

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 2ND FEBRUARY, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 18TH JANUARY, 2023

“ PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (CX) –

The report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, detailed the response to the comments and recommendations made by the Committee in July 2022 on future reporting of Project Zero, and the changes made to reporting as a result. The appendix to the report addressed the key points raised by the Committee previously, such as greater detail on finances and the allocation of funding, resources and reserves, challenges and barriers to the Project, etc. As part of this, a new Project Zero Programme Manager was in place and one of her priorities was to strengthen the reporting arrangements around Project Zero.

The Challenge Plan set out the activities that would contribute not only to the Council's aim of being net zero by 2030 but the wider aim of being net zero across Wales by 2050. Appendix A outlined the progress since the last report around the 18 challenges and 3 themes (including the Council's need to demonstrate strong leadership, to fulfil its responsibility to current and future generations and to make a difference now). A wide range of activities had been undertaken to ensure the Council continued to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. This included greater community consultation / conversation events on net zero in Penarth and Llantwit Major, the development of a green infrastructure plan, the installation of charging points for electric vehicles, updates on the Waste Strategy and the installation of automatic water meters through council properties. Funding had also been secured to survey the potential for decarbonisation work at 22 community centres and two buildings leased to Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS). Other areas included the drafting of a Procurement Strategy taking into account the need to achieve net zero, the installation of hybrid heating solutions in council owned housing as well as the implementation of the new Staff Travel Charter.

The key data regarding the Council's carbon emissions as reported to Welsh Government in October 2022 was set out, based on 3 'scopes': from Scope 1, direct emissions such as fuel combustion and fleet emissions through to Scope 3, in-direct emissions such as those attributed to procured goods and services, where the majority of carbon emissions lay (89.5%).

Work was also being undertaken on looking at the county wide scale of emissions within the Vale as a whole, as well as the report providing an update on the approach to programme management and progress reporting for Project Zero, including the use of data and its prioritisation in order to set these with the Project Zero Board for the year ahead.

The Council had also received Welsh Government (WG) funding as well as from the Shared Prosperity Fund and part of this required work to support decarbonisation with schemes to be determined.

After the presentation of the report, the Committee raised a number of questions and comments.

Councillor Franks queried the funding for decarbonisation of community centres within the Vale of Glamorgan and if this would be provided by the Council or would it need to be matched by community sources, such as the volunteers who support the operation of these centres. It was explained that funding had been secured regarding the survey of 22 community centres and the two buildings leased to GVS to see what decarbonisation measures could be achieved. Community sources and volunteers would not be charged for these decarbonisation surveys. Funding for any subsequent measures would need to be considered after the surveys were completed. On the Councillor's other query about the Zero Carbon Llanfair Primary School scheme, the Director of Corporate Resources stated that he would request this information from colleagues in Learning and Skills in order to provide an answer to the Councillor.

The Vice Chair asked about the high percentage of carbon emissions for procurement and if the proposed Procurement Strategy would address these. The changes in methodology around measuring emissions for WG and the impact on emissions recording during COVID-19 was outlined. The high carbon emissions from procurement demonstrated the need for the Council and the public sector to address these effectively by understanding where these emissions came from, such as from materials for buildings and roads. The Procurement Strategy would form a key piece of this work on understanding and tackling emissions. The Chair added that in her experience, the level of emissions identified from procurement were consistent with those seen in other Local Authorities. It was important for the Council to develop, with regard to its decision-making processes, the need to consider whether materials or items should be purchased or if existing materials, etc., could be repurposed, reused or recycled instead.

Councillor Dr. Johnson endorsed the new format for the report and stressed the importance of having the key challenges, actions, etc., around Project Zero in these reports highlighted and categorised, in order to allow better scrutiny going forward. A 'RAG' rating / exception reporting would be useful and also help provide key areas of focus and challenges around implementation, funding, staffing, issues, etc., around decarbonisation. The Energy Review and Procurement Strategy would also be useful as part of the overall scrutiny of the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy and other procurement priorities i.e., value for money, with the caveat that the Council should avoid ending up with everything as a priority. The Director would be looking to implement RAG rating / exception reporting going forward, with actions broken down as 'business as usual' and those that required extra attention.

Councillor Haines felt there was no clear 'global' plan of action around implementing decarbonisation and what the Council was ultimately trying to achieve. The Director explained that the 'global' approach undertaken by the Council was contained within

its Challenge Plan, with wide ranging measures to help achieve the 2030 and 2050 net zero goals. The Councillor's other queries concerned the lack of detail around Challenge 7, 'Achieve a modal shift away from cars to more sustainable forms of transport', particularly around an integrated public transport system (i.e. the use of buses), linking rural and urban areas of the Vale and the importance of installing Photovoltaic (PV) panels for solar power on various buildings throughout the County. On integrated public transport, further details on what the Council (in conjunction with partners such as Cardiff Capital Region City deal) was doing to help integrate and improve the transport between rural and urban areas would be detailed in future reports. On PV panels, a large number of Council / public buildings already had these installed and further information would be provided in future Project Zero reports. The Chair added that future building i.e., of Council housing, should include PV panels installed as standard.

On Councillor Wood's query around the level of engagement with Council suppliers on decarbonisation, this had only recently started and any feedback on this would be fed into the new Procurement Strategy. Different organisations had different abilities to quantify carbon emissions and the Council was awaiting additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association on quantifying these emissions.

On Councillor Hanks' query on whether the new Cowbridge Primary School would be zero carbon, the Director would seek additional information on this.

Councillor Carroll raised queries on improving, expanding and supporting additional bus transport links, such as in his ward area and the position of the budget for the new waste management site, with a new site not identified as yet. On transport links, the Director would refer the Councillor's comments to colleagues in Transport Services. On the waste management site, an update on this would be sought and provided.

Having considered the report, Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan be noted.
- (2) T H A T overall progress be reported twice a year, in addition to the progress reported already as part of the quarterly performance monitoring reports and specific topic related reports.
- (3) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the arrangements proposed to approve the use of reserves to progress future schemes be noted.
- (4) T H A T the information provided with regards to the Council's carbon emissions as reported to Welsh Government in the Autumn 2022 be noted.
- (5) T H A T the report and the following comments from the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:

- The importance of the future Procurement Strategy, linking into the Climate Change Challenge Plan, in order to address the significant carbon emissions identified within procurement and supply chains.
- To 'embed' within the Council's culture the importance of assessing whether additional materials, items, etc. need to be purchased, or if existing materials, etc., can be repurposed, reused or recycled instead.
- The importance of highlighting key areas of focus for future reporting, as well as the need to identify the key challenges, and the emerging priorities for procurement, going forward.
- The need to have greater detail concerning an integrated public transport system as part of Project Zero and sustainable transport, i.e. supporting and expanding the use of bus routes, in rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- To look at the greater use of Photovoltaic (PV) panels for solar power on both Council owned public buildings within the Vale of Glamorgan and other buildings, such as Council owned housing stock, and new build housing, as well as greater reporting on this.
- To report on work undertaken by the Council with suppliers and procurement partners on decarbonisation and sustainability i.e. as part of the Procurement Strategy.

(6) T H A T it be recommended to Cabinet that this report be distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

Reasons for recommendations

(1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(5) In order that Cabinet can consider the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Challenge Plan.

(6) In order to update all elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee: 18th January, 2023

Meeting of:	Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 18 January 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero.
Report Owner:	Rob Thomas, Chief Executive
Responsible Officer:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report details a wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continues to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. Progress includes work around communications, electric vehicles, a new Green Infrastructure Plan, waste management and schools. • The report also details some of the key data regarding the Council's carbon emissions as reported to Welsh Government in October 2022. • The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the approach the Board is taking with regards to the allocation of funds. • The report also updates on the approach to programme management and progress reporting for Project Zero. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) note the progress detailed in this report in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
2. That the Committee approve the recommendation that overall progress be reported twice a year. This will be in addition to progress reported as part of the quarterly performance monitoring reports and specific topic related reports, for example on the Green Infrastructure Plan or transport issues.
3. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the arrangements proposed to approve the use of reserves to progress future schemes.
4. That the Committee note the information provided with regards to the Council's carbon emissions as reported to Welsh Government in the Autumn 2022.
5. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee who considered this report on the 17th January 2023.
6. That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that this report is distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To enable the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee to consider how Project Zero is being taken forward.
2. To enable meaningful and timely progress reporting.
3. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the arrangements for allocation and approval of schemes to progress Project Zero.
4. To ensure that Members are aware of the latest information reported to Welsh Government with regards to the Council's carbon emissions.
5. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Challenge Plan.
6. To update all elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.

1. Background

1.1 At the Council meeting on the 29th July 2019 Council resolved (minute 209 refers):

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council join with Welsh Government and other Councils across the UK in declaring a global 'climate emergency' in response to the findings of the IPCC report.

(2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030 and support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan, to help achieve the Welsh Government's ambition for the public sector in Wales to be carbon neutral.

(3) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council make representations to the Welsh and UK Governments, as appropriate, to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to Local Authorities in Wales to help them successfully meet the 2030 target.

(4) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council continue to work with partners across the region to develop and implement best practice methods that can deliver carbon reductions and help limit global warming.

(5) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council work with local stakeholders including Councillors, residents, young people, businesses, and other relevant parties to develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030 and explore ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

1.2 [Project Zero](#) is the Council's response to the climate emergency. It brings together work already being undertaken and policies, strategies and plans already in place. It sets out the challenges we face and proposed activities to meet these challenges. It recognises that everyone has a role to play and a responsibility to think about our legacy for future generations.

1.3 At the Council meeting on the 26th July 2021 Council approved the Climate Change Challenge Plan (minute 296). The Plan details eighteen challenges framed around the need to demonstrate strong leadership, fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations and to make a difference now.

1.4 The Challenge Plan reflects commitments in the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-25 which sets out the Council's four Well-being Objectives and how they will be delivered. The Corporate Plan includes a commitment to work to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and to encourage others to follow the Council's lead as part of minimising the negative impact of our activities on the environment. The Corporate Plan is supported each year by an Annual Delivery Plan (ADP). The ADP for 2022-23 includes a number of activities that will contribute to work to tackle climate change and Project Zero is one of six cross-cutting themes in the current ADP. The draft ADP 2023-34 highlights three critical challenges for the year ahead including Project Zero.

- 1.5 At the Council meeting in July 2021 a motion was also passed resolving to declare a Nature Emergency (Minute 289).

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1 In July 2022 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered a progress report on Project Zero and recommended to Cabinet that 'Future reports include the following in terms of its focus and format:

- The use of hyperlinks or other means of access to the relevant background reports and papers linked to Project Zero, as well as the related minutes, in order to track decision-making more easily.
- A greater emphasis on the barriers, emerging risks and challenges, as well as the successes or work undertaken, around Project Zero and on the progress made addressing these.
- To update on the timescales around decarbonisation and whether these are being met, as well as utilising 'RAG' ratings (Red, Amber and Green) for the various elements of the Project.
- To provide more detail on the financial aspects of this Project, i.e. an update on the finances and reserves that support the delivery of Project Zero.'

2.2 This report provides an update on a range of activity being undertaken as part of Project Zero and seeks to respond to the comments of the Committee. A new Project Zero Programme Manager joined the Council mid November and one of her priorities is to strengthen the reporting arrangements around Project Zero. It has not therefore been possible to fully address all of the recommendations as detailed in paragraph 2.1 but these will form part of the work of the new Programme Manager and will be addressed in future Progress reports, in particular the request for RAG ratings.

2.3 The Challenge Plan sets out activities that will contribute not only to the Council's aim of being net zero by 2030 but the wider aim of being net zero across the Vale by 2050 in line with Welsh Government targets and ambitions for the public sector and for Wales. The Climate Change Challenge Plan includes eighteen challenges across three themes where many activities link to multiple challenges e.g. work on food will cut across waste, green infrastructure and procurement. Appendix A to this report sets out the progress against each of the challenges since the last progress report in July 2022, structured around the three Climate Change Challenge Plan themes:

- **Demonstrate strong leadership** - the Council must lead by example. This section of the Plan includes challenges around communications, engagement, evidence and data and ambition and influence.

- **Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations** – these are the areas where we help shape the activities of others through our policies and services and where we can have a significant influence on the actions of others. This section of the plan covers areas where policies and actions can encourage behaviour change and adapt the necessary infrastructure to meet the current and future challenges of climate change. The focus for this section is on transport, economy, food, nature, energy, waste, water use and flooding. Examples of some of the progress made against the challenges in this theme are outlined in the following paragraphs.
- **Make a difference now** – this refers to how the Council operates as an organisation, an employer, buildings and landowner and landlord. The challenges in this section of the plan focus on how the Council as an organisation provides its services and manages its assets. Activities relate to our procurement practices, schools and council housing, how we manage our land and assets, staff travel and investment in technology. It is activities in this section that will in particular contribute to the Council achieving the target of being net zero by 2030.

2.4 Some of the key progress to note in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below and more information on each challenge is provided in Appendix A together with information on risks and barriers:

Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4

- Attendance at Community Conversation events in Llantwit Major and Penarth, organised by local community groups and engagement with young people at different events and meetings.
- The development of new more interactive Project Zero webpages which will be launched in early 2023 and further developed over the coming months to include information on what other organisations are doing, including our schools.
- The Council's Organisational Development team have been working with colleagues across the Council to develop an online training module covering climate change and biodiversity.
- The Public Services Board's draft Well-being Plan and the Council's draft Annual Delivery Plan have a strong focus on the climate and nature emergencies.

Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations - Challenges 5-12

- A new Green Infrastructure Plan is in development and in our country parks we have replaced lost trees on site and will purchase new saplings to replace trees felled due to Ash Die back. The Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has also been advising and developing tree planting schemes.
- The review of the Local Development Plan is progressing.
- Several sustainable transport schemes have been completed using Section 106 funding.
- The Active Travel Network Map was approved by Welsh Government and a number of schemes are being progressed across the Vale. Cycle storage and cycle repair stations have also been provided to encourage cycling.

- Progress has been made with the installation of new public electric vehicle (EV) charge points in car parks across the Vale, with plans in place for more on street points in 2023.
- Work has been undertaken to prepare a Council Investment and Growth Plan and a Barry Placemaking Plan, including a spatial masterplan of the town. The Council plans to follow this with placemaking plans for the whole County, which will focus on sustainable economic and community growth and support.
- Public consultation has been undertaken on the draft waste strategy and a new Waste Management Business Plan has been completed and identified the resources required to deliver behaviour changes and effective messages to residents.
- Funding has been allocated to install automatic water meter reading devices in Council buildings these will be read remotely allowing automatic alarms to be set and swifter response times to water leaks.
- Funding has been obtained through ACPW3 (Ystadau Cymru) for surveys to establish opportunities for decarbonising the portfolio of 22 Community Centres and 2 buildings leased out to GVS and a firm of consultants will be appointed to undertake this work.

Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18

- A new Procurement Policy and Strategy have been drafted with a stronger emphasis on the need to ensure our procurement practices support work on climate change, these will be consulted on prior to approval and implementation in the new year.
- Hybrid heating systems have been completed in 40+ Council homes. The Fabric First approach is also progressing with improvements such as insulation to poorly performing stock. Welsh Government want all Social Housing to achieve SAP75 standards by 2029 and our housing is currently delivering SAP73.
- Condition surveys have been completed on all schools to inform a 25-year assets renewal programme. Work is ongoing on suitability surveys, which have identified schools suitable for PV installation. Measures utilised in the South Point School development have been rolled out to the current ongoing school development projects – includes increase PV panels, Air Source Heat Pumps, battery storage and insulation.
- A revised Asset Management Plan has been drafted and the Property team continue to work with service colleagues to rationalise and better use our assets through the Space Project. The number of posts in the Energy Team has increased in recognition of the challenges and need for increased capacity and expertise but it has been difficult to recruit to these posts which will be readvertised.
- In December 2022, [Cabinet](#) agreed to sign the Public Services Board new Staff Healthy Travel Charter which includes a range of commitments to reduce the impact of staff travel on the environment and encourage behaviour change.

- A Review of digital strategy and key future deliverables has taken place, (identified via the previous Digital Maturity Assessment) to ensure that the future digital strategy aligns with the council's emission reduction goals and assists staff with reducing travel time and reliance on office space

Use of Data and Prioritisation

- 2.5** At the January 2023 meeting of the Project Zero Board, the focus will be on considering the available data and progress to date across the 18 challenges and feedback from the two Scrutiny Committees to establish priorities for the Board to focus on over the next 12 months. This discussion will also include reviewing the role of the Senior Reporting Officers and consideration as to whether changes are needed to reflect changes in responsibilities since the Board was established.
- 2.6** In 2017, the Welsh Government set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. In March 2019, Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales was published by Welsh Government which included a commitment for the public sector to set baselines, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality. This commitment has been taken forward as the [Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach](#); this has built on and replaces the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme. The approach focuses on three key gases which contribute the greatest to climate change: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄) and Nitrous Oxide (N₂O). To simplify, calculations data for all Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG) are translated into a single comparable unit, carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). To further aid understanding in the make-up of organisational carbon emissions, three 'Scopes' are used for GHG accounting. Scope 1 emissions include direct emissions such as fuel combustion and fleet emissions, Scope 2 emissions include in-direct emissions such as electricity purchased from the grid, and Scope 3 emissions include in-direct emissions such as those attributed to procured goods and services.
- 2.7** The first year of public sector Net Zero Carbon reporting was 2019-20 and since the reporting process has been refined and data for 2021-22 provides a baseline from which to understand the Council's organisational carbon emissions and sequestration (removal). In 2021-22, the total carbon emissions for the Vale of Glamorgan Council was 97,975,348 kgCO₂e, of this 89.5% of the organisations emissions were calculated as Scope 3, 6.8% as Scope 1 and 3.7% as Scope 2. When adjusted for sequestration, the removal of carbon dioxide through plants and woodlands on Council land, the organisation's carbon footprint is calculated as 95,936,761 kgCO₂e. More information about the Council's carbon emissions is available here [Vale of Glamorgan Council Carbon Data Dashboard](#) which highlights some of the key data reported to Welsh Government.
- 2.8** The Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach is focused on understanding the Council's organisation emissions. To sit this data in the wider context of the Vale of Glamorgan county's carbon emissions, using grant funding,

the Council has commissioned an in-depth study to review county-wide carbon emissions and identify opportunities for the organisation to work with industry and communities to reduce emissions and work towards achieving net-zero in the UK by 2050. This report will further the evidence base for Project Zero and facilitate opportunities to raise awareness and start conversations about the need to reduce and where possible decarbonise across the Vale of Glamorgan. This work forms part of the delivery of challenge 3 in the Climate Change Challenge Plan 'Develop our evidence base and insight to understand more fully the potential impact and 'costs' of activities. '

Resources

- 2.9** At the recent Project Zero Board meeting in December 2022 there was a discussion about the use of the Project Zero reserves. This included the need to ensure it supports strategic activity and the need to reach the 2030 target of being net zero but also that smaller amounts of money can be used e.g. through schools to support projects that would help encourage behaviour change across the community and ensure the wider contribution to work in response to the climate and nature emergencies. The process for consideration of requests to the Board for funding is now being refined for approval by the Board in the new year. Welsh Government announced in January 2022 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards. This excluded projects which had already received Outline Business Case approval at the time of the announcement. Following this announcement Welsh Government committed to fund 100% of all net zero carbon costs on projects within Band B of the programme. The Council has created a net zero carbon in operation school building model which has built upon the low carbon model previously implemented on projects in Band B. South Point Primary School was the first project in the Authority and in Wales to achieve net zero carbon in operation.
- 2.10** There is an additional cost associated with the delivery of net-zero carbon. The uplift in costs range between £500,000 to £1,000,000 for new primary schools depending on the scale of the development. Although these costs are currently 100% funded by Welsh Government, no further commitment has been announced to cover these costs outside of Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Therefore, the costs associated with net zero will be kept under review to ensure market changes are monitored and factored in for potential projects that will likely come forward outside of Band B, in case the Welsh Government commitment is not extended.
- 2.11** The Zero Carbon Llanfair Primary School scheme was built into the 2022/23 Capital Programme with a budget of £253k. There is no spend to date as the £240k has been carried forward into next financial year, however a £13k spend is anticipated this financial year in relation to scheme design and fees.
- 2.12** A School's Decarbonisation LED scheme has been included in the 2022/23 Capital Programme and spend as at the end of November is £66k. The scheme has

provided LED Lighting in Peterston Super Ely CIW primary schools and in Rhws Primary school. This scheme has improved the learning environment for the children and will be a small contribution towards net zero by reducing the carbon emissions of lighting the schools.

- 2.13** Photovoltaic (PV) panels have been installed at Evenlode Primary School, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Llansannor Primary School. The PV systems installed to date on other buildings have been proven to be reliable generators of renewable electricity and are a proven technology towards the Council's net zero goal. Spend to the end of November on the Capital Programme for 2021/22 is £89k.
- 2.14** PV panels have been installed as part of the Cowbridge Leisure Centre Roof scheme. The panels are operational and generating electricity however the meter is not yet installed but will be in place by the end of the financial year.
- 2.15** The Council has continued to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock to meet the requirements of Welsh Government legislation in relation to decarbonisation and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). With original targets being set to reduce the carbon footprint by 80% by 2030 this has now been revised to a target of EPC A by 2030 for all social homes following the recommendations of the “Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World” report in July 2019. Revised targets were agreed by the Senedd in March 2021 for Wales to achieve ‘net zero’ by 2050.
- 2.16** In the context of the current budget challenges and inflationary pressures all reserves are currently under review. Given the strategic importance of Project Zero it is considered that the reserves available to support the delivery of the programme should be ringfenced.
- 2.17** The reserves available to support the delivery of the Project Zero Programme are set out in the table below.

Reserve Name	Balance 01/04/2022	Capital Commitment	Revenue Commitment	Projected Balance 31/03/2023
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Project Zero and Green Infrastructure	730	0	0	730
Project Zero	650	(70)	0	580
Ash Die Back	561	(100)	0	461
Carbon Vehicle Replacement	40	0	0	40
Energy Management Fund (Salix Funding)	291	(306)	85	70
Total	2,272	(406)	(85)	1,781

- 2.18** To ensure this limited availability of funding is prioritised to schemes of strategic importance to support the delivery of Project Zero by 2030, it has been agreed by the Project Zero Board that any bids for use of Project Zero reserves should complete a use of reserves proforma to ensure the approach is prudent and sustainable. The request should also be considered by the Project Zero Board to allow for challenge and support the collective responsibility the organisation has to address the Climate and nature emergencies and ensure that Project Zero is achieved by the Council.
- 2.19** An additional source of funding for the delivery of decarbonisation schemes is the use of Salix SEELs loans which has been utilised for the LED Street lighting scheme. This is an interest free loan which is available to be repaid from energy savings over an agreed payback period. The Energy Management Fund is also an internally held element of recyclable funding from Salix.
- 2.20** Welsh Government also makes specific funding available for decarbonisation, which has been utilised as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and to purchase electric vehicles. As part of the 2023/24 provisional settlement, £20m has been announced for decarbonisation across Wales, although the allocation of this funding is not yet clear.
- 2.21** The SPF fund also has specific allocations to address decarbonisation schemes in the local community and the programme will develop schemes to deliver against this commitment over the three year period of the funding envelope.
- 2.22** The use of the Project Zero reserve will also reflect the commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24.

Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24

- 2.23** The draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) 2023-24 includes a strong emphasis on work around climate change. Project Zero is identified as one of three critical challenges;
- *Cost of Living Crisis* – supporting our residents, local organisations and business in the face of rising costs in particular around energy, food and housing
 - *Project Zero* – responding to the climate and nature emergencies and delivering the commitments in our Climate Challenge
 - *Organisational Resilience* – ensuring that we can continue to adapt in the face of adversity and provide our services despite the financial pressures and workforce challenges that we and many of our partners organisations face.
- 2.24** There are a number of actions across the draft Plan and particularly under Objective 4 ‘To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment’ that demonstrate the Council’s commitment to work on climate change and nature. These include;
- Implement Project Zero, our Climate Change Challenge Plan and work with the community and other stakeholders to reduce carbon emissions, focusing work on

energy use, transport, land and food, ensuring that our response to the climate and nature emergencies is integral to all decisions.

- Work with our partners to respond to the nature emergency including implementing a new Green Infrastructure Strategy, a tree management strategy and delivery of the Biodiversity Forward Plan.
- Engage with local communities and explore the potential for community energy schemes as part of the Local Area Energy Plan including the potential to use council assets.
- Encourage and support sustainable changes to how people travel by increasing opportunities for active travel (walking and cycling) including Rhoose and Eglwys Brewis Active Routes.
- Deliver improvements to waste management and a greater focus on the circular economy, completion of the Resource Recovery Facility in Barry and the final roll out of the new recycling arrangements across the Vale and kerbside collection of more items for recycling
- Hold climate and nature emergency community conversations involving different stakeholder groups to shape our plans and activities and encourage positive behaviour change.

2.25 The above actions reflect commitments in the longer-term Climate Change Challenge Plan and highlight key activities for 2023-24.

2.26 As part of the consultation on the ADP and the ongoing conversation on climate change, discussions have taken place with the Vale Youth Council and other Youth Groups to discuss the issues that matter to them. The draft ADP can be viewed [here](#).

Vale Public Services Board Draft Well-being Plan

2.27 The Vale Public Services Board (PSB) is currently consulting on its [draft Well-being Plan](#) which includes the Well-being Objective '*A more resilient and greener Vale*'. The draft Plan also includes 'Responding to the climate and nature emergencies' as a priority workstream reflecting the findings of the [Well-being Assessment](#) and building on work already undertaken as part of the PSB's Climate Emergency Charter and the Staff Travel Charter. Commitments in the draft Well-being Plan include:

- Deliver the commitments in the Climate Emergency Charter including decarbonising our assets, procurement processes and services.
- Promote positive behaviour changes and enable a greater understanding of our impact on the environment across our organisations and communities with a focus on energy, the circular economy, food, biodiversity and travel.
- Demonstrate leadership and take action to reduce our communities' exposure to environmental risks e.g. the impact of extreme weather and pollution.
- Improve the health of our eco systems and recognise the importance of biodiversity and the need to raise awareness and understanding about the nature emergency.

- Participate in the development of an integrated public sector estates strategy (buildings and land holdings) to improve service delivery and our work on climate change.
- 2.28** The Council co-chairs the PSB Climate Change and Asset Management Group and will take a lead in ensuring the commitments in the new Well-being Plan are delivered and that they are embedded in the work of the Council through the ADP and work of the Project Zero Board. The work of the PSB will continue to be reported in the PSB [Annual Report](#) and the report published in July demonstrates work already being undertaken by partners.
- 2.29** The above provides an update on progress in recent months with regards to Project Zero and more information is available in Appendix A. More information about the various risks and barriers is also included in Appendix A and despite the progress being made it is clear that across many challenges there are issues around reliance on grant funding, capacity within teams due to vacant posts or need for additional skills and also that for many challenges there are significant lead in periods from developing new web pages to drafting new plans and strategies, undertaking feasibility studies and applying for funding.
- 2.30** The Project Zero Board with the support of the new Project Zero Programme Manager will continue to deliver against the many identified challenges and to refine progress reports to ensure Members have more details on outcomes being achieved. It is proposed that specific progress on Project Zero is reported twice a year in addition to reports on the Annual Delivery Plan and key projects.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about sustainable development. The Act sets out a ‘sustainable development principle’ which specifies that the public bodies listed in the Act must act in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In meeting their sustainability duty, each body must set objectives that highlight the work the body will undertake to contribute to meeting the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.
- 3.2** The activities set out in this report will contribute to the national well-being goals and help ensure we have a resilient Wales. The five ways of working will be embedded throughout Project Zero as we will be working collaboratively through the PSB and with other partners. It is recognised that this is a long-term programme of work, but that action needs to be taken now and that prevention will be a critical element to this work. Involvement of the community in order for them to shape our activities and to understand the need for change will be fundamental to us making a difference through our activities and we will be

integrating work on this agenda across the Council ensuring this is seen as the responsibility of all Directorates and staff.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** Project Zero is the Council's response to the climate emergency and brings together work from across the Council in a co-ordinated response to the climate emergency. Commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan are designed to enable the Council to meet its ambition to be net zero by 2030 and include actions that will change how we work, enable others to make changes and raise awareness about the need for urgent action. This report details work on new strategies and plans including the Waste Management Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Plan, activity around energy and a continued focus on our own buildings including housing and schools.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** The Council has established a series of reserves to support the delivery of Project Zero as set out in the body of this report.

Employment

- 5.2** There are no specific employment implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3** There are no direct legal implications arising from the activities detailed within this report, but activities undertaken in response to the climate change emergency will be consistent with duties under the Environment Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 5.4** The feedback gathered during the consultation on the draft plan has informed Project Zero and equality impact assessments will be undertaken for different activities within Project Zero as necessary. These assessments will reflect the consultation findings and other relevant engagement and data.

6. Background Papers

Council Notice of Motion 29 July 2019 - Minute 209

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Council/2019/19-07-29/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 23 March 2020 Minute C280 - Responding to the Climate Emergency
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-03-23/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-03-23/Minutes.pdf)

Vale of Glamorgan Council Corporate Plan April 2020
https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/achieving_our_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx

Vale of Glamorgan Council Coronavirus Recovery Strategy Cabinet 21st September 2020
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-09-21/Coronavirus-Recovery-Strategy.pdf>

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2020 Minute C357 - Developing a Climate Change Action Plan
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-11-02/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 25 January 2021 Minute C451 – Vale Public Services Board Climate Emergency Charter
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-01-25/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 22 March 2021 Minute C526 – Project Zero - Draft Climate Change Challenge Plan
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-03-22/Minutes-of-21-03-22.pdf>

Council Minutes 26th July 2021 (289 and 296) - Notice of Motion – Declaration of Nature Emergency and Project Zero – Draft Climate Change Challenge Plan
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Council/2021/21-07-26/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 25th October 2021 Minute – Project Zero – Delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-10-25/Project-Zero-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf>

Cabinet Report 28th February 2022 Minute – Project Zero – Update, Resources, Evidence and Reporting
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-02-28/Minutes.pdf>

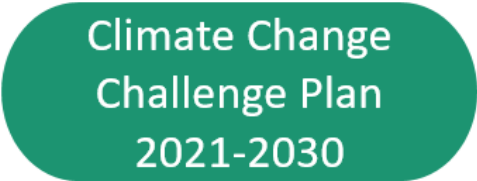
Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 13th July 2022 Minute -
Project Zero Update Report

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress report

Reporting period: June to October 2022

Climate Change Challenge Plan overview



7 Wellbeing goals

Prosperous, Resilient, Healthier, More equal, Cohesive communities, Culture and language, Globally responsible

5 x Ways of working

Long term, Integrated, Involvement, Collaboration, Prevention

4 x VoGC values


Ambitious, Open, Together, Proud

1. Demonstrate strong leadership

2. Fulfil our responsibilities to current and future generations

3. Make a difference now

<p>1. Engage with the community and listen to their priorities for tackling climate change and protecting our natural resources, supporting them to make a difference and to shape our collective ambitions.</p>	<p>5. Protect and enhance green and blue space, biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment.</p>	<p>13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions³</p>
Tom B	Marcus G	Matt Bowmer
<p>2. Raise awareness and understanding by promoting consistent and clear messages to our staff, our communities and partners about the difference we can make and are making by changing our behaviour and transforming our services.</p>	<p>6. Ensure our planning policies and regeneration activities support work to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce negative impact on the environment.</p>	<p>14. Invest in our existing housing stock to make it more energy efficient and deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A rated new Council homes.</p>
Tom B	Marcus G	Mike Ingram
<p>3. Develop our evidence base and insight to understand more fully the potential impact and 'costs' of activities</p>	<p>7. Achieve a modal shift away from cars to more sustainable forms of transport with an increase in walking, cycling and the use of less polluting transport.</p>	<p>15. Build new zero carbon schools and improve our existing school buildings to ensure they are energy efficient and create learning environments fit for the future.</p>
Tom B	Emma Reed	Trevor Baker
<p>4. Embrace our role as community leaders to work with and influence and enable others to bring about the changes necessary to tackle climate change.</p>	<p>8. Work with partners and business to develop and implement an Economic Growth Strategy that supports local business and meets the challenge of climate change and our ambition for a green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.</p>	<p>16. Manage and use our land, buildings and other assets to support work to tackle climate change, rationalising what we need and improving sustainability and energy efficiency.</p>
Rob Thomas	Marcus G	Lorna Cross
	<p>9. Support and advocate for more sustainable local food systems leading to fewer food miles, less waste and greater awareness about the impact of our food choices on the environment.</p>	<p>17. Reduce the number of car journeys staff make and increase the number of electric/low carbon vehicles across the Council's fleet of vehicles.</p>
	Tom B	Emma Reed
	<p>10. Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling.</p>	<p>18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services reducing the need for travel and office space.</p>
	Emma Reed	Tom B
	<p>11. Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding, manage our coastline and encourage everyone to take a more responsible approach to water use.</p>	
	Emma Reed	
	<p>12. Reduce the amount of energy we all use and lead by example sourcing our energy from clean and renewable sources and working across all sectors to bring new technology, innovation and investment to the Vale</p>	
	Lorna Cross	



Area 1: Demonstrate strong leadership. Challenge 1-4.

We will demonstrate strong leadership as we meet the challenge to effectively engage with the community and our partners about how we can work together. We will raise awareness about the issues and the work we are undertaking and develop a better understanding about where we can have the biggest impact and how we can influence others to work with us and be part of an ambitious programme of change

Challenge 1. Engage with the community and listen to their priorities for tackling climate change and protecting our natural resources, supporting them to make a difference and to shape our collective ambitions. SRO: TOM BOWRING		
Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>As part of the development of the Public Services Board’s new Well-being Plan there have been a number of events with stakeholders which have provided the opportunity to discuss issues around climate change. This includes two half day workshop events with stakeholders and has also included attending a series of events with young people over the summer. This work has also helped inform the Council’s Annual Delivery Plan and work on climate change is a priority in both plans. Issues of transport, circular economy, green space and energy have been key concerns.</p> <p>Officers have also attended climate change conversation events with groups in Llantwit Major and Penarth and are keen to work with community groups to maintain the conversations. Discussions with the Youth service are also ongoing to develop an approach for further meaningful engagement with young people on the matter. Officers are also working with the community in Wenvoe to scope community energy opportunities.</p>	<p>Consideration of the outcomes of the consultation on the Public Services Board’s draft Well-being Plan and the Council’s Annual Delivery Plan. Climate change is a priority in both plans, and responses will help shape future approaches and themes, and future engagement and consultation.</p> <p>Work related to the review of the Local Development Plan and the new Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>Consolidating results of corporate, partnership and service specific consultation and engagement exercises, to plan next steps and ensure information is centralised, shared and used. Consideration of how this work can inform the development of ‘Green Ambassadors’ will be undertaken.</p> <p>The development of new Project Zero webpages will help promote volunteering opportunities and community projects. The new pages will be launched in the new year.</p> <p>The Strong Communities Grant continues to encourage projects that include innovative ways of addressing climate change. Application decisions were made in December.</p>	<p>The appointment of a new Programme Manager for Project Zero will build momentum to this work and help to develop a programme of activity that cuts across the many different aspects of climate change.</p> <p>Capacity across the Strategy and Partnership team and the Communications team has meant that it has not always been possible to maintain momentum with this work.</p>

Challenge 2. Raise awareness and understanding by promoting **consistent and clear messages** to our staff, our communities and partners about the difference we can make and are making by changing our behaviour and transforming our services.
SRO: TOM BOWRING

Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Significant progress has been made to develop new Project Zero web pages which will be launched in the new year. These will provide information about progress against the Council’s Climate Change Challenge Plan and future activity.</p> <p>Work has continued to strengthen the Project Zero branding and it is now being referenced in wide range of related communications including social media to highlight the many different activities that form our response to the climate emergency.</p> <p>Project Zero continues to be a constant theme in the Chief Executive’s end of week messages, highlighting to all staff the importance of this work and how people across the Council are contributing. A series of articles were also developed for Climate Change Week in November.</p>	<p>The new Project Zero webpages will be launched and further developed over the coming months to include information on what other organisations are doing, including our schools.</p> <p>Project Zero is one of three critical challenges identified in the draft Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/24 and through the year we will continue to highlight what activities are being undertaken in response to the climate emergency ranging from work on active travel, the review of the LDP, the new Green Infrastructure Strategy, waste management and improvements across our buildings. The increased focus on Project Zero through the Annual Delivery Plan will ensure that through quarterly monitoring reports there is a stronger focus on work on climate change.</p> <p>Opportunities to bring together messages linked to Project Zero and the cost of living e.g. around energy efficiency will continue to be developed.</p>	<p>The range of topics that need to be covered provides opportunities but also the potential that people are overwhelmed with information.</p> <p>The need to tie in with communications and messaging with other key organisations including Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales.</p>

Challenge 3. Develop our **evidence base and insight** to understand more fully the potential impact and ‘costs’ of activities

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The Council’s Organisational Development team have been working with colleagues across the Council to develop an online training module covering climate change and biodiversity.</p> <p>The Council submitted its second report to Welsh Government in October as part of the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach. This work continues to be developed but is providing some consistency in reporting across the public sector and is highlighting the areas with the highest emissions. In 2021-22, the total carbon emissions for the Vale of Glamorgan Council was 97,975,348 kgCO₂e, of this 89.5% of the organisations emissions were calculated as Scope 3, 6.8% as Scope 1 and 3.7% as Scope 2. When adjusted for sequestration, the removal of carbon dioxide through plants and woodlands on Council land, the organisations carbon footprint is calculated as 95,936,761 kgCO₂e.</p> <p>The Council has utilised Community Renewal Funding to commission an in-depth study to review county-wide carbon emissions and identify opportunities for the organisation to work with industry and communities to reduce emissions and work towards achieving net-zero in the UK by 2050. The report on this review is due at the end of December.</p> <p>The Project Zero Board has considered the findings of the Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 national study report and the Audit Wales’s findings from its Assurance and Risk Assessment review of the Council for the audit period 2021/22. One of the conclusions of the Assurance and Risk Assessment</p>	<p>Finalise the online training module for staff and explore what further or more bespoke training may be needed.</p> <p>The Council is participating in work being led by Welsh Government and the WLGA on procurement and training opportunities will be available as part of the development of this work.</p> <p>The Project Zero Board will utilise the carbon reporting data to prioritise its work programme for 2023. Work has already begun to better understand the scope 3 data and our supply chains.</p> <p>The report on county-wise emissions, together with the report on the Council’s emissions will strengthen the evidence base for Project Zero and help determine priorities and inform some of our communications within the organisation and with other stakeholders about changes needed to reduce our carbon emissions.</p> <p>We will continue to develop a range of measures to help monitor progress with the Climate Change Challenge Plan, the Annual Delivery Plan, the PSB Well-being Plan and the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.</p>	<p>Developing sufficient in-house expertise to take forward the range of work needed and to recruit people with the right skills and experience.</p> <p>Opportunities and capacity to integrate work in response to the findings of the Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 national study report and the Audit Wales’s findings from its</p>

<p>Review is that ‘The Council is taking forward its plans to meet the challenge of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030 but recognises that further work is needed in terms of resourcing its plans’. The recommendations and findings in both of these reports will inform the work of the Project Zero Board.</p>	<p>Undertake work to fully cost work linked to the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to respond to the recommendations in the Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030 national study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<p>Assurance and Risk Assessment ensuring that activities effectively shape the work of the Project Zero Board.</p> <p>The ability to reduce the carbon impact of procured activities (within scope 3) will be supported by the new Procurement Strategy.</p>
<p>Challenge 4. Embrace our role as community leaders to work with and influence and enable others to bring about the changes necessary to tackle climate change. SRO: ROB THOMAS</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) is currently consulting on its draft Well-being Plan. The Council has taken a lead in developing the plan, working with partners to address the key findings in the Well-being Assessment. One of the three new Well-being Objectives is - A more resilient and greener Vale - by understanding and making the changes necessary as individuals, communities and organisations in response to the climate and nature emergencies. One of the three priority workstreams in the partnership plan is Responding to the climate and nature emergencies.</p> <p>The Council continues to co-chair the PSB’s Climate Change and Asset Management Group and to take a lead in monitoring progress in delivering the PSB’s Climate Emergency Charter. Progress is reported in the PSB Annual Report published each July.</p>	<p>The PSB will publish its new Well-being Plan in May 2023 and partners will work together to take forward a number of actions detailed in the plan including:</p> <p><i>Deliver the commitments in the Climate Emergency Charter including decarbonising our assets, procurement processes and services.</i></p> <p><i>Promote positive behaviour changes and enable a greater understanding of our impact on the environment across our organisations and communities with a focus on energy, the circular economy, food, biodiversity and travel.</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate leadership and take action to reduce our communities’ exposure to environmental risks e.g. the impact of extreme weather and pollution.</i></p>	<p>Bringing together the range of agendas into a co-ordinated programme of work to tackle climate change with a focus on Vale priorities.</p>

<p>The Council continues to be an active partner in the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) which has a strong focus on work to tackle climate change linked to planning, transport and jobs.</p> <p>Council officers also sit on a range of All Wales groups sharing information and also advising Welsh Government and WLGA colleagues of the issues and barriers to work.</p>	<p><i>Improve the health of our eco systems and recognise the importance of biodiversity and the need to raise awareness and understanding about the nature emergency.</i></p> <p>Work will continue through the PSB and the CCR to take a partnership approach to this work.</p>	
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Area 2: Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations. Challenge 5-12.

In meeting these challenges, we will encourage behaviour change and adapt the necessary infrastructure to meet the current and future challenges of climate change. The focus for this section is on transport, food, nature, energy, waste, water use and flooding. In meeting the challenges, we will support a green economy and the importance of balancing economic growth with the need to minimise negative impact on the environment and our natural resources. We will take forward work to improve the green infrastructure in the Vale and to promote sustainable food systems.

Challenge 5. Protect and enhance green and blue space , biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment. SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY		
Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The Green Infrastructure Plan is in development with consultation underway with Council departments and Public Service Board partners. The Countryside section and Planning department have audited / surveyed countryside land.</p> <p>The biodiversity forward plan has been adopted by Council and all departments have been given base line biodiversity improvement targets, which were agreed all responsible officers</p> <p>Vale planting on the Great Glamorgan Way has taken place at Dinas Powys Golf course, including 120 metres of double, staggered row hedgerow, totalling approximately 480 trees.</p> <p>Country parks have replaced lost trees on site that were felled due to Ash Die back. Local Nature Partnership (LNP) has been advising and developing tree planting schemes.</p> <p>LNP project is working to develop improved green and blue spaces and biodiversity including improving roadside verge management, meadow improvement & pond re-establishment. Section 106 continues to fund schemes.</p>	<p>Continue liaising with planning on the Green Infrastructure Plan with a formal workshop in late 2022. Work to complete the existing assessment, leading to public engagement before the final completion of a draft GI strategy.</p> <p>All departments will provide evidence on their actions against biodiversity forward plan targets by late Jan 2023. This will be submitted to the WG. Responsible officers will meet the ecologist to set actions for the next 3 years. A newly adopted forward plan will be sent to WG April 2023.</p> <p>Continue Great Glamorgan Way planting including 530m hedgerow / 2120 trees on farmland in St Lythans & 120 trees connecting Peterston-Super-Ely and St. Georges.</p> <p>Planting in Cosmeston: 58 Standard trees (5ft – 7ft in height) and 438 whips, used for planting hedgerows.</p> <p>Planting in Porthkerry: 50 Standard trees (5ft – 7ft in height) and 600 whips, used for planting hedgerows.</p> <p>We will be working with local communities and landowners to develop further tree planting schemes.</p>	<p>Initial consultations on the Green Infrastructure Plan have resulted in a limited response, with a formal workshop designed to supplement this.</p> <p>Reporting mechanisms to support the Biodiversity forward plan are being strengthened with a requirement for all Department service plans to advise on progress they are making in terms of the nature emergency/biodiversity.</p> <p>Discontinuation of LNP funding from Welsh Government would prevent this work from happening.</p> <p>Other risks include inflationary and availability of contractors and willingness of landowners to get involved in planting schemes.</p>

<p>The Energy Team has agreed a planting scheme (with support from the Parks team) around the central car parking area around the new EV charging points in Civic Offices.</p>	<p>Section 106 contributions to be used to enhance green spaces e.g. bulb and tree planting at the Grange, Wenvoe and replacement tree planting at Pencoedtre Park, Barry.</p> <p>£5,000 grants are being awarded to community led schemes through the Local Nature Partnership.</p>	
<p>Challenge 6. Ensure our planning policies and regeneration activities support work to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce negative impact on the environment. SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>The Local Development Plan (LDP) review continues to be progressed in accordance with the delivery agreement. The call for candidate sites was completed in September 2022. LDP Visions, Issues and Objectives paper has been drafted.</p> <p>Several sustainable transport schemes have been completed using Section 106 funding including phased work on the pedestrian / cycleway infrastructure improvement scheme at Rhoose, new footways / footway improvements in Dinas Powys, new bus shelter in Llandough and a dropped kerb scheme.</p> <p>Extensive discussions have taken place with CCR, landowners and the port authority around the long-term masterplan for the docks area. The plan seeks to increase Carbon Sequestration and the use of hydrogen. This work sits alongside a major LUF bid for a marina and watersports centre.</p>	<p>A review of the LDP will be delivered in line with the delivery agreement timescales. Candidate sites are being reviewed with an emphasis on prioritising brownfield land. Work is being progressed on growth and spatial options, with emphasis on sustainable locations for development. Key stages to be completed in the next 12 months include the development of the special strategy for the plan and the site selection process.</p> <p>New Sustainable Development SPG (Supplementary Planning Guidance) will be developed in April '23 to advise developers on moving towards carbon neutral development.</p> <p>Section 106 sustainable transport schemes are ongoing, at various stages of consultation, and support for the Greenlinks community transport service will continue for a further 12 months.</p> <p>Funding linked to CCR will be announced in December 2022.</p>	<p>A review of supplementary planning guidance to support work on tackling climate change, and linked work with developers re zero carbon buildings has not started due to insufficient resources. Core stages of LDP review have taken priority. Regional support through CCR may fill this gap.</p> <p>No planning policy Team Leader is currently in place – recruitment underway.</p> <p>Economic risks: The LDP reserve may be significantly affected by rising costs linked to necessary reports and consultancy. General economic and financial pressures may impact on the viability and sustainability of sites. Inflationary pressures if the CCR funding is approved. Plans for Barry</p>

	<p>Building Control team will work with the development and building sector in implementing the required sustainable building practices, as well as encouraging WG to continue the move towards zero carbon buildings.</p>	<p>waterfront may have to change considerably if it is not approved.</p> <p>Work to create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy and the Building Regulations will rely heavily on WG Guidance (e.g. Planning Policy Wales and Future Wales) and the implantation of updated building regulation standards.</p>
<p>Challenge 7. Achieve a modal shift away from cars to more sustainable forms of transport with an increase in walking, cycling and the use of less polluting transport. SRO: EMMA REED</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>The Active Travel Network Map (ATNM) was approved by WG. Construction commenced on Rhoose AT scheme (due completion March 2023). A detailed design has been completed for Eglwys Brewis active travel route ready for construction bid in January 2023. Design and consultation is ongoing on 6 schemes.</p> <p>Cycle storage has been provided at Camms Corner in Dinas Powys. Cycle/scooter storage has been provided at 4 primary schools. Bike repair stations have been installed in 5 sites.</p> <p>Pedestrian improvements made to routes on St Brides Way, Barry, Murch Road, Dinas Powys and Woodland Road, Barry.</p> <p>A funding application has been submitted to Shared Prosperity Fund for expansion of the OVOBike scheme into Barry.</p> <p>The Council is due to have access to another 3 EV taxis as part of the trial ‘try before you buy’ scheme being run by CCR as there is high demand for the 2 EV’s already allocated to the Vale.</p>	<p>The Active Travel Network Map is due to be made public through DataMapWales and will be published on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website. AT improvements will continue including construction of Rhoose AT route and design and consultation on a number of AT schemes.</p> <p>New Cycle storage is to be provided: locations considered are High Street, Barry and The Knap/Jacksons Bay. Schools continue to be asked to complete an Active Travel plan and storage provided as funding allows. Cycle pump/repair stations will be provided at key areas at the request of the public. The SPF will be utilised to support additional active travel schemes such a bike repair and reuse scheme in Gibbonsdown.</p> <p>If funding is confirmed for Barry expansion, work will commence on suitable locations for OVOBike scheme.</p>	<p>Public perception that the Council has the funding to construct all routes on the ATNM.</p> <p>Potential delays to installation due to weather/power outages.</p> <p>Lack of resource in schools to complete an Active Travel Plan could limit requests for cycle storage.</p> <p>Risk of vandalism of equipment.</p> <p>Risk of lack of funding.</p>

<p>The Council's fleet and workplace charging is also being addressed with the installation of 80 charging points installed at the Alps and the Civic Offices. Spend to the end of November on the 2022/23 Capital Programme is £242k.</p> <p>Progress has been made with new public EV charge point installation in car parks across the Vale: 36 new points have been installed, 8 are in the pre-construction phase and 4 more have been commissioned in the Rhoose Interchange Park and Ride Car Park.</p> <p>A Bus Users UK (Cymru) 'Catch the Bus Month' event was hosted by the Council bringing together bus users, potential users, local bus operators, the Council's Transport Officers and Bus Users UK.</p> <p>Continued roll out of electronic bus stop information displays to provide greater assurance for users and hopefully encourage further use, especially for non-users. As part of this project 2 solar powered displays are being trialled, with more on order.</p>	<p>New "Brompton" cycles share scheme to be implemented at Llantwit Major Station.</p> <p>From Jan to March '23 there will be work with the CCR on the next phase of EV charge point roll out. 21 new charge points have been proposed, mainly situated near community centres. Funding options for further EV on street charge points will be explored via UK Govt Grant scheme.</p> <p>A Section 106 funding proposal is being prepared for Members to consider the purchase of Adventure Travel 'Daytripper' tickets for all residents in Ogmere-by-Sea in order to try and promote the use of their local bus service (303) as well as other services the company operates.</p>	<p>Some of the new proposed public EV charge points will not be feasible, so alternatives will need to be sought.</p>
<p>Challenge 8. Work with partners and business to develop and implement an Economic Growth Strategy that supports local business and meets the challenge of climate change and our ambition for a green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. SRO: MARCUS GOLDWORTHY</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>Work has been undertaken to prepare a Council Investment and Growth Plan and a Barry Placemaking Plan, including a spatial masterplan of the town. The Council plans to follow this with Placemaking plans for the whole County, which will focus on sustainable economic and community growth and support.</p>	<p>Wider engagement on the Barry Place Making and Growth Plan will commence in the final quarter of 2022/23. The initial consultation draft has yet to be agreed.</p> <p>Council Investment and Growth Plan to be agreed in Spring 2023.</p>	<p>Consultation could lead to differing views over the way forward.</p> <p>Place making plans are likely to be funded via Welsh Government, but internal funding will be required to</p>

<p>Shared Property Fund (SPF) Investment Plan agreed with regional partners and signed off by UK Government for years 22/25.</p>	<p>Implementation of the SPF investment plan to commence including projects to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green communities and resilient infrastructure • Business decarbonisation • Priority Communities/ Cost of Living: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency and combat fuel poverty <p>Work with CCR to develop a Green Skills Report which will identify the required jobs and training for a future green economy. CCR to report back in last Quarter of 22/23 with a skills mapping report and provide access to a green jobs audit carried out on its behalf comparing the regions across the UK.</p> <p>CCR have developed an Energy Strategy for the region with a focus on energy efficiency, flexibility, decarbonisation, jobs and growth and coordination. Key parts of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecoflex – ECO4 is a multi-measure approach to retrofit that aims to target the lowest performing energy efficiency households and those who are in fuel poverty. • Carbon Disclosure Project / Race to Zero – CDP is a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, and states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. Race to Zero is an umbrella campaign, driven by science, that aggregates net-zero commitments from a range of leading networks and initiatives across the climate action community. • Adaptation Work – 	<p>support the development of the wider economic plan.</p> <p>SPF award letter yet to be received from UK Government (Dec 2022).</p>
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	<p>Mitigation measures are those actions that are taken to reduce and curb greenhouse gas emissions while, adaptation measures are based on reducing vulnerability through the effects of climate change. Work with Carbon Trust underway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Site Acquisition – Aberthaw and beyond - Proposals are being explored for additional funds for acquisition of further strategic infrastructure assets. <p>Commissioning work will take place on the Placemaking Plans for Cowbridge, Penarth and Llantwit Major in spring 2023.</p>	
<p>Challenge 9. Support and advocate for more sustainable local food systems leading to fewer food miles, less waste and greater awareness about the impact of our food choices on the environment. SRO: TOM BOWRING</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>The Council is an active member of the Food Vale partnership. The 2022/23 action plan focuses on the procurement, support and choice of local food. Food Vale has an active social media presence with 548 Twitter followers (Nov 22) and promotes opportunities for funding, local food events, cooking workshops and promotes local businesses highlighting sustainable practices.</p> <p>In addition to the Food Vale Steering Group the Food Vale Informal Network continues to hold open community events to engage with local residents, business owners and growers to share ideas and build connections.</p> <p>Representatives from the PSB and Food Vale attended the recent Move More Eat Well workshop on healthier advertising to support the implementation of the plan, promote healthier eating and tackle high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) advertising in our</p>	<p>The Food Vale Steering Group will progress the action plan, work towards the Silver Sustainable Food Places Award and identify opportunities for cross partner working.</p> <p>A two-week Food Vale Trail is planned in summer '23 to showcase local businesses and food producers: funding has been sought from Sustainable Food Places and the Lottery.</p> <p>Food Vale will continue to promote local opportunities, growers and businesses through their website, 'spotlight' section, and social media. The Informal Network will continue to hold free open community events in 2023.</p> <p>The January Move More Eat Well Implementation Group meeting will drive forward the plan, explore new healthier advertising policies and connect this work with climate change. Council & Food Vale reps are in the group.</p>	

<p>communities. The workshop helped develop ideas for the region and shared learning from English initiatives.</p> <p>Big Fresh continue to work with their suppliers to source ingredients that are as local as possible, cutting down on the environmental impact of transporting goods over large distances, while the company also has a low waste approach. Big Fresh also provided catering refreshments for a beach clean in Penarth in September working with schools and Greening Penarth to help spread the message about being plastic free.</p>	<p>A wormery pilot project will be implemented in 3 schools to reduce carbon and as an educational tool. The pilot will measure how much food waste is being diverted from landfill /Anaerobic Digestion. Educational work on composting as means to reduce food waste is planned, but funding will need to be identified for the compost bins.</p> <p>More food waste opportunities will be explored with schools as part of the roll out of further recycling and waste changes in spring and the relaunch of our commercial service.</p>	<p>Funding is needed for further work on wormeries and for compost bins in schools.</p>
<p>Challenge 10. Reduce waste and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling. SRO: EMMA REED</p>		
<p>Progress to Oct 22</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>Public consultation was undertaken on the draft waste strategy, which closed on the 23rd November 2022.</p> <p>The Waste Management Business Plan has been completed, and identified the resources required to deliver behaviour changes and effective messages to residents.</p> <p>The next phase of recycling changes (phase 3) has been further progressed and will reduce the use of single use plastic. Progress has also been made with the construction of a new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) necessary to accept source separated recycling material.</p> <p>The search for land to build a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in the Western Vale has concluded after 3 years as there is no land available for development of this site.</p>	<p>Consultation responses on the draft waste strategy will be assessed and a report presented to Cabinet with a summary of feedback as well as any recommendations regarding revisions to the draft waste strategy and any potential budget implications.</p> <p>Delivery of a new communication strategy for phase 3 of the recycling and waste changes.</p> <p>Completion of the construction of the new Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) and preparation for operational use.</p> <p>To identify staff and prepare a plan to roll out source separated collections to schools and businesses.</p>	<p>Financial constraints could potentially impact on the ability to deliver aspects of the strategy.</p> <p>Insufficient funding and resources are a potential risk to meeting this challenge including construction and installation of sorting and baling equipment at the RRF and the roll out of changes.</p> <p>Appropriate staff to deliver services is also a risk. Limited capital funding</p>

<p>The construction of the new reuse shop has been completed.</p> <p>Work has progressed to promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste. This has included meeting with local providers, working with Benthyc and consideration of information for the website.</p>	<p>Undertake a feasibility assessment of finding a new site: consideration of land availability, restrictions and costs.</p> <p>Retender the HWRC contract, to include the management of the reuse shop and prepare the shop for “shop fitting” and the installation of payment systems. The Reuse shop will be opened following the appointment of a new HWRC contractor. Recruitment to the team and preparation of communications materials.</p> <p>A webpage will be developed to promote the reuse shop.</p>	<p>and land availability for a site in the Western Vale.</p> <p>There are risks around appointment of a suitable contractor and obtaining environmental permits.</p>
<p>Challenge 11. Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding, manage our coastline and encourage everyone to take a more responsible approach to water use. SRO: EMMA REED</p>		
<p>Progress to date</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>A request was submitted and approved by the Project Zero board on 7th July 2022 for capital funding of £70k to progress the installation of automatic water meter reading devices. The funding requested allows all water meters within the council to be remotely read allowing automatic alarms to be set and swifter response times to water leaks reducing the water, CO2 and financial waste. The order has been raised for the water meters.</p>	<p>Metering Technology Services (MTS) have commenced the installation programme and it is hoped that the majority of the installation work will be completed before the end of March 2023.</p>	<p>The current manual metering process for water usage is inefficient leading to slow identification and resolution of water leaks which can place an unnecessary financial burden on budget holders.</p>
<p>Challenge 12. Reduce the amount of energy we all use and lead by example sourcing our energy from clean and renewable sources and working across all sectors to bring new technology, innovation and investment to the Vale SRO: LORNA CROSS</p>		
<p>Progress to date</p>	<p>Future actions Nov 22 -March 23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>Work on developing a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is now being commissioned and led by CCR on behalf of WG. The lead organization is Energy Systems Catapult. LAEPs identify the most</p>	<p>The CRF funded review of county-wide carbon emissions referenced in Challenge 3 is reaching completion and will highlight a number of opportunities in this area.</p>	<p>Funding will need to be identified to take forward work relating to the outcomes of the CRF funded project.</p>

<p>effective route for the local area to contribute towards their own and the national net zero targets.</p> <p>The energy team continues to provide information and support for community energy projects. The Wenvoe Forum has been given advice and are exploring community energy opportunities.</p> <p>The energy team is engaging with the Primary School in Wenvoe to implement energy saving measures and install solar PV.</p> <p>The Estates team have been successful in applying for ACPW3 (Ystadau Cymru) funding for surveys to establish opportunities for decarbonising the portfolio of 22 Community Centres and 2 buildings leased out to GVS.</p> <p>The Energy team have provided information on the NEST scheme and information about energy efficiency is included on the Council's Cost of Living webpages.</p>	<p>Work continues with CCR over the purchase of the former Aberthaw Power Station site to be developed a clean energy jobs hub. Master planning to be started in late 2022.</p> <p>Discussions commenced via CCR with WG regarding energy resilience and needs for a carbon neutral economy with a key focus on the current energy grid and limitations to new green developments. Monthly meetings to be agreed to help coordinate regional response.</p> <p>The Council will be appointing a firm of consultants to survey the Community centres, establishing the feasibility of interventions/investment proposals to inform possible future capital funding applications and to also provide the Community Associations themselves with opportunities to undertake some “Quick Wins” to reduce their energy consumption.</p>	<p>Resilience of the National Grid is limiting how quickly green energy projects can be developed.</p> <p>GDPR constraints have prevented further progress on connecting residents to NEST, an agreement to release the data required is needed to enable further progress and discussions are ongoing.</p>
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Area 3. Make a difference now. Challenge 13-18.

These challenges focus on how the Council as an organisation provides its services and manages its assets. The proposed activities relate to our procurement practices, schools and council housing, how we manage our land and assets, staff travel and investment in technology.

Challenge 13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions SRO: MATT BOWMER		
Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>A new Procurement Policy and Strategy has been drafted with a stronger emphasis on the need to ensure our procurement practices support work on climate change. The new approach has been discussed in detail with Senior Leadership Team, the Project Zero Board and Strategic Insight Board to ensure it reflects the range of activity and experience across the Council.</p> <p>Procurement Officers are also involved in work being undertaken by the WLGA as part of an all-Wales approach to improving procurement. This work recognises the need for change in response to the climate emergency and the large percentage of carbon emissions associated with the supply chain across the public sector, as highlighted in the reports to Welsh Govt.</p> <p>We are working with Cardiff on a shared service offering extending on their work with Monmouthshire and Torfaen. This will provide more resilience to the day-to-day work including the opportunity to align processes and procedures, to provide strategic level support, and to contract register/forward plan.</p>	<p>Engagement with local supplier stakeholders to discuss and pilot the new approach.</p> <p>Approval of the new Strategy and Policy by Cabinet.</p> <p>Further analysis of procurement data to identify where action should be targeted to reduce emissions as part of work to be net zero by 2030.</p>	<p>Capacity within the team, although plans are in place to address this.</p> <p>Awaiting toolkits and information from Welsh Govt and WLGA.</p>

Challenge 14. Invest in our existing housing stock to make it more energy efficient and deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A rated new Council homes.

SRO: MIKE INGRAM

Progress to date	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The Council has been in discussions about grid capacity with WG, Western Power Distribution (WPD) and Social Landlords to ensure early consultation with WPD about large Retrofit Schemes</p> <p>The Fabric First approach is progressing: insulation and projects delivered to poorly performing stock. WG want all Social Housing to achieve SAP75 standards by 2029. VoGC have delivered 73.</p> <p>Hybrid heating systems have been completed in 40+ properties. An installation, servicing and maintenance framework is in place and sensors fitted. The last few installations are on hold as tenants do not want them due to increased costs of running and cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Optimisation Retrofit Programme (ORP) funding has been used to deliver data terminals. Data will be analysed before investment to ensure measures are reducing fuel poverty. The next round of retrofit projects will follow the PAS2035 process, which assesses what is needed to meet required retrofit standards. All contractors are members of TrustMark, ensuring guaranteed auditing and monitoring. 3 Non-traditional Airey properties in Castle Green are going through the PAS2035 process from start to finish.</p> <p>Working with Bridgend College to deliver the British Plumbing Employers Council (BPEC) heat pump training for SMK Building & Maintenance Ltd. Staff will complete an Energy Assessors' course before completing the Retrofit Assessor qualification. In-house staff have enrolled on PAS2035 Retrofit Coordinator training.</p>	<p>Ensure WPD are engaged at the early stage on large projects to ensure the grid can support what is being introduced on a large scale.</p> <p>Continue to deliver the existing fabric first projects which are currently being delivered</p> <p>Continue to monitor the hybrid heating installations and support tenants with any operating issues identified. Continue to install the Airwit sensors within 100 properties to gather property baseline data.</p> <p>Develop a tender package for delivery of PAS2035 survey reports for the whole of the Council Housing Stock. This will provide clarity on the route map to carbon zero. Continue to develop packages of works which follow the PAS2035 Process from start to finish, including identifying properties who may suit solar solutions. The contract will require all contractors to be a part of TrustMark. Continue to deliver retrofit solutions identified on the 3 Non-trad Airey Properties using learning to improve future retrofit projects</p> <p>Complete the BPEC training for SMK Building & Maintenance Ltd. In-house staff complete the Retrofit Coordinator training and gain experience by working with the Retrofit Coordinator for the Airey Properties carbon reduction works.</p>	<p>National Grid supporting increased demand or timescale for related grid improvement.</p> <p>Lack of resource to provide adequate tenant aftercare on the new renewable technology. Delays in sensor rollout due to faults. Tenants not wanting sensors installed in their properties and alternative pilot properties having to be found.</p> <p>Monitoring information from pilot properties shows hybrid systems are reducing carbon production by 50%. However, they are more expensive to run due to increased electricity costs. Data shows tenants turning AHPs off despite support from PassivUK Ltd, which affects monitoring and performance. Some requests for system removal due to running costs.</p> <p>There is a lack of availability of Retrofit Assessors to undertake PAS2035 surveys on all council housing stock.</p>

Challenge 15. Build new **zero carbon schools** and improve our existing school buildings to ensure they are energy efficient and create learning environments fit for the future.

SRO: TREVOR BAKER

Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Work has progressed on improving school grounds biodiversity including through No Mow May, use of allotment areas, large planters, establishing wildflower meadows and on-site animal keeping. Several schools were successful in receiving funding to create woodland areas on site. The results of the biodiversity audit were included within the Council’s draft Green Infrastructure Plan. The Ecology and Landscape Strategy has been updated to identify link between biodiversity measures and decarbonisation.</p> <p>Working with Big Fresh team to trial waste reduction through composting and wormeries. Wormery funding secured for trial.</p> <p>Work to reduce in-house energy consumption is ongoing: data shows heat efficiency is an issue. Energy packs are being updated to influence behaviour change and energy champions are being promoted in schools.</p> <p>New school builds are constructed to BREEAM Excellent, as laid out in the contracts. PV panels, battery storage and air source heat pumps are included on new project designs as standard.</p> <p>Working with contractors to reduce carbon emissions and ensure continued improvement in line with WG targets. The contractor agreed to 5 years of live monitoring. South Point is the first zero carbon school in Wales, and St Nicholas, Cowbridge, CLWB and YYD2 will be zero carbon schools. Measures utilised in the South Point School development have been rolled out to the</p>	<p>Future projects to reference Ecology and Landscape Strategy</p> <p>Continue to promote additional ecology works as part of education projects, environmental volunteering and supporting community garden projects through community benefits, and providing horticulture areas for new schools</p> <p>Implement wormery pilot in 3 schools from Jan 2023 & measure how much food waste is diverted from landfill or the AD in Cardiff.</p> <p>Identify methods to improve heat efficiency in buildings. Contact Carbon Trust and Energy Savings Trust to help review energy packs. Review how effective energy champions have been in schools.</p> <p>Continue to monitor BREEAM progress on live projects</p> <p>Produce energy competition to improve energy efficiency in schools.</p> <p>Review monitoring information from South Point on net zero carbon elements during winter.</p> <p>Prepare tender for next round of school development.</p>	<p>Information on the website needs to be updated to reflect current progress on biodiversity in schools.</p> <p>Increased costs associated with ecological requirements.</p> <p>No additional funding for wormeries beyond trial.</p> <p>There is an additional cost associated with the delivery of net-zero carbon. Although these costs are currently 100% funded by Welsh Government, no further commitment has been announced to cover these costs outside of Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme</p> <p>Increased costs associated with whole life net zero elements.</p> <p>Monthly monitoring not as good as live monitoring capabilities. Costs associated with improving system.</p>

<p>current ongoing school development projects – includes increase PV panels, ASHP, battery storage and insulation.</p> <p>Condition surveys have been completed to inform a 25-year assets renewal programme. Work is ongoing on suitability surveys, which have identified schools suitable for PV installation. Grant funding is being applied for to install Air Source Heat Pumps in existing schools – feasibility testing options. Continued Salix funding projects for updating lighting to LED, procuring solar panels.</p> <p>Trialling a programme to reduce usage of boilers –linking to grant funding available from Welsh Government known as the Low Carbon Heat Grant.</p> <p>Consideration of an additional consultant to work in partnership to ensure further improvements.</p> <p>Expanding community usage at rural schools in the Vale to reduce travel to urban centres as part of the new Community Use grant scheme from Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Review FuelStretcher module at Llantwit Major Learning Community following winter to understand whether the technology should be rolled out to all existing gas schools.</p> <p>Research ground source heat pumps to improve net zero carbon model. Aiming for whole life net zero.</p> <p>Continue Salix projects for education estate. Link sustainable communities for learning programme to ensure no abortive works.</p> <p>Looking to the next funding regime for Sustainable Communities for Learning programme tender for project and cost consultants</p> <p>Community Use grant: Procure schemes and start works. Completion aiming for March 2023 in accordance with grant conditions.</p>	<p>Difficulties assessing schools as not a level playing field. Looking to run as best improved.</p> <p>Difficulties finding contractors through SEWSCAP framework. Limited to companies who signed up in 2019. Other companies available with more focus on environment but currently outside of the framework. Framework to be updated in 2024</p> <p>Difficulties retrofitting fabric first approach to existing schools, particularly older buildings (Victorian era)</p> <p>New WG Grant for 100% Net Zero Carbon only committed for Band B of sustainable learning for communities’ programme</p> <p>FuelStretcher technology relates to a small firm, concerns this may impact potential rollout.</p>
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Challenge 16. Manage and use our land, buildings and other assets to support work to tackle climate change, rationalising what we need and improving sustainability and energy efficiency. SRO: LORNA CROSS		
Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The revised Asset Management Plan 2022-2027 is in first draft format and will be consulted on soon with a view to reporting to Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Salix funding was procured by the Energy team for the Highways team and used to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.</p> <p>A clause has been added to new commercial leases re: sustainability and single use plastics, and regular advice is provided to tenants on energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>The Property team continue to work with service colleagues to rationalise and better use our assets through the Your Space Project. Discussions are ongoing on key Council assets. Work on E1c L1e proposals continues and space planning is underway.</p> <p>A range of energy efficiency project proposals have been submitted as Capital bids which are awaiting determination.</p> <p>A cost pressure for the Energy Team was approved in order to bolster the team to provide capacity, diversity and to support the challenges set out in the Climate Change Challenge Plan. The new team has 5 full time posts, up from 2 permanent and 1 temporary.</p>	<p>Consultation and finalisation of the new Asset Management Plan.</p> <p>Work will commence to develop a new Carbon Management Plan which will align to the new Asset Management Plan and the Climate Change Challenge Plan</p>	<p>The revised Asset Management Plan has been slightly delayed as a result of wishing to include the results of the LUF funding bid with resultant actions for our assets.</p> <p>Recruiting to these posts remains a challenge however, with 3 out of the 5 posts currently vacant. The posts will be re-advertised in the new year.</p>

Challenge 17. Reduce the number of car journeys staff make and increase the number of electric/low carbon vehicles across the Council's fleet of vehicles.

SRO: EMMA REED

Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Cardiff Bus have provided 40 free day-to-go bus passes which staff have been able to use to get around as part of their daily duties.</p> <p>As is council policy, Zero & Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) are considered as part of the procurement process. Procurement also takes into account the additional cost of these types of vehicles and available fuel/chargers.</p> <p>12 Electric Hyundai Konas were added to the pool car fleet in summer 2022, purchased with grant from Energy Service Wales to fund the difference between the cost of petrol and electric vehicles. The Council's 7 diesel Vauxhall Corsas were sold at auction, and electric cars are now being requested by pool car users.</p> <p>40 dual Electric Vehicle Charging Points now installed on Council premises: 22 at the Alps Depot and 18 at the Civic Offices.</p> <p>An order has been placed for two electric roadside sort recycling vehicles (Romaquip). Grants have been made available by WG for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles to fund 90% of the difference between a diesel and an electric vehicle.</p> <p>In November Cabinet agreed to sign the Public Services Board new Staff Healthy Travel Charter which includes a range of commitments to reduce the impact of staff travel on the environment and encourage behaviour change.</p>	<p>The Cycle2Work scheme is available in late 2022.</p> <p>Nextbike to be contacted about providing corporate memberships for VOGC staff.</p> <p>Scope offer of salary sacrifice for EV hire contract.</p> <p>Reviewing EV charge point procedures and charging mechanism for staff and public to use.</p> <p>Develop an action plan for the implementation of the commitments in the new Travel Charter which builds on the achievements made under the first Charter.</p>	<p>Currently the Cycle2Work scheme has a 6 week window every 12 months and employees are limited to the stores they can use. There are alternative providers that allow a continuous application process and allow the use of independent stores.</p> <p>Funding shortfall: our current vehicle replacement programme is based on diesel vehicles and the transition to ULEVs is a lot more expensive. As an example, an electric refuse vehicle costs £390K with the diesel equivalent some £185k less.</p>

Challenge 18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services reducing the need for travel and office space.

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Progress to Oct 22	Future actions Nov 22 -March 23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>A Review of digital strategy and key future deliverables has taken place, (identified via the previous Digital Maturity Assessment) to ensure that the future digital strategy aligns with the council’s emission reduction goals and assists staff with reducing travel time and reliance on office space.</p> <p>Office 365 E5 licences have been purchased to enable staff to access wide range of Microsoft cloud applications to perform roles remotely and reduce reliance on paper records. There has been a continued rollout of Office 365 applications and Teams to enable staff to work/attend meetings remotely.</p> <p>New Oracle Fusion software continues to be tested ahead of go-live to enable staff to access pay and key HR information on personal mobile devices without recourse to council provided devices.</p> <p>The print and Hybrid mail programme continues to be implemented.</p> <p>Continued regression testing of the Council’s hybrid meeting platform (Civico) to inform a decision in January ’23 as to whether to continue with that platform or implement an alternative. The platform seeks to facilitate hybrid Council and Committee meetings, and officer meetings, to reduce the need for all delegates to travel to an office location to attend a meeting.</p>	<p>Finalisation of the Council’s new Digital Strategy and Digital Roadmap (Jan 2023-Mar 2023) in partnership with SOCTIM.</p> <p>Review ICT / Digital Service structure and align to facilitate the implementation and support of the Digital Strategy.</p> <p>Initial trials of M365 Telephony to reduce reliance on legacy telephony infrastructure and remove need for staff to be tied to physical handsets/traditional office environments.</p> <p>Launch of Oracle Fusion in 2023 and creation of a new internal Fusion Support Team, including consultation and recruitment.</p> <p>Decision to be taken as to whether to continue with the Civico platform or procure an alternative. Training provided to Members on the use of Civico (if the decision is to continue with that platform). Options appraisal to inform consideration of the procurement of an alternative hybrid meeting platform if the decision is to not continue with Civico.</p>	<p>New Digital Strategy/Roadmap is required to enable the aims, ambitions and objectives of Project Zero and Your Space projects. Project aims, goals and objectives (staff, suppliers, residents) need to be communicated to all stakeholders to ensure successful implementation of strategy and roadmap.</p> <p>Impact on teams when implementing key digital projects, reliance on single points of dependency in the ICT Service and lack of budget to fund the required service structures to implement and support the 5 year Digital Strategy.</p>