



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**22 NOVEMBER 2023**

#### **DECARBONISATION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

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

**Authors: 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 members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with regards to the progress of the Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and embedded Action Plan following its formal adoption at the [Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023](#).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the presentation outlining the management processes overseeing the delivery of the Council's Decarbonisation agenda and examples of the work being undertaken to decarbonise the Council's activities.
- 2.2 Receive further reports providing further updates on progress as/when deemed appropriate.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To assist the Council to meet its 2030 Carbon Neutral targets.
- 3.2 To support the implementation and delivery of the Council's Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan.



#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In 2017, the Welsh Government 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'. Considering this, in early 2022, the Council engaged with the Carbon Trust to assist in the development of a Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan, the progress against which are the subject of this report.
- 4.2 In June 2022, 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 wider County Borough.
- 4.3 The draft Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan was previously presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and formally adopted by the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. The Strategy is designed to deliver results on commitments made within the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025.
- 4.4 The purpose of the Strategy is to set out specific, high reaching actions to:
- Reduce the Council's operational emissions, i.e., emissions generated from buildings, transport and staff vehicle use.
  - Reduce the Council's supply chain emissions, i.e., emissions generated from the Council procurement of goods and services.
  - Maximise Council land use for its sequestration potential and the self-generation of renewable electricity.

#### **5. PROGRESS**

- 5.1 Following the approval of the Strategy in March, an 'Executive Summary', which is the public facing version of the far larger document presented, was firstly translated into Welsh and then published on the Council's website.
- 5.2 Since adoption by Cabinet, Officers have been working together across the Council to put future measures in place to ensure that the Action Plan is delivered. Performance monitoring of the Decarbonisation Action Plan has (where practicable) been embedded into the Delivery Plans of all service areas, with the purpose of enabling monitoring, to ensure reporting is as seamless as possible (this is illustrated in the presentation that accompanies this report – see Appendix 'A').



- 5.2 There are 46 initiatives within the Action Plan which can be grouped into three main headings, which are Operational Emissions, Supply Chain and Land Use (including Renewables). There are then several sub-headings under each of the main sections, which are demonstrated and explained in the presentation (again see Appendix 'A'). Also, the Route Map Timeline (in the presentation) gives a graphic illustration of a defined pathway with indicative timescales to enable the Council to become Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- 5.4 In order to develop a programme of actions to achieve the set targets, it is necessary to have a good understanding of what resources, both financial and operational, will be required over the intervening years. In view of this, Officers are now working in partnership with 'The Carbon Trust' to create a cost scenario model, aimed at developing a better understanding of the medium- and long-term cost implications for the Council in meeting our Carbon targets. The Pathway Model illustrated in the presentation (and Appendix 'A') gives a graphic illustration of the timescale and stages.
- 6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**
- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regards to this report.
- 7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1 There are no immediate Welsh Language requirements with regards to this report.
- 8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**
- 8.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this report.
- 9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**
- 9.1 The costs for many decarbonisation actions are being implemented within existing budgets. However, it is recognised that to meet the Council's 2030 Carbon Neutrality target additional resources will be needed going forward.
- 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 The purpose of the report is to provide an update report relating to the progress of the Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and embedded Action Plan since its formal adoption.
- 11.2 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.



## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 This report provides an update to members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with regards to the progress of the Corporate Decarbonisation Strategy and embedded Action Plan following its formal adoption at the Climate Change Cabinet Sub Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

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## **Appendix 'A'**

(follows this page)