The breakdown of the 2022/23 carbon emissions per Emission Categories as a percentage of total emissions illustrates that emissions related to the purchase of Goods and Services dominates the Council's emissions:
- Supply Chain (65%)
 - Natural Gas (14%)
 - Electricity (7%)
 - Fleet & Equipment (6%)
 - Business Travel, Commuting and Home Working (5%)
 - Waste (2%)
 - Street Lighting (1%)
 - Other Fuels / Water / Refrigerants (>0%)
- 6.4 Whilst the Supply Chain emissions are still the largest proportion of the Council's CO_{2e} Emissions, the amount emitted has decreased by 23.19 % when compared to the 2021/22 year, and by 27.67% when compared with the Baseline Year (2019/20). This reduction is due in part to the way the Council's procurement of Goods and Services are categorised and reported; and also due to changes in the metrics used in the WG Reporting Spreadsheets to calculate the carbon emissions generated for each £ of spend across the various procurement categories. Previously, WG were using metrics derived in 2011, these have now been updated to metrics produced more recently in 2019.

- 6.5 Similar changes in the way the Council's Waste and Recycling data are categorised and reported, and further changes in the WG Reporting Spreadsheets, have reduced the 2022/23 carbon emission in these categories by 37.37% when compared to 2021/22 and by 59.62%, when compared to the 2019/20 Baseline year. It should be noted that the waste and recycling emissions are not just derived from the waste generated by the Council's own activities but also includes the domestic and commercial waste that is collected by the Council.
- 6.6 There have been small drops in Natural Gas and Electricity related emissions in 2022/23 when compared to previous years. This is due to the ongoing energy efficiency measures being installed across the Council's property portfolio.
- 6.7 Fleet and Equipment related emissions for 2022/23 have decreased when compared to the 2021/22 year. The Fleet rationalisation exercise has reduced the total number of vehicles operated by the Council and combined with the Fleet transition to Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) including Battery Electric cars and light goods vans, this will result in further decreases in emissions over the coming years.
- 6.8 Water related carbon emissions have increased when compared to the 2021/22 year. This is due to the variable quality and timeliness of the water consumption data supplied to the Council by Dwr Cymru – Welsh Water (DC-WW). Water consumption data is supplied on an annual basis by DC-WW, but invariably it has been in need of correction. Discussions are underway with DC-WW to find a way of improving the quality and timeliness of their data.
- 6.9 Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) is only used on two Council sites within Rhondda Cynon Taf, one of which has transitioned over recent years from using outdated and unreliable biomass heating to a new more reliable LPG system during 2021/22, which has resulted in an increase in LPG related carbon emissions.
- 6.10 Emissions related to Staff travel, both commuting and business travel, and home working are down slightly when compared to previous years.
- 6.11 It is acknowledged that there is a requirement to continuously improve the data identification, collation, analysis and reporting mechanisms to take on board changes to the Council's carbon reduction activities and service adaptations to improve the quality and robustness of the data used to complete the Public Sector Net Zero carbon submissions, and equally importantly to help inform the discussions surrounding the transition to a Carbon Neutral authority by 2030.



7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

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

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no immediate Welsh Language requirements with regards to this report.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

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

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 The costs associated with the calculation of our Carbon Footprint, including those related to the engagement of the Carbon Trust are all currently funded through the relevant cost centres so there are no further financial implications aligned to this 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 purpose of the report is to provide an update report relating to the progress of the Carbon Footprint project as it relates to the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee.

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

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 This report provides an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee with regards to the work to understand the Carbon Footprint of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council activities and how it relates to the Welsh Government reporting requirements and the wider Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Net Zero and Carbon Reduction commitments.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

21st December 2023

UPDATE REPORT ON EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN COUNCIL ASSETS

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORPORATE
SERVICES, COUNCILLOR C. LEYSHON**

**Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates, and
Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction.**

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee (CCCSC) on progress made in the field of Electric Vehicle Charging, within Council Assets, in working towards to the Council's publicly stated EV charging goals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report, and an accompanying presentation, as part of the ongoing work in response to the Council's EV charging ambitions set by the Climate Change Strategy and the EV Charging Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- 2.2 Receive further report(s) to provide updates on progress as/when deemed appropriate.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the CCCSC has the opportunity to consider the report before them, view the supporting presentation, and to comment on the Council's progress on the development of EVC infrastructure, within Council Assets, in the context of the wider Council carbon reduction commitments and published ambitions.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In late 2021 the work of the Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group led to the approval and publication of the Council's 'Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy', which is a fundamental element of the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County Borough. Similarly in late 2022, the follow up 'Implementation and Action Plan', were also approved and then later published, and it is these documents which form the fundamental element of the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County Borough, along with the Council's 'Climate Change Strategy'.
- 4.2 The expansion of EV charging infrastructure, within Council owned assets across the County Borough, is supported by the Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group. This report covers such works in support of the Fleet Transition to electric vehicles (EV), the expansion of EV charging infrastructure to include staff and visitor charging, and the substantial contribution of the Cardiff Capital Region's (CCR) programs.
- 4.3 It should be noted that Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group has recently been restructured, with the aim of streamlining resources in response to the Group's current programme. The Group now reports on the EV charging Action Plan progress quarterly, to the main CC Working Group.

5.0 PROGRESS UPDATE

- 5.1 To efficiently handle the influx of EV charging enquiries, a central EV enquiry inbox was established in early 2022 and is maintained by the Energy & Carbon Reduction Team. At present all EV charging enquiries are handled through this mailbox, with other service areas encouraged to divert any correspondence they may receive through this central point of reference.
- 5.2 The Council's EV Charging Infrastructure Implementation Plan and Action Plan was published early 2023, with the purpose of providing 'clear guidance and advice on the requirements for the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, across the County Borough'.
- 5.3 The Council were successful in applying for over £540k of Transport for Wales/Welsh Government ULEV Transformation Fund grant funding for the financial years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. It is anticipated that Corporate Estates will submit an application for a third year of ULEV TF funding for the FY 24/25 in January 2024, however the details surrounding this are still being considered.
- 5.4 The Council have procured the 'CLENERGY EV' management system which allows complete electronic oversight of all charge point assets that the Council owns and manages. This management system was funded using the ULEV TF FY 22/23 grant funding.

- 5.5 To support the fleet transition to electric vehicles, the Council installed EV charge points at strategic sites across Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for fleet use. Data concerning this roll out is shown below in Table 1.
- 5.6 ULEV-TFW grant funding for f/yr 22/23, enabled the installation of further EV charge points at sites across the County Borough for public/ visitor charging. Data concerning this roll out is also shown below in Table 1.
- 5.7 Working in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority (CCRTA), the Council secured funding to install public use 7kw to 22kw fast charging points at public car parking sites across Rhondda Cynon Taf as part of the Phase 1 roll-out.
- 5.8 Additional funding has been secured from the UK Government, via the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), for EV charging points at further locations – including public, Community Centre and Leisure/Education site car parks. This will be complemented by funding from Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region as part of the Phase 2 roll-out. Data concerning both these phases of roll out is shown below in Table 1

<i>EV Charging Initiative:</i>	<i>Number of Sites:</i>	<i>Number of Chargers:</i>	<i>Number of Connectors:</i>	<i>Number now available for use:</i>
CCR - EVC Roll Out (Phase 1)	31	43	84	70*
CCR - EVC Roll Out (Phase 2)	26	26	52	34*
RCT Council Fleet Charging	13	14	16	16
WG / ULEV – TF **	9	11	18	1
TOTALS:	79	94	170	121

Table 1

Note: * This data is available and updated weekly on the RCT Campaigns webpage (see below)

** Some of the ULEV-TF charge points are already available for use by fleet and will be made available to 'others' for use during January 2024

- 5.9 Members of the public are updated of the installation progress through the public-facing EVCP campaigns [page](#) which is updated by Frontline Services.

- 5.10 Again, utilizing the ULEV TF FY 23/24 grant funding, Corporate Estates have commissioned a feasibility study to identify 3 priority short stay sites with the potential to install 55kW DC Rapid EV Charge Points. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this feasibility study will inform RCT's ULEV TF FY 24/25 bid in January 2024 (see 5.3 above).
- 5.11 Corporate Estates are working with the GIS team to include a public map of Council/CCR EVC installations on the EV Charging webpage. It is the ambition to have this uploaded to the webpage by end of January 2024.
- 5.12 The presentation that follows this report will attempt to demonstrate and illustrate all the above progress.

6.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of this update report.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial and resource implications as part of this report which is for information purposes only.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this update report.

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

- 10.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act asks public bodies to work better with people, communities and each other to meet the Sustainable Development principle. The Council's approach to the implementation of the Act agreed by Cabinet is to make sure that its requirements are embedded into the everyday business.
- 10.2 The Council has committed to becoming a Carbon Neutral organisation 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 'Making a Difference' – 2020-24.

11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The intent of this report is in furthering the ambitions for the Council's Climate Change Agenda.

12.0 CONCLUSION

- 12.1 It is proposed that the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee consider the report, view the presentation and engage with this matter, now and as developments progress.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

21st December 2023

UPDATE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED SOLAR FARM

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORPORATE SERVICES, COUNCILLOR C. LEYSHON

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 Members with regards to the work underway in the development of a 'Land Based Solar Farm', to be located on Council owned land located at Coed Ely, on an 84-acre 'terraced' former colliery site, near Tonyrefail. The facility will, when constructed, be an asset owned by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report as part of the ongoing work in response to our climate change ambitions and agree to the further progress of the project proposals, in line with the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Receive further report(s) to provide updates on progress as/when deemed appropriate.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The contents of this report provide key information updates 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 Carbon Neutral target.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Previous reports have described 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, including proposals developed with the assistance of the Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES). This project will be primarily developed by the Council and as such would both contribute to the increase in the renewable energy provision and carbon reduction/offsetting in the area, whilst also making a positive, long term, economic contribution to the financial situation of the Council, for the benefit of citizens.
- 4.2 The project is described as a 6MW Solar Farm, comprising a 5MW array (at 33kV) connected to the National Grid, and also a 1MW array (at 11kV) to be connected to a 'public sector' partner, via a private wire arrangement.
- 4.3 The project has the potential to generate a long-term income for the Council, over and above the term cost of financing and operating the scheme and can provide a financial benefit once the said term has passed. The project will also 'offset' a significant amount of Carbon over the expected 35yr 'minimum' lifecycle of the project, as explained in more detail in section 8.
- 4.4 Consent was granted, following the presentation of the previous reports to the CCCSC in March 2023 (plus March and October 2022), to proceed with the proposals and permission was given to move plans forward, through to the planning stages.

5. UPDATED PROJECT INFORMATION

- 5.1 A multi-discipline consultancy was commissioned to produce a preliminary design of the solar farm, allowing RCTCBC to submit a planning application. The consultant's commission also includes support as an owner's technical engineer role throughout the contractor procurement process, detailed design, construction and the first 2 years of operation.
- 5.2 The project team have recently undertaken a Pre-planning Application Consultation process (PAC) where residents and statutory consultees are consulted on the project proposal, and a planning application has been submitted to the local planning authority and was approved in the meeting held on 23/11/23. It is now expected that, subject to funding approval (*see section 10*), construction will be able to start during 2024.

- 5.4 Good progress has been achieved with the Heads of Terms for the private wire connection arrangement and Power Purchase Agreement (or Offtake Contract) with Royal Glamorgan Hospital, which is now fully agreed by both parties. It is anticipated that the related 'private wire' element of the Project will need to be partly completed during the Spring of 2024, to coincide with completion of the A4119 road scheme in early Summer.
- 5.5 A Heads of Terms agreement has also been established with the local Farmer, who is a Tenant with historic access to/over the land with grazing rights. The full agreement, when completed by the lawyers, will safeguard the future management of the land on which the solar farm is to be built. It is intended that the Tenant will make a positive contribution to the future running of the Council's proposed asset, and also assist in enhancing biodiversity at the site.
- 5.6 Both the development costs and the headline estimated figures for the capital cost of the project have now been updated (*refer to section 10 below*) to take account of the latest project information and high inflation since the previous initial budget proposals were compiled. Two streams of income for the asset have been included within the cost model, firstly the remuneration from the private wire to the hospital, and secondly the income generated via a sleeving agreement to export energy to a designated section of RCT's building portfolio, via the grid. It should be noted that other income options will be considered at the appropriate time, if deemed more beneficial (*and as future guidance on Carbon reporting develops, in consultation with Welsh Government*).
- 5.7 The solar farm is expected to generate electricity for upwards of 40 years, with inverter replacements projected at years 15 and 30. The PV panels will degrade at no more than a fraction of a percentage each year and will still have substantial generation potential throughout the project lifecycle.
- 5.8 The 1MW section of the solar farm has a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) agreement in place with Royal Glamorgan Hospital which has been agreed for the full lifecycle of the solar farm project. The remaining 5MW will export to the National Grid and will initially be subject to a small degree of curtailment, which has been considered within the financial modelling. A specialist study was completed to understand the expected curtailment characteristics, which are anticipated to be 5.42% p.a. up until 2030, and then expected to be no more than 4.28% p.a. (or less) thereafter (*following programmed grid infrastructure improvements*).
- 5.9 Periodic updates will be provided to Members during the progress of the project, and at each notable stage of development.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 This supporting report is for the purpose of an 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 an 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. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The intent of this report is in furthering the ambitions for the Council's Climate Change Agenda.
- 8.2 As previously reported, the project has the potential to 'offset' over 1,100 tonnes of carbon per-annum and around 47,000 tonnes over the expected 40yr lifecycle of the project (*subject to final detailed design*).

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 A Pre-planning Application Consultation process (PAC) was undertaken prior to submitting a planning application to the local planning authority.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 Development costs for the project for the current financial year 2023/24 are estimated at around £400k and these costs have been met from within existing budgets. This figure includes for planning application charges and SAB fees that will be payable to service areas within the Council.
- 10.2 The previous budget estimate for the full development and construction costs for the entire project have now been reassessed, in the light of high inflation and all the additional information we now have available, and considering current market conditions, etc. The estimated budget requirement is just over £9.6M and includes all identified development costs and allowance for the provision of the private wire installation.
- 10.3 Funding options are currently being explored to facilitate the progress of the project, details of which will be included in a future report.
- 10.4 Officers are continuing to monitor the availability of grant funding to help with the cost of developing the Solar Farm. In support of this applications have been approved by Ystadau Cymru that provided £75k worth of grant development funding towards project expenditure in the financial year 2022/23, with an additional £250k awarded for 2023/24, which will be expended if the project receives approval to proceed.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 It is anticipated that the project activities will be subject to due legal process at appropriate stages within the development timeline.
- 11.2 A binding agreement (the PPA) has been signed with Royal Glamorgan Hospital to cover the future offtake of power from the solar farm. The agreement as it stands is based on the feasibility stage cost plan analysis and the agreement will need to be reviewed once the actual costs of the project are fully understood, following a tender process.
- 11.3 Heads of Terms to manage the land, on which the solar farm will stand, have been agreed with the tenant farmer, however these will also need a final review once the detailed design of the project is finalised.
- 11.4 Legal contracts for the construction phase of the project will need to be entered into, at the appropriate stages identified in the project timeline.

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

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

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 This report outlines the proposals for the Council's first land based Solar Farm at Coed Ely, as previously reported in March 2023, which is one of the key areas of work covered by the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee.

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