

Audit Wales
National Report
Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030
Calls to Action
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25 January 2023

Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030

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What are we trying to achieve, the outcome	A Carbon Neutral Council and County Borough, that contributes to the local, national and global reductions in carbon and other harmful emissions that are warming the planet. In doing so, among other things we will clean our air, deliver a waste free RCT and protect and restore local biodiversity and the natural environment. Our plans are set out in our Tackling Climate Change Strategy – ‘Think Climate RCT’ .
Why we need to do it:	As well as our own carbon reduction commitments and targets, there is increasing pressure from stakeholders and residents for changes to support the need to keep the increase of global temperature to below 1.5% above the baseline. There are also national drivers in place in Wales to help to contribute to this including Working Together to reach net Zero: all Wales plan ; Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-2025) and Public Sector Net Zero data and recommendations .

Call to Action	Council's Response	Next Steps	Timescale	Responsible Officer
AW RNZ 01 Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility	AGREED - this is an integral part of the Council's response as outlined the Council's Tackling Climate Change Strategy -Think Climate RCT. The Strategy seeks to collaborate with different partners and stakeholder to achieve different Climate	Continue to build and maintain constructive relationships with new and existing partners to share learning and maximise resources in the short and long term.	Ongoing	Paul Mee

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through effective collaboration	<p>Commitments, including, businesses, community groups and third sector and other local, regional and national bodies.</p> <p>The Council has recently been subject to local Audit <i>'to ensure that we have effective arrangements in place to support and challenge the delivery on climate change and energy efficiency requirements.</i> We are awaiting the findings.</p>	Ensure that the Council's current strong leadership and strategic approach is further developed within the new Corporate Plan which will be in place from 2024.		
AW RNZ 02 Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation	<p>AGREED – our strategy sets the framework for our work and plans. There is clear alignment with the Council's Corporate Plan and there are governance arrangements in place. The new Decarbonisation Plan scheduled for consideration by Cabinet in early 2023 will inform our detailed service plans and seek to accelerate the pace of work to reduce our Carbon Footprint in 2023/24 and beyond.</p> <p>The Council has recently been subject to local Audit to ensure that we <i>'have effective arrangements in place to support and challenge the delivery on climate change and energy efficiency requirements.</i> At the time of writing the findings are imminent.</p>	<p>Many services are already tackling big energy saving, energy generation and transport projects. As part the 2023/24 Delivery Planning framework and support and challenge processes all services are required to set out where they are making energy and carbon savings and are contributing to the delivery of 'Think Climate RCT'.</p> <p>Consider and use the findings from the Audit review to challenge/inform our future arrangements.</p>	June 2023	Paul Mee

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AW RNZ 03 Get to grips with the finances you need	AGREED – the Council's medium term financial planning arrangements integrate financial and service planning to ensure, amongst other things, that resources are aligned to priority areas. Climate Change is one of the key strategic areas within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, ensuring it has priority focus within the parameters of the resources available to the Council.	Work will continue with Services to plan the actions, projects and resources to deliver the Council's Climate Change ambitions, in line with the Climate Change Strategy 2022–25 and where appropriate in collaboration with others. This will be an on-going and long-term programme of work and will continue to be integrated as part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements - this will include a continued proactive approach to researching and securing additional external funding alongside agreed revenue and capital programme resources allocated by the Council and underpinned by robust monitoring arrangements. Updates will be reported to Members via quarterly Performance Reports.	Ongoing	Paul Griffiths
AW RNZ 04 Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity	AGREED As part of the development of plans to deliver the 'Think Climate RCT Strategy' the Council has made positive progress to date. However, the pace of the work required is accelerating. Like all Councils, we have recognised there are significant skills and knowledge gaps need to fully address decarbonisation across the Council in new and emerging technologies. Skills and knowledge needed range from general	We will continue to review and manage capacity, maximise shared resources as far as possible, keep abreast of and contribute to wider national debates about development of Public Service skills and participate in local and national training events to continue to expand our knowledge and skills. The findings from the refreshed Programme of Individual Performance Reviews scheduled for	Ongoing	Richard Evans

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	awareness and service specific understanding and leadership and more hands-on technical skills. More widely, this has been recognised as national skills gap by Welsh Government. Funding has been made available to increase the organisational capacity, including from the Council's Graduate Programme, to support the Council's carbon reduction ambitions.	roll out in early 2023 and discussions about delivering 2023/24 actions arising from the Decarbonisation Plan and Service Delivery Plans will further challenge and inform our workforce development and planning.		
AW RNZ 05 Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making	AGREED Our plans include coordinating and managing arrangements to strengthen data quality and accessibility so that Climate Strategy, Decarbonisation Plan and Dashboard related data is robust, timely and meets the Welsh Government reporting requirements, as well as our own.	We are continuing to develop plans, associated measures, and automatic data capture e.g., live testing of Solar Energy Generation metering for 2022/23. This will strengthen and improve data quality. These arrangements will also feature as in out 2023/24 planning arrangements and will include national data sets where possible.	Ongoing	Dave Powell/ Lesley Lawson