



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE

4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

#### CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

#### REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER, COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the new function of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee, following changes to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation at the Council's twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report.

#### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure Members are aware of the Committee's new function and its updated Terms of Reference.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2019, the Welsh Government published Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales, which set out the Welsh Government's approach to "**cut emissions and increase efficiency in a way that maximises wider benefits for Wales, ensuring a fairer and healthier society. It sets out 100 policies and proposals that directly reduce emissions and support the growth of the low carbon economy**". The report references the findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in advance of the Committee on Climate Change Net Zero report. A 'Low Carbon Wales' sets the foundation for Wales to transition to a low Carbon nation.
- 4.2 As part of its continued effort and ambition to achieve the target of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council established its Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group in 2019.

The cross-party Steering Group was formed to generate discussion and challenge, to ensure Rhondda Cynon Taf is putting climate change at the centre of all we do and to ensure we are doing all we can to meet our aim of being a carbon neutral Council and County Borough by 2030.

4.3 An ambitious [work programme](#) was set out to enable the Council to ensure an Authority-wide approach to issues of climate change. Over the past three years, the Steering Group considered the following topics to support the implementation and delivery of the priorities identified within the Council's Corporate Plan:

- Biodiversity Duty;
- Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction;
- Community Use of Underused/Vacant Land;
- Waste Management;
- Local Procurement of Supplies and Services;
- Elimination of single use plastics in all Council contracts and premises;
- Taffs Well Thermal Spring – Generating carbon free energy for the community of Taffs Well;
- Transportation;
- Air Quality;
- Community Engagement;
- Energy Generation;
- Nature's Assets;
- Strategic and Local Development Plans; and
- Electrical Vehicle Charging

4.4 The Steering Group's discussions and recommendations to Cabinet have been invaluable in assisting the Council in developing its [Tackling Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025](#) and [Electrical Vehicle Charging Strategy 2021-2030](#).

## **5. NEW ARRANGEMENTS**

5.1 At the Council's twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Leader announced his [Scheme of Delegation](#) for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, whereby a number of changes were made to the Climate Change Steering Group.

5.2 With climate priorities now embedded across the work of the Council, continuous engagement with the third sector and our local communities and Strategies and Action Planning in place, the former Steering Group will now function as a Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee and as such, the membership includes Cabinet Member representation with voting rights to determine a matter.

5.3 The revised Terms of Reference state that the Sub-Committee will:

- Develop specific actions and policies which support the reduction of the Council's Carbon Footprint and respond to '[Net Zero](#)' – The report of the

Committee on Climate Change and the Welsh Government's report [Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales](#);

- Deliver upon the Council's commitment to match the ambitions of the UK 100 Agreement by becoming a Clean Energy organisation.;
- develop these commitments and in doing so, become more ambitious through resetting targets and challenging how the Council operates and approaches challenges in the future to become a 'Net Zero' Council by 2050;
- Provide the opportunity for persons, interested parties, and groups who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council the ability to engage in the wider response of the community to climate change;
- Consider the long-term trends that will affect Rhondda Cynon Taf and what steps can be taken locally to contribute to their mitigation; and
- Consider how the Council can work with others both locally and nationally to consider joint solutions.

5.4 A notable change within the Scheme of Delegation, is the appointment of the Council's Climate Change Champion, who has a crosscutting responsibility for challenging and championing Climate Change. In addition to her role as Vice-Chair of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee, Councillor Barton will be invited to attend Cabinet on matters relating to Climate Change and the newly formed RCT Climate Action [Network](#) on behalf of the Council.

5.5 In addition to the above-mentioned changes to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, the AGM also put in place a Scrutiny function for Climate Change. [The Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee](#)

5.6 By taking these steps and enabling wider challenge, we hope that we can learn from communities, strengthen our partnership arrangements, and joint working opportunities and so maximise the impact of our collective work. Due to the above-mentioned governance, scrutiny and involvement changes, there is no longer a requirement for External Representation within the Sub-Committee.

5.7 With the agreement of the Chair, the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee will meet when necessary to monitor and deliver key climate commitments in line with the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The meetings will be made available to the public and recordings will be accessible on the Council's website following each meeting.

## **6. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

6.1 This report is for information purposes only and does not require consultation. The appropriate consultation will be undertaken in respect of each topic considered by the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee.

**7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

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

**8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

**10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

**11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.**

11.1 The Council's approach to the Well-being of Future Generations Act is to embed its requirements into the Council's business including its Climate Commitments. As such, all reports arising from the Sub-Committee's Work Programme will incorporate the national goals, together with the five Ways of Working to deliver the Council's Climate Commitments.

**12. CONCLUSION**

12.1 At the Council's twenty-seventh Annual General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Leader announced his Scheme of Delegation for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year, whereby several changes were made to the Terms of Reference of the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee.

12.2 It is necessary to inform Members of the above-mentioned changes at its first meeting of the Municipal Year.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

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