



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022-23

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21 MARCH 2023

CORPORATE DECARBONISATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an opportunity to pre-scrutinise the draft Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and embedded Action plan (**Appendix b**) before formal adoption at the [Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee on the 23rd March 2023](#)

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Determine any comments and recommendations the Committee wish to present as a formal response to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee in respect of these proposals; And in doing so authorise the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications to report those matters to the Sub-Committee before a final determination upon the report contained in Appendix A.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure the Overview & Scrutiny has further opportunity to comment on the proposals detailed in **Appendix A** to this report.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The report attached at **Appendix A** outlines the Officer recommendations for the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee to consider the Council's Draft Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan in response to the nationally declared climate and nature emergencies.

4.2 The Draft Strategy and Action plan (**Appendix B**) serves to provide a clear pathway and defined timescales to enable the Council to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and to encourage the County Borough to move as close as practicable towards the Carbon Neutral ambition by the same date. The Strategy and Action Plan will also contribute towards the Welsh Government's carbon ambitions for a Net Zero public sector by 2030 and the target of a Net Zero Wales by 2050.

4.3 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously determined at their meeting on the 25th January 2023 that when considering the Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan, that the **Five Calls to Action** and the **Questions senior Leaders and those who scrutinise them may want to ask** that were presented in the Audit Wales: Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 report are also considered by the Committee. The Five Calls to Action and questions are as follows:

- Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration
- Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation
- Get to grips with the finances you need
- Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity
- Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making

1. *Are we treating the climate crisis and the need to decarbonise as a real emergency'?*
2. *Can we demonstrate that decarbonisation is at the core of day-to-day business decisions and operations?*
3. *Is the urgency and scale of the challenge well communicated by senior leaders and understood throughout our organisation?*
4. *Do we have specific and effective scrutiny and governance arrangements for managing the journey to net zero?*
5. *Do we understand the main barriers to progress and how well are we collaborating to overcome them?*

5.0 PRE SCRUTINY

5.1 Members are reminded that the purpose of pre scrutiny activity is to contribute and inform decisions of the Cabinet before they are determined. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to have

the opportunity to explore and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions made and enabling Cabinet decisions to be more informed.

- 5.2 A report summarising the discussion and any recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny will be put forward and considered by Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee at their meeting on 23rd March 2023

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 The appropriate impact assessments to accompany this decision will be presented to the Cabinet for consideration when determining this matter.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report. Members are advised to consider the feedback of the consultation initiated by Cabinet in respect of these proposals.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report. The appropriate Welsh Language impact assessments to accompany this decision will be presented to the Cabinet for consideration when determining this matter.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

11.0 CONCLUSION

11.1 Any comments and feedback to the Climate Change Cabinet Sub-Committee will ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.