

Report

Cabinet



Part 1

Date: 12 October 2022

Subject Climate Change Plan Introductory Annual Report

Purpose To review progress and approve the council's organisational Climate Change Plan Introductory Annual Report

Author Senior Policy & Partnership Office (Climate Change)

Ward All wards

Summary Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need for the world to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

Newport City Council Climate Change Organisational Plan sets out themes, priorities, actions and milestones that we need to take as a Council over the next five years to:

- Reach net zero as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and a progress and review report will be published annually. This report is an introductory annual report and sets out some of the progress that was made prior to, and in the year before the adoption of the plan. The annual report covers:

- Projects that have taken place in 2021-22.
- The annual carbon emissions reporting process for us as a council.

Proposal To review progress and approve the attached Introductory Annual Report.

Action by Strategic Director, Environment & Sustainability
Head of Service for Environment & Public Protection

Timetable As set out in the plan

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
- Chief Financial Officer

- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People, Policy & Transformation

Signed

Background

Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need for the world to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

There is also a need for the world to adapt to the impacts of climate change now and in the future. The accumulating impacts of climate change including rising sea levels, poor air quality and extreme weather events are already putting many people at risk both locally and across the globe.

As an organisation we have made a good start and have already made a substantial reduction in our carbon emissions in line with targets set out in our Carbon Management Plan. This has resulted in a 29% reduction of scope 1 and scope 2 emissions over the past 3 years. However, there is still much more that we need to do.

In November 2021 the Council proposed a political motion and declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency.

As part of the declaration Council agreed to:

- Continue the good work that we have started and reduce our carbon emissions to net zero carbon by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to both net zero carbon and adapting to the impacts of climate change by 2050.
- Develop a clear Climate Change Organisational plan, in consultation with our citizens, for the next five years that will set out the actions we need to take to achieve this.

In March 2022 Cabinet agreed the council's organisational climate change plan for the next five years (2022-27). The plan was developed in collaboration with staff and managers across the council and the involvement of the public.

The Plan

The Aim of the plan is to:

- Reach net zero as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

A consultation draft of the plan was developed by staff and managers across the council using the [Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector](#) as a framework.

The consultation draft of the Climate Change Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in October 2021 and a public consultation period took place in November and December 2021. All responses were reviewed, and the Plan was amended accordingly.

The Plan sets out six key delivery themes: These are:

- Theme 1: Organisational Leadership & Culture
- Theme 2: Our Buildings

- Theme 3: Our Land
- Theme 4: Transport & Mobility
- Theme 5: The Goods & Services we Procure
- Theme 6: Our Wider Role

Each of the delivery themes sets out a 2030 vision, set of priorities, actions and milestones that we need to take over the next five years.

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and a progress and review report will be published annually.

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Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The Climate Change Plan will change the way we make spending decisions in the future. The Plan sets out a financial commitment to plan for the financial impacts of climate change, and to ensure that our medium to long term financial planning contributes to the delivery of the Council’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions where possible.

- Climate change and carbon reduction initiatives are to be considered within the council’s long term capital programme, revenue budget and medium-term financial plan, whilst also maximising the use of external funding where possible.
- Appropriate sources of external funding and innovative use of internal funds to drive the change required are to be explored, to achieve our aspiration to become net zero carbon by 2030.
- All business cases for the transformational change programme and projects are to consider carbon reduction financial and non-financial impacts.
- Provision of a Climate Change Team is also defined as part of the [Revision to Senior Leadership Structure Council Report June 2021](#).

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
That the plan is not considered as an overarching plan of the council and is not aligned with the Corporate Plan and the	Medium	Low	All services need to be engaged in the implementation of the plan. When the next Corporate plan is developed Climate Change mitigation and adaptation should	Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate

strategic direction for the organisation			be considered as an underpinning principle. The delivery and governance of the climate change plan and the corporate plan must be aligned.	
Short term planning instead of longer term working as part of the Climate Change Plan	Medium	Medium	Services are required to consider the long-term impact when making decisions as part of the WFG Act.	Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate
Insufficient resources & funding	High	Medium	Climate change and carbon reduction initiatives to be considered within the council's long term capital programme and revenue budget and medium-term financial plan, whilst also maximising the use of external funding where possible.	Strategic Director, Environment & Sustainability Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Limiting climate change and reducing our carbon emissions are key to achieving all of our well-being objectives and the well-being goals. If we don't continue to reduce our carbon and tackle climate change our well-being objectives and the well-being goals will be difficult if not impossible to realise.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To review and approve the council Climate Change Plan Annual Report.
- 2) Not to approve the Annual Report

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 - To review and approve the council Climate Change Plan Annual Report.

The report provides a baseline for the council to work towards reaching net zero as an organisation by 2030 and review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The introductory annual report describes as the action plan is implemented a number of projects and initiatives that have already begun and, in some cases, already completed. These schemes have been funded through the use of existing revenue and capital budgets or various grants.

As the Climate Change plan continues to progress it will be critical to continue to monitor and report on the financial impact. A key part of this will be to identify the financial impacts of the implementation of the Council's agreed "organisational climate change plan for the next five years (2022-27)" and that work is on-going across the different themes contained in that plan. This is important in order for those identified and agreed financial impacts to be included in the Council's MTFP and Capital Programme as needed.

As well as the impact upon revenue and capital budgets, the Council will also need to consider the carbon impact of its treasury management and procurement activities. In the case of treasury management, consideration will need to be given to the investments the Council makes and ensuring that, wherever possible, investments are ethical and contribute towards the reduction of CO₂ emissions across the globe.

In the case of identifying funding sources, as outlined in the report, the Council will need to be innovative in identifying funding sources to support the capital investment required, as well as ensuring the maximisation of external grant funding for carbon reduction initiatives. In the case of procurement activities, the Council will need to review its supply chains and look for opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of its external contracting activities by working with partners and identifying ways to incentivise good practice amongst suppliers.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from the report, as this is a non-statutory plan. However, the Climate Change Plan is consistent with the Council's strategic corporate and well-being objectives, the Carbon Management Plan and the Climate Emergency declaration passed at full Council. Any legal issues will be addressed as part of the delivery of the individual actions within the Plan.

Comments of Head of People, Policy & Transformation

From an HR perspective there are no staffing implications.

A Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has been completed which fully considers the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act, Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. As stated in the report mitigating and adapting to climate change will help to reduce the negative well-being impacts on our communities.

Scrutiny Committees

The Introductory Annual Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 23rd September 2022. The Committee made the following comments and recommendations:

- The committee were happy with the report and felt that while additional information was needed, they appreciated that this was an introductory report, and more detail would follow as more information became available.
- The committee asked for a short written update regarding actions and outcomes to be provided and circulated to committee on a 6 monthly basis.
- The committee were happy for the report to come to Scrutiny on an annual basis alongside the 6 monthly written updates.
- The committee recommended including how savings were redistributed within the report.
- The committee asked for information regarding the number of privately and publicly owned electric vehicle chargers in the city to be circulated.

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality. A copy of the Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) is attached.

Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Climate Change Plan will have long term benefits for current and future generations by reducing carbon emissions and supporting the prevention of some of the impacts of climate change.

The Plan takes an integrated approach and support the achievement of all our well-being objectives and the well-being goals.

Staff and managers from across the council collaborated on the development of the draft Plan and a public consultation took place in November and December 2021.

Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

Age

The impact of climate change on younger people and future generations are likely to be greater than other sections of the community as temperatures are likely to rise as time goes on.

Extremes in weather tend to impact more greatly on the most vulnerable and those with existing health conditions so older people could also be impacted more greatly. There is a higher risk of heat related illness and mortality and older people are more susceptible to poor air quality and wildfire smoke. However, warmer winters are projected to decrease cold related deaths.

Disability

Extremes in weather tend to impact more greatly on the most vulnerable and those with existing health conditions so disabled people are likely to be impacted to a greater degree by climate change. There will be negative impacts on some conditions such as mental health problems, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and diabetes. In addition, those with respiratory conditions are more susceptible to poor air quality and wildfire smoke.

Race

There are no specific impacts for race. However, ethnic minorities in Newport tend to live in the most deprived areas in Newport.

Poor air quality combined with health impacts of deprivation interact to modify and strengthen associations with all-cause and respiratory disease mortality especially in the 'most' deprived areas where the most-vulnerable people live and where health needs are the greatest.

In addition, ethnic minorities tend to have poorer health outcomes, lower disability-free life expectancy and higher rates of cardiovascular disease and diabetes which are all negatively affected by the impacts of climate change.

There are no specific impacts on the other protected characteristics contained in the Equality Act.

The Climate Change Plan will support the mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change in the local area so has the potential to have a positive impact or to reduce the likelihood of a negative impact.

Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

Public Health studies have shown that the impacts of climate change such as poor air quality, poor health, poor physical environment tend to have the biggest impacts in deprived areas.

For example, poor air quality combined with health impacts of deprivation interact to modify and strengthen associations with all-cause and respiratory disease mortality especially in the 'most' deprived areas where the most-vulnerable people live and where health needs are the greatest.

The Climate Change Plan will help to mitigate and adapt to these impacts.

Summary of impact – Welsh language

There are no specific impacts for the Welsh Language. The Climate Change Plan will be translated, and all associated promotional materials will also be available in Welsh.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Not applicable

Consultation

The consultation draft of the Climate Change Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in October and a public consultation period took place in November and December 2021.

During the consultation period there were 168 online responses and 4 written responses. All feedback has been summarised and considered and changes have been made to the plan. A full consultation report including all the responses will be developed and added to the council website to allow full transparency.

Background Papers

Climate Change Plan Introductory Annual Report 2021-22

[Climate Change Plan 2022-27](#)

[Climate Change Plan Animation - YouTube](#)

Dated: 5 October 2022