

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20TH FEBRUARY, 2025

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 15TH JANUARY, 2025

“ PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (DCR) –

The Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight in presenting the report advised that the report and Appendix A detailed the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continued to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero with the Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy providing an overview presentation of the report to Committee. This included details of shared examples of ongoing initiatives, for example biodiversity. The RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan were also contained within the report. Progress and developments from April 2024 to September 2024 included: the reporting of the Council's Carbon emissions for 2023/24 as reported to the Welsh Government, the development of the Carbon Management Plan, the reflection of the importance of respecting and celebrating the environment within the draft Corporate Plan 2025-30, and the development of a new Public Services Board (PSB) Climate and Nature Charter.

The report detailed the Council's Net Zero Carbon emissions for 2023/24, as reported to Welsh Government, at section 2.5 and provided Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve. The report also provide updates on the PSB work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies which was a priority within the PSB Well-being Plan.

The Chair asked if the Project Zero update could be provided alongside the Carbon Management Plan to future Committee meetings in order that they could be considered alongside each other. Having regard to the increase in emissions, which she said was concerning, she asked whether the formula was working and whether it was based on spend. She was also keen that the Council continued to challenge itself when setting targets. The Director advised that the Project Zero report provided a significant amount of detail, it contained lot of information and officers were looking to see how best the information could be reported going forward.

Although not suggesting that a significant amount of progress would have been made, Councillor Goodjohn enquired as to what progress had been made to date with regard to the discussions that had taken place at the Committee meeting in November where the officer was present from the Wales Centre for Public Policy. The Operational Manager advised that colleagues were looking at all the recommendations from those discussions which were to be considered by the Project Zero board.

Following a query it was also noted that matters being considered by the Committee's Procurement Task and Finish report regarding the supply chain would be reported to Committee in due course with any agreed recommendations subsequently being referred to Cabinet for approval.

Councillor Dr. Johnson said that he was of the same view as the previous two speakers as it was difficult to know the impact for the Council, especially if the Council was not clear on the Welsh Government methodology. He agreed there was lots of information in the report, the RAG rating system could certainly assist the Authority to see where the Council was not succeeding and where it was succeeding. He also asked for more clarity on how such matters would be addressed in the future and how the Council would support organisations to reach the standards it expected. The Director said that in terms of resources and availability to match the scale of the challenge, the Council was aware there was a difference between what it needed to do and the resources to do it. It had considered that within Scope 1 it would look to see what the greatest impact would be and that officers considered this to be a challenge for reporting purposes. The RAG status was used for a broad range of activity and that these were useful in order to scrutinise and challenge. However, he said that he would like to have a future conversation with Members of the Committee around how to present the Carbon Management Plan and progress against targets.

With regard to flood management plans and surface water issues, Councillor Dr. Johnson asked for the RAG status for such plans to be made available, with the Director advising that he would provide this information via email.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board be noted.
- (2) T H A T the RAG rating of progress from April 2024 to September 2024 in Appendix A to the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the Council's carbon emission for 2023/24 as reported to the Welsh Government at section 2.5 be noted.
- (4) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date through a variety of routes be noted.
- (5) T H A T the updates on the Public Services Board work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies be noted.
- (6) T H A T the Corporate Performance Indicator data for 2023/24 as relevant to Project Zero at Appendix C to the report, and relevant results from the Let's Talk Survey at Appendix D to the report, be noted.

(7) T H A T the following comments be referred to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee following their meeting in January 2025 –

- that any future Carbon management plan and Project Zero reports be presented to the Committee alongside each other and that a discussion takes place in the future with Committee Members as to how to present progress against targets;
- that clarity be provided going forward on how the Council was or was not succeeding in relation to the RAG Status;
- that RAG status information be provided to Members in relation to Flood Management plans and surface water issues.

(8) T H A T Cabinet be recommended to consider that the 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

(1-6) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(7) To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

(8) 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: 15th January, 2025

Meeting of:	Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 15 January 2025
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, the nature emergency, and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero including work being undertaken through the Public Services Board.
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

Executive Summary:

- This report and Appendix A detail the 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. This includes the RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan. Progress and developments from April 2024 to September 2024 includes: the reporting of the Council's Carbon emissions for 2023/24 as reported to the Welsh Government, the development of the Carbon Management Plan, the reflection of the importance of respecting and celebrating the environment within the draft Corporate Plan 2025-30, and the development of a new PSB Climate and Nature Charter.
- The report details the Council's Net Zero Carbon emissions for 2023/24, as reported to Welsh Government, at section 2.5.
- The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve.
- This report provides updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies which is a priority in the PSB Well-being Plan.
- The report shows Performance Indicators data for 2023/24 at Appendix C and relevant results from the Let's Talk Survey at Appendix D.
- The report also updates on the approach to programme management.

Recommendations

1. That the committee note the progress detailed in this report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board.
2. That the committee note RAG rating of progress from April 2024 to September 2024 in Appendix A.
3. That the committee note the Council's carbon emission for 2023/24 as reported to the Welsh Government at section 2.5.
4. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date through a variety of routes.
5. That the committee note the updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
6. That the Committee note the Corporate Performance Indicator data for 2023/24 as relevant to Project Zero at Appendix C, and relevant results from the Let's Talk Survey at Appendix D.
7. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Committee who will consider this report this month.
8. 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 committee to consider how Project Zero and the related work of the Public Services Board is being taken forward.
2. To ensure that the Members are aware of the RAG rating of progress from April 2024 to September 2024 against the steps within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
3. To ensure that Members are aware of the Council's carbon emission for 2023/2,4 as reported to the Welsh Government.
4. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the projects awarded funding to date.
5. To ensure that Members are aware of the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
6. To ensure that the Members are aware of the 2023/24 Corporate Performance Indicators data relevant to Project Zero.
7. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
8. 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. At the Council meeting on the 26th of July 2021 the Council approved the Climate Change Challenge Plan (minute 296). The Plan details eighteen challenges and eighty underlying steps framed around the need to demonstrate strong leadership, fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations and to make a difference now.

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

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 2024-25 includes responding to the climate and nature emergencies as one of its three critical challenges.

1.5. 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.

1.6. In response to the July 2022 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommendations, a 'RAG' rating system (Red, Amber and Green) for progress has been continued at Appendix A. The rating reflects the progress from October 2023 to March 2024 only, and the ratings may fluctuate over time to reflect new opportunities and barriers in future reporting periods.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1 This report and Appendix A provides an overall update on the wide range of activity being undertaken as part of Project Zero.

2.2 The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee made a number of comments at the 19th June 2024 meeting. Updates on these are outlined below:

- A report on the Council's electrical vehicle fleet and necessary infrastructure be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme for future consideration.
 - **Update:** an update on the Council's electrical vehicle fleet and necessary infrastructure has been added at Appendix B. Quarterly performance indicators for fleet are brought to committee as part of the quarterly reporting against the Annual Delivery Plan. This includes the number of vehicles, number of hybrid vehicles and number of electric vehicles in use across the Council.
- That reports intended for the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee in relation to Project Zero and the Carbon Management Plan be received by the Committee on the same agenda wherever possible going forward and amended on the Committee's Forward Work Programme accordingly.
 - **Update:** we will update through Project Zero reporting at the first opportunity following ratification of the Carbon Management Plan.
- Whether Council reports, in relation to procurement processes, should give explicit consideration to reducing the Council's carbon footprint at both the pre-commissioning and de-commissioning stages of the process, in addition to the already existing efforts to reduce carbon to support the Council's ambition to be net zero by 2030.

- **Update:** Section 4 of all committee reports have a 'Climate Change and Nature Implications' section, and this is where this information should be completed. We expect to see this in the Emergency Powers and Delegated Powers reports too, but there isn't a specific heading at present. Currently governance arrangements are at the back end of the procurement process, i.e. at contract award. The Head of Finance is currently considering putting governance arrangements at the front end, when officers go out to tender.
- Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Members be provided with further information in relation to the Agri Hub, as referred to in steps PZC4.2 and PZC9.4 of the Project Zero Climate Challenge Plan in June's reporting, recognising that the scheme was still in the early stages of development
 - **Update:** The project commenced with the appointed consultants carrying out a Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) to explore the flooding risk to the site. Whilst an FCA has been provided by the consultants, the Council's Project Team requested further detailed mapping. This has been received and will be assessed to help determine the Council's next steps for the site.
- Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Members be provided with further information in relation to whether a re-use pop-up shop should be established at the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Llandow, given that the facility was to remain in its current location for the foreseeable future.
 - **Update:** Unfortunately, the Llandow site is unsuitable for a pop-up shop and does not have scope for any further containers. Neighbourhood Services will explore opportunities on nearby land.

2.3 Some of the key progress from April 2024 to September 2024 in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below and more information on each challenge, the steps within, and the RAG rating of progress during the period is provided in Appendix A together with information on future plans, risks and barriers.

Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4

- Consultation on the draft Corporate Plan includes consultation on the draft Objective to 'Respect and Celebrate the Environment'. Views and comments obtained will be important in shaping future work.
- We have re-launched the [Project Zero Hub](#) with [new case studies](#) and shared externally and internally to raise awareness. By end of September 2024 we had 1400 views of the hub. Our hub pages also signpost Vale residents to home energy efficiency information and community reuse / repair initiatives.

- We have supported the 50+ Forum to set up a programme of climate related events and worked with the Vale Youth Council to share progress since the October 2023 [Youth Climate Conversation](#).
- We completed the mapping of community groups working in the climate and nature arena and invited them to share information. We now have eight community-based projects signposted on our '[What's happening in our communities](#)' page.
- The Council's Net Zero Carbon reporting for 2023/24 was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2024 and saw a slight rise in emissions. Details are at section 2.5. The Carbon Management Plan was presented to Cabinet and will support our decarbonisation work.
- Public Services Board partners have worked together to review and revise the Climate and Nature Emergency Charter with support from the Local Nature Partnership.
- External funding from UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has helped provide grants to community groups and businesses to undertake decarbonisation measures. This includes funding for solar arrays for the Alexandra Gardens Community Association.
- A grant has been awarded to deliver further decarbonisation works at four other Community Centres in 2024/25. Community Centres are currently being assessed for suitability.

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

- Our nature and biodiversity work continues to thrive: the Restore the Thaw Landscape Project has released 200 water voles into the River Thaw and hosted 20 public engagement activities. Porthkerry Country Park has received support from the Woodland Investment Grant Scheme (TWIG) to improve biodiversity, woodland management and access.
- The Tree Strategy was updated following consultation and considered by the Environment & Regeneration Committee in October. Feedback was positive and Cabinet ratified the strategy in November. Next steps are to translate and launch the strategy and raise awareness through roadshows across the Vale and internal communications.
- Electric vehicle charging bay roll out continues across the Vale: a further 22 charging bays have been identified and agreed with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) to be implemented this financial year on highways and in car park areas.
- The [Vale of Glamorgan Council's Active Travel Report 2023/24](#) was submitted to Welsh Government in October 2024, highlighting the activities and impacts over the period. There has been a growth in the numbers of schools completing active travel plans, almost 900 pupils undertook National Standard Cycle Training, pupils in five primary schools completed Kerbcraft and over 600 students in 16 schools receiving child pedestrian training. The report also details ongoing and new work on active travel routes, pedestrian enhancements and new bus stops.

- Feasibility work has been undertaken to determine whether all new buildings should be required to be zero carbon in their construction and operation within the Replacement LDP. Since the reporting period, Business Cabinet have considered the feasibility work underpinning the proposed Net Zero policy for new dwellings and resolved to support this approach.
- The second annual Vale Food Trail took place bringing together around 1,000 visitors and locals to explore and celebrate the gastronomic heritage and sustainable farming practices of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- Big Fresh joined the '[Welsh Vegetables for schools](#)' project headed by Food Sense Wales and supported by Castell Howell, working with small growers/producers around south Wales. 10 Vale schools with the highest volume of served meals are involved in the project, which provides organic vegetables to schools and strengthens routes to market. The project has had media coverage on [Radio Cymru and BBC Wales Today](#).
- Recycling officers are working directly with residents through our housing teams and housing associations to cut waste and fly tipping in key areas. Officers are also running an engagement programme in schools to raise awareness of recycling.
- There has been a gap in activity on implementing a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan due to lack of resource and competing priorities.
- The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is now complete and was adopted at Cabinet formally in July. Next steps are to seek resource to take this work forward.
- Our work on energy efficiency in the broader community continues. SRS have been working with the private rented sector by engaging with landlords and letting agents on Minimum Energy Efficiency requirements. In supporting low-income households, we have submitted 61 [Eco-flex](#) applications to date enabling residents to access energy efficiency measures.
- Section 106 monies have been used for numerous projects across the Vale that support the environment and sustainable transport such as new crossings, bus stop improvements and nature enhancement.

Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18

- The Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee Procurement Task and Finish work is drawing to a close. The group has had a number of sessions and have been meeting with procurement experts from both within and outside our partnership on the key themes of circular economy and carbon.
- We have completed two new major council housing developments with a raft of energy and water saving initiatives. In our work to decarbonise our existing housing stock, the retrofit of five blocks of flats at Severn Avenue has been completed. A [tenant video on energy saving benefits](#) has been produced in collaboration with TPAS.

- Net Zero in Operation schools Cowbridge Primary and Derw Newydd are now fully operational. St Nicholas Primary School is operational with minor snagging due to the contractor ISG going into administration.
- PV arrays continue to be rolled out across our estate as we decarbonise our energy usage. Arrays fitted in this period include 32kW at Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home, 30kW at St Joseph's Primary school (on the nursery roof) and 50kW at Penarth Leisure Centre. In addition, a draft report on the opportunities for renewable energy on Council owned sites was received from consultants. This report will help steer our next priority projects.
- We have successfully converted 96% of our street lighting stock to LED and continue to review our asset management database to identify and prioritise the remaining conventional lanterns for conversion.
- As we work to decarbonise our fleet, four electric taxis have been received from the Cardiff Capital Region. Two are being used by Greenlinks, and two are being used by Social Services. In addition, the Transformation Team has reviewed the Welsh Government Energy Service report on our fleet and are exploring ways to rationalise our vehicles. This should bring cost and carbon savings
- To support staff access to active travel and reduce staff travel emissions, the Cycle2Work scheme was launched in June 2024 for a 6-week period. There were 56 successful applications and plans to roll out the scheme across the full year in 2025.
- WiFi in schools has now been disabled overnight which will save almost 30,000 kWhs and around £6,000 per year.

2.4 Programme Management

- The [Project Zero Board](#) continues to steer the programme through bi-monthly meetings, with senior representation from across all directorates. A special meeting in October welcomed the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner to hear about the work of PZ, opportunities, and challenges. The Office is gathering insight from across public bodies to inform their new Office of the Future Generations Commissioner Report which is published every 5 years.
- During this period the Carbon Management Plan (CMP) was completed by the Property and Energy team with input from all directorates. The CMP was presented to Cabinet, who requested that it go to CPR Scrutiny Committee before going back to Cabinet to consider the recommendations.
- The Corporate Performance Indicators, including those for Project Zero, were reported to all scrutiny committees in July and to Cabinet in September. Those for Project Zero are at Appendix C for Members' information and consideration.
- The Project Zero Programme Manager continues to engage with other Local Authorities and Public Sector bodies to learn and share good practice. This includes the WLGA Climate Officers group, the PSB Asset Management and Climate

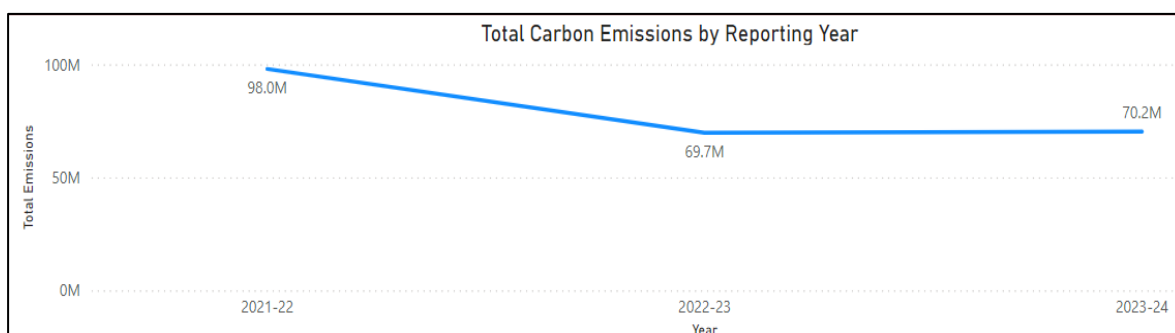
Emergency Group, and membership of the Shaping Places for Well-being programme being run by Public Health Wales and funded by the Health Foundation.

- The Project Zero Programme Manager and the communications team continue to meet regularly to roll out the dedicated communications plan. In this period new case studies have been added and the '[what's happening in our communities](#)' section of the PZ online Hub has been developed to spotlight the work of Vale community groups working in the climate and nature arena.
- The awarding of Project Zero reserves has been put on hold during the period due to in year pressure on the Council's budget. Despite this, schemes have continued to be scoped and will be considered when appropriate. At the same time, other sources of funding continue to support decarbonisation, as laid out in section 2.6.

2.5 Carbon reporting for 2023/24

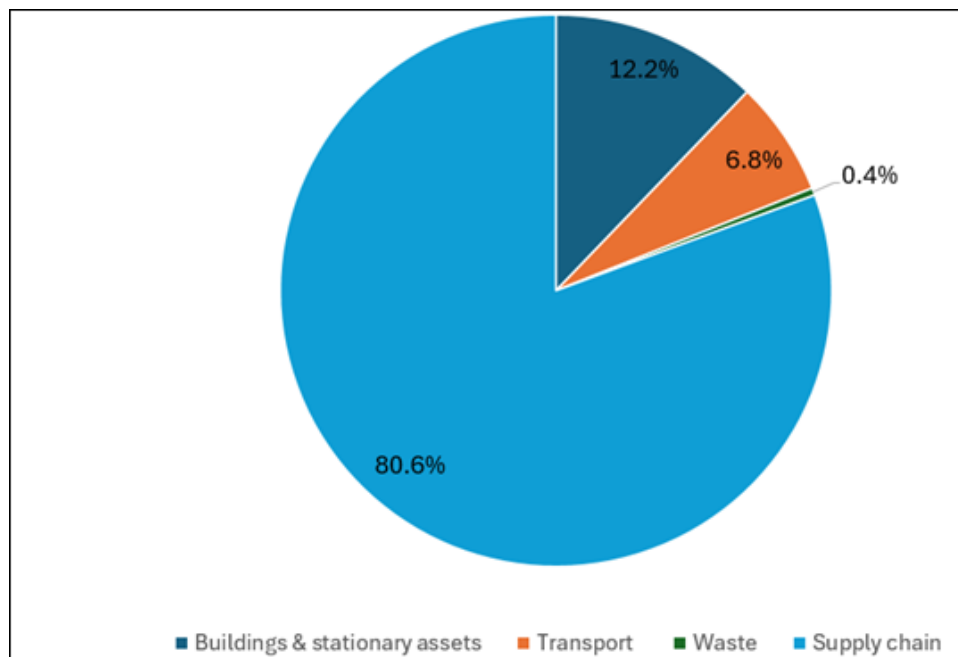
- During this period the Council's 2023/24 carbon emissions were reported to the Welsh Government. Using the WG template, methodology and [guide](#), the Energy and Decarbonisation team coordinated the submission with data provided by teams across the Council.
- The Council's carbon emissions for 2023/24 are 70,246,170 kgCO₂e, a rise of 1.4% against the previous year. See figure 1 for the change on overall emissions over time. The overall rise was primarily due to a rise in supply chain emissions.

Figure 1. Change in emissions over time, by reporting year



- As can be seen in figure 2, in 2023/24 the supply chain made up the greatest proportion of the Council's emissions at 80.6% of emissions, followed by buildings and stationary assets at 12.2%, transport at 6.8% and waste at 0.4%. Greater detail on the Council's carbon emissions, including what was reported in previous years, is available at the interactive [Vale of Glamorgan Council Carbon Data Dashboard](#).

Figure 2. Vale of Glamorgan Council 2023/24 carbon emissions: percentage, by activity



- In relation to our buildings and stationary assets, in 2023/24 gas usage and associated carbon emissions reduced by approximately 11% and electricity use within our buildings increased by 8%. This generated a 13% increase in the associated carbon emissions of our buildings and stationary assets, a trend which will continue as we replace gas fired heating with heat pumps. Heating and domestic hot water is increasingly being generated by electrical sources where replacement works are being undertaken to support our decarbonisation journey.
- In 2023/24 our PV renewable electricity generation capacity increased with array numbers increasing; this now provides approximately 5% of the council's total electricity consumption.
- We continue to roll out automatic meter reading of our water supplies enabling us to track usage, better identify and manage water leaks and out of hours usage. We have seen a positive impact through this work, and our water consumption in 2023/24 reduced by 5% resulting in a corresponding 15% carbon saving.
- Our street lighting electricity use has decreased over 2023/24 despite the network expanding. This is due to our continued swapping out to LED bulbs, and increased controls. Due to a change in emissions factor, there has been a rise in emissions despite the drop in electricity use.
- Our understanding of fleet and mobile equipment is continuing to develop. Our electric vehicle fleet increased in size and usage during 2023/24. Our diesel vans however had a 50% increase in diesel consumption reported. This has been

discussed at Project Zero Board and will be investigated further. Our HGV fleet, also on diesel, reported a 20% decrease in diesel which may be in part due to the change in waste collections to 3 weekly.

- Staff travel made up 3.7% of our total emissions and was higher than our fleet-based emissions. This data was based on our staff travel survey which asked staff about their home working and commuting patterns, plus data on business travel.
- Our municipal waste (from communities and businesses) continues to reduce, as does our organisational waste (from our own offices). This has been supported by the changes in Workplace Recycling legislation which has meant new separation of waste streams in the workplace. We are continuing to develop data collection for project waste as this was a gap in our 2023/24 reporting.
- The breakdown of our total emissions by scope is as follows: Scope 1 (direct emissions from operations that are owned or controlled by the reporting organisation) was 5,467,027 kgCO₂e – a slight drop from 2022/23. This reflects our work to reduce gas usage across the estate. Scope 2 (indirect emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity, steam, heating, or cooling generated by a third party and consumed by the reporting organisation) was 3,136,530 kgCO₂e, a small rise from 2022/23 which reflects our transition from gas to electricity, and from diesel and petrol vehicles towards grid electricity for our electric vehicles. Scope 3 emissions (all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting organisations, including both upstream and downstream emissions) were 61,642,613 kgCO₂e, a slight rise since 2022/23, which reflects our rise in supply chain emissions.
- Our supply chain emissions have also risen in absolute terms and are 56,639,807 kgCO₂e in 2023/24 compared to 54,667,719 kgCO₂e in 2022/23. The highest impact area was construction (over 23 million kgCO₂e) followed by human health and social work activities (over 11 million kgCO₂e).
- The Welsh Government will be working on a standardised tool for all Local Authorities to aid the visualisation of the 2023/24 Net Zero data after submission in September 2024.

2.6 Resources

- As a wide-ranging programme, the human resources to deliver Project Zero sit across multiple directorates and include activities delivered by partners such as Food Vale.
- Much of the work reflected in this report is resourced within existing capacity, supported by established internal budgets and annual capital funds (e.g. for street lighting conversion to LED). External annual funding pots also support work,

including from the Welsh Government, for example funding for the schools building programme, for transport, and for Council housing. In addition, time bound UK Government funding pots such as the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Welsh Government Assets Collaboration Programme Wales have enabled projects supported by Council staff such as installation of the air source heat pump at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in this period.

- The Project Zero Reserve has not been used during this reporting period due to pressures on the Council’s budget. However, a number of projects brought to the Project Board were signposted to alternative funding. As a result, SPF has funded a school walking bus pilot in Barry and the purchase of growing equipment for Makerspace in partnership with Urban-Vertical CIC to set-up tabletop microgreens farms in libraries and run creative arts workshops themed around local sustainable food production. In addition, the Vale Local Nature Partnership funded the restoration of the pond at St Joseph’s Primary School as part of their Welsh Government Local Places for Nature Programme. Work to develop bids has continued throughout the period and will be reviewed in 2025 as the Council’s budget develops.
- The Council’s financial reserves available to support the delivery of the Project Zero goals are shown below in Table 1. The final outturn position was reported to Cabinet in July 2024. In addition to reserves, there are grants, funds and other budgets from within directorates that are used to undertake work that supports our goal to become net zero by 2030.

Table 1: Reserves available to support Project Zero goals, 2024/25

Reserve	Balance 31st March 2024	Commitment, movement and transfers in 2024/25	Projected Balance 31st March 2025
	£000	£000	£000
Project Zero	800	(98)	701
Ash die Back	127	(127)	0
Energy Management Fund	440	(48)	392
Energy Pressures	1,485	(1,149)	336
Social Services Vehicles and Licences reserve	341	(98)	243
Total	3,193	(1,520)	1,673

- A variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across several assets within the council’s portfolio. A delivery programme which complements the Welsh Government zero carbon by 2030 target and the council’s own Climate Change Challenge Plan has been prepared which will lever in as much funding as possible from various external sources including Salix funding. £669k has been included in the 2024/25 Capital Programme, £312k for 2025/26 and £250k for 2027/28 to 2028/29. Schemes have been presented to and approved by the Project Zero Board with some of the schemes completed in the first six months of 24/25 highlighted below:
 - Penarth Learning Community PV Panels and LED Lighting on the sports pitches
 - Llangan Primary PV
 - Ty Dewi Residential Home PV
 - St Joseph’s PV Panels
- Schemes identified to be delivered in the future year’s Capital Programme include the installation of air source heat pumps at Ysgol Y Ddraig and Oakfield Primary.
- As reported in the previous report, using Assets Collaboration Programme Wales (ACPW3) funding, decarbonisation works took place in three community centres: CF61 in Llantwit Major, Rhoose Community Centre and St Frances Millennium Centre in Barry in 2023/24. Building on this work, a grant has recently been awarded to deliver further decarbonisation works at four other Community Centres in 2024/25. Community Centres are currently being assessed for suitability.
- The Council has £2.102m of Active Travel Funding from the Welsh Government to increase levels of active travel, improve health and well-being, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, connect communities and improve active travel access to employment, education and key services, destinations and public transport. One scheme delivered in this financial year has been the green roof shelter at Romilly Primary School – see figure 3.

Figure 3. Romilly Primary – Green Roof Shelter



- External funding from UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has helped provide grants to community groups and businesses to undertake decarbonisation measures. Some of these include funding towards the purchase of an ecofriendly ice cream van and solar arrays for the Alexandra Gardens Community Association.
- Section 106 money has also been used to undertake a number of schemes including biodiversity improvements at Celtic Way Park (new tree, wildflower and bulb planting were undertaken in Q1 and Q2), with support from Replant Rhose, using S106 community facilities contributions from new development in Rhose. A public art led biodiversity scheme has also been implemented on a new development in Llantwit Major. The [‘Bee Hapus’ garden](#) includes a community designed rubbing stone and plants / bug hotels to attract different types of bees and other insects. The garden was officially opened in the summer.
- Section 106 funding has also been used to support active travel and public transport: a toucan crossing was completed in July on Ffordd Y Mileniwm providing a safe crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists between the new Barry Docks transport interchange and East Quay. In addition, pedestrian improvements have been carried out in Barry, Sully and Cowbridge. Over the summer school holidays, a free bus travel scheme was offered on the 303 bus service to encourage more people to travel sustainably. Replacement bus shelters have been installed near Cosmeston Lakes Country Park and in Sully. Section 106 sustainable transport contributions continue to be used towards the Greenlinks service that operates throughout the Vale.
- The Vehicle Replacement Programme scheme is currently on the 2024/25 Capital Programme with a budget of £2.299m. A grant has been secured from the Welsh Government Energy Service for £23k to fund the difference in cost between diesel and electric for 7 new vans.
- As reported previously, investment in housing stock decarbonisation was outlined in the Housing Business Plan that was reported to Cabinet in January 2024. This will enable the Council to continue to improve the energy efficiency of its existing housing stock to meet the requirements of Welsh Government legislation in relation to decarbonisation and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).

2.7 The Public Services Board

- The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) co-chair the Public Services Board (PSB) Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group which meets quarterly and reports to the PSB.

- The [PSB Annual Report 2023/24](#) has been published, along with an [executive summary](#), highlighting progress in all areas including the Climate and Nature Emergency and the Healthy Travel Charter.
- The group has co-developed a Nature and Climate Charter to strengthen the previous Climate Emergency Charter, highlighting the role of nature and laying out how partners will demonstrate progress.
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) presented to the group on the Climate Change Risk Assessment Framework for Public Services Boards and the steps involved in taking this forward. Discussions are ongoing with regards to the framework.
- The group held a nature focused meeting which raised awareness of the Nature Recovery Action Plan developed by the Vale Local Nature Partnership, including the resources that could be used by partners to support use, management, and enhancement of their green spaces. No Mow May case studies were presented, with opportunities for partner organisations to strengthen their approach next year.
- A meeting on the Circular Economy took place in December and a schedule of meeting themes for 2025 has been agreed by the group.
- A number of members of the PSB are taking part in the Shaping Places for Well-being programme being run by Public Health Wales and funded by the Health Foundation. The programme will provide a national resource to support PSBs in taking a theory and evidence-informed systems approach in their work, in order to influence the wider determinants of health within the context of their well-being plans. The learning will be shared between PSBs, and across the UK. Learning Groups are focusing on three themes, which have commonality across the PSB Well-being Plans: Climate and nature emergency, Poverty and inequalities and Neighbourhood well-being.

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 are embedded

throughout Project Zero as we work 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 is fundamental to us making a difference through our activities and we are 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.

4.2 This report includes details of progress spanning across the 18 challenges and 80 steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan at Appendix A. This includes progress towards our 2030 net zero goal through decarbonising our estate including schools, our fleet, waste and supply chain. Our wider work supporting county-wide decarbonisation by 2050 and tackling the nature emergency is also reflected in Appendix A including raising awareness of the climate and nature emergency within our community, our work in green spaces across the Vale, strengthening active travel routes across the Vale, and ensuring our new and existing council homes meet high standards in energy and water efficiency.

5 Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

The details of the Council's reserves to support the delivery of Project Zero are set out in the body of this report.

Employment

5.1 There are no specific employment implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

5.2 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.

5.3 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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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 \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Cabinet Report (Reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny 18th January) Minute - 2nd February 2023 Project Zero Update report

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 21st June 2023 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17th January 2024 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17th January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](#)


Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 16th January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 19th June 2024 [Minutes](#) and [Project Zero Update Report](#)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 18th June 2024 [Minutes](#) and [Project Zero Update Report](#)

Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress. April 2024 to September 2024

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, Integration, 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

Challenge	Responsible
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.	Tom Bowring
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.	Tom Bowring
3. Develop our evidence base and insight to understand more fully the potential impact and 'costs' of activities	Tom Bowring
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.	Rob Thomas

Challenge	Responsible
5. Protect and enhance green and blue space , biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment.	Marcus Goldsworthy
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.	Marcus Goldsworthy
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.	Colin Smith
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.	Marcus Goldsworthy
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.	Tom Bowring
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 .	Colin Smith
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 .	Colin Smith
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	Lorna Cross

Challenge	Responsible
13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions	Matt Bowmer
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.	Mike Ingram
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.	Trevor Baker
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 .	Lorna Cross
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.	Colin Smith
18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services reducing the need for travel and office space.	Nicki Johns



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				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC 1.1. Build momentum around the Climate Change Community Conversation as an ambitious campaign for change.	<p>Consultation on the draft Corporate Plan includes consultation on the draft Objective to 'Respect and Celebrate the Environment'. Views and comments will be important in shaping future work.</p> <p>We have supported the 50+ Forum to set up a programme of climate related events and worked with the Vale Youth Council to share progress since the October 2023 Youth Climate Conversation.</p> <p>We have re-launched the Project Zero Hub with new case studies and shared externally and internally to raise awareness. By end September the hub had 1,600 views, a great improvement on the previous webpages. The 'What are we doing – food' page has been the most popular within the hub.</p> <p>The Council's Food and Farming Officer joined the panel at the Food Vale evening event as part of the 2024/25 Vale Food Festival.</p>		On track	<p>Continue supporting the 50+ Forum on climate issues. Work with the Youth Council on communications for 'one year on'.</p> <p>Update PZ Hub case studies.</p> <p>Engagement with Vale environmental groups and their communities to better understand local concerns and ideas: support at Penarth and Ogmere events planned.</p> <p>Support Atlantic College student environmental project.</p>
PZC 1.2. Involve Stakeholder groups and develop a green ambassadors' group to shape our plans and encourage behaviour change.	<p>See Appendix D for the results of the Let's Talk survey which took place in previous time period. These views have been taken into account during the development of the new Corporate Plan 2025-30.</p> <p>See PZC 1.1 for community updates. See PZC 3.2 for update on learning Cafe.</p>		On track	<p>See PZC1.1 for community. See PZC 3.2 for update on learning Cafe.</p>

PZC 1.3. Promote volunteering opportunities and community projects	We completed the mapping of community groups working in the climate and nature arena and invited them to share information. We now have 8 community-based projects signposted on our 'What's happening in our communities' page. See PZC5.2 for volunteering on green space projects.		On track	Build content on the communities' project zero hub page and share on social media to raise awareness. See PZC5.2 for volunteering on green space projects.
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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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC2.1 Develop a co-ordinated programme of internal and external communications	Rolling campaign to raise awareness of Project Zero continues on social media and through press releases. The Project Zero Hub continues to be our 'go to' site for information. This period included a focus on promoting the commercial recycling service with 365 new customers taking up the service between the launch and September. The Top performing commercial promotional Facebook post reached 30k and had 217 link clicks. See PZC1.1 for update on Hub.	For the commercial waste campaign: Relying on broad targeting mechanisms for Facebook adverts e.g. via geographical location rather than business pages.	On track	Rolling comms programme including targeted communications for Wales Climate Week in November '24. See PZC1.1 for update on Hub.

<p>PZC2.2 Report on the progress being made and the impact of the changes we make</p>	<p>24/25 performance indicator data agreed.</p> <p>23/24 carbon data collected, reported to Welsh Government, and shared with Project Zero Board – see section 2.5 in the main body of the report for a breakdown of emissions, progress and impact.</p> <p>Regular progress reports on Project Zero.</p> <p>PSB Annual Report details work being undertaken by PSB partners.</p>	<p>There are a small number of gaps in our carbon data reporting e.g. we have no project waste data</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Share 23/24 performance indicator data (see Appendix C in this report).</p> <p>Share 23/24 carbon data with Scrutiny (see section 2.5 in this report) and roll out sessions with directorates to raise awareness and drive change. Identify and address gaps in carbon reporting data for 2024/25 reporting.</p>
<p>PZC2.3 Showcase community projects across the Vale.</p>	<p>See PZC1.3.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>See PZC1.3.</p>
<p>PZC2.4 Signpost people to information and services within their community</p>	<p>The 'What can I do' page within the PZ hub includes information on community schemes that residents can get involved in. E.g. the repair cafes in Barry and Penarth. When promoting this specific scheme on social media the post reached 6.5k.</p> <p>Our Home energy efficiency webpage includes signposts to schemes such as Eco4. 61 people have benefited from this scheme to date.</p>	<p>Reliance on information being passed on by other Council teams and community groups may mean that opportunities are missed.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continued updating of 'What I can do' PZ hub pages to raise awareness across the community.</p> <p>Review Cost of Living Pages to ensure the information is up to date and accessible.</p>

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

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC3.1 Bring in external expertise and research best practice in other organisations inc. with PSB partners to understand our impact.</p>	<p>We received the completed buildings Decarbonisation Feasibility Study from consultants and are using it to inform viability work, which will determine how we progress this intervention in the Replacement LDP.</p> <p>Consultants have started an Energy Hub Viability study looking at flood risk and site suitability.</p> <p>Cenex have supported the early stages of development of a Corporate EV strategy.</p>	<p>Potential limitations in consultants' reports</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>In Q3 we received a steer from Business Cabinet to proceed with the policy interventions that were underpinned by the work carried out by the consultants. These are now being prepared for inclusion within the Replacement LDP. A final stage of work is soon to be commenced (Dec 24) which will seek to iron out the practicalities of the proposed intervention for developers and planning officers when considering applications.</p> <p>Consultants to complete the Energy Hub Viability study in December 2024. Next steps for the project to be agreed following completion of the study and subject to cabinet approval.</p> <p>Completion of a corporate EV strategy.</p> <p>Consultants to undertake feasibility studies of opportunities to decarbonise community centres which will guide future decarbonisation action.</p>

<p>PZC3.2 Provide training for staff and Members.</p>	<p>Ongoing promotion of Project Zero iDev modules and external training available through Project Zero Teams channel</p> <p>Second climate change / carbon emission session delivered to elected members.</p> <p>Biodiversity training in development by the Local Nature Partnership.</p> <p>Numerous external training offers are shared on Project Zero Teams and taken up by officers.</p>	<p>Resourcing challenges to support development of further iDev modules.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Continue to promote the PZ strand of the learning cafe and development of the iDev module offer.</p> <p>Continued development of a bio-diversity online e-learn module and face to face training for officers involved in bio-diversity work across the organisation.</p> <p>WLGA Land Carbon training to be delivered free of charge - piloted with VoGC.</p> <p>Ongoing promotion of external training offers through the Project Zero Teams channel</p>
<p>PZC3.3 Calculate and understand the Council's carbon footprint and publish other key data detailing our performance and progress</p>	<p>See PZC 2.2 and section 2.5 in the report for a detailed breakdown of the Council's carbon footprint.</p> <p>Directorate-specific data is regularly published and shared at committee including quarterly returns to NRW which compares the Vale of Glamorgan's performance with the other Local Authorities in Wales.</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Active Travel Survey 2023/24 was submitted to Welsh Government.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>See PZC 2.2</p> <p>Review national data sets on county wide emissions to support wider decarbonisation by 2050.</p>
<p>PZC3.4 Set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment.</p>	<p>The Carbon Management Plan 2024-2030 (CMP) includes carbon reduction targets. It was presented to Business Cabinet and Cabinet during this period.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>The CMP returns to scrutiny. Once ratified by Cabinet, the Carbon Management Plan will be promoted to all staff.</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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC4.1 Work with Welsh Government and influence policy change and legislation	Six months on Youth Climate Conversation updates shared with the WG. Continue to take up opportunities to influence WG policy and legislation.		On track	Project Zero Board to meet with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner to share successes and challenges.
PZC4.2 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change across the region.	CCR energy have continued to work with the Council regarding the development of Aberthaw as a renewable energy and business hub and demolition of the former power station has begun. Work has continued on the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) and the plan has been adopted by the council. However, its full implementation will require further consideration/ support. See PZC6.8 for information on working with the CCR on a new clean growth hub in Barry. See PZC7.1 for information on working with CCR on EV charging infrastructure. See PZC8.3 for detail on CCR Green Skills development.		On track	Continued work with CCR energy over the development of the Aberthaw project. See PZC6.8 for information on working with the CCR on a new clean growth hub in Barry. See PZC7.1 for information on working with CCR on EV charging infrastructure. See PZC8.3 for detail on CCR Green Skills development.
PZC4.3 Work with PSB partners to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.	PSB partners have co-developed a refreshed Climate and Nature Emergency Charter with support from the Local Nature Partnership and Public Health Wales. Work undertaken by partners was reported in the PSB Annual Report .		On track	Launch of the Climate and Nature Emergency Charter. Meeting focus on the Circular Economy and agreeing meeting themes for 2025.

<p>PZC4.4 Work with business and industry, Town and Community Councils, Community groups and the Third Sector to make a difference locally</p>	<p>Work has continued on the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). Meetings with stakeholders including major employers has informed development. Buy in has been excellent and the LAEP has been approved.</p> <p>SPF applications from businesses for decarbonisation projects have exceeded expectations and these will complete in Q4.</p>	<p>Failure to recruit an officer to advise businesses and third sector. This has left gaps in relation to advice for third sector organisations, and for continuation of support for the LAEP.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Report to go to Project Zero Board with recommendations on the reallocation of funds previously set aside for the unsuccessful recruitment of a business and third sector decarbonisation role. This would ensure support to take the LAEP forward.</p> <p>Completion of business decarbonisation projects funded by SPF and reporting of impacts and outcomes.</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				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC5.1 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) including a survey of all trees in the Vale and an assessment of the current infrastructure</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) was presented to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for discussion on next steps for its adoption and completion of the action plan. A cost pressure was submitted for a post to progress this work, which was unsuccessful.</p>	<p>Lack of resource to operationalise the GIP</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>SLT to guide on next steps on operationalising the GIP.</p>

<p>PZC5.2 Implement the biodiversity forward plan and raise awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife</p>	<p>Progress on the Biodiversity Forward Plan has been delayed due to capacity and competing demands.</p> <p>Although there is slow progress on the Biodiversity Forward Plan, all other work is progressing well and on track:</p> <p>Local Partnership for Nature (LPfN) works includes the relaunch of the LNP grant scheme, pond planning application development, Swift Tower identification in Knap Gardens (awaiting Cadw approval before planning), local provenance wildflower seed sourcing and distribution, and 13 engagement events hosted. Site visits are underway with an ecological consultant and community groups at new green space management plan sites.</p> <p>Restore the Thaw Landscape Project: 190 water voles have been released into River Thaw, a new pond has been constructed, and one submitted for planning. Water quality tests have been carried out on River Thaw and 20 public engagement activities hosted.</p> <p>Great Glamorgan Way: Of the 48 remaining bird boxes in the Vale that are monitored, 27 had young birds successfully fledge the nest. The online toolkit had a positive response from primary schools and members of the public at the Vale Show. Planned clearances undertaken with Highways and swathes of Himalayan Balsam were removed in partnership with NRW across the Vale supported by volunteers. This has led to a clear improvement across the sites.</p> <p>Porthkerry Country has received support from the Woodland Investment Grant Scheme (TWIG) to help progress plans to improve biodiversity, woodland management, and access.</p>	<p>Capacity pressures on County Ecologist including RLDP assessments, biodiversity benefits guidance and assessing planning applications</p> <p>LPfN & Restore the Thaw: delays with planning applications</p> <p>Great Glamorgan Way: reliance on grant funded project to support clearance of lanes throughout the Vale. Year-on-year neglect creates a lengthier jobs. More enforcement needed on landowners.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Draft Biodiversity Forward Action Plan to be produced.</p> <p>LPfN: Submit planning applications for pond and swift tower, implement Green Space Management Plan targets and host new engagement activities. Explore alternative funding options for beyond March 2025.</p> <p>Restore the Thaw Landscape Project: Submit second planning application for new pond, construct second pond, plant 10,000 trees and host engagement activities</p> <p>Great Glamorgan Way: Over 2km of planned hedge laying to improve wildlife connectivity along quiet lanes, which will also improve the accessibility for users without the need to continually cut back the hedgerow.</p>
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<p>PZC5.3</p> <p>Replace lost trees and promote tree planting across the Vale including working with owners of large areas of land.</p>	<p>The Tree strategy was updated to reflect consultation feedback.</p>	<p>Capacity pressures</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Draft strategy submitted to Scrutiny committee in October for consideration.</p> <p>Working with Restore the Thaw project and Country parks to identify new opportunities for tree planting and hedgerow connectivity (see PZC5.2)</p>
<p>PZC5.4</p> <p>Improve existing and create more green and blue spaces through Council led schemes, s.106 funds and new transport schemes.</p>	<p>S106 report for 2023/24 completed and submitted outlining the full range of projects including the below.</p> <p>S106 has enabled a new outdoor gym in St. Athan, with an introduction session held on site as a community benefit.</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancements at Celtic Way Park in Rhoose are underway. New interpretation panels and entrance signs installed at Upper and Lower Gladstone Gardens. A new toucan crossing on Ffordd Y Mileniwm near East Quay was completed. A free bus travel scheme on the 303 service over the school holidays.</p> <p>Pedestrian improvements carried out in Sully, Barry and Cowbridge.</p> <p>Design work was undertaken on the Murchfield Courts scheme. Due to low interest the Council went out to tender twice, and a contractor has been appointed.</p>	<p>Capacity pressures</p> <p>Initial difficulty in appointing suitable contractors for works at Murchfield, Dinas Powys.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Complete new play area at Celtic Way Park, Rhoose and pedestrian improvement works in Sully and Cowbridge.</p> <p>Commence work on site at Murchfield, Dinas Powys.</p> <p>Install replacement bus shelter near the Old School in Sully.</p>
<p>PZC5.5</p> <p>Work with local communities to increase the number of allotments and community garden space.</p>	<p>see PZC9.5</p>	<p>see PZC9.5</p>	<p></p>	<p>see PZC9.5</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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC6.1 Produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.	No further progress to date due to limited resource and other ongoing flood action priorities.	Resource, funding and competing priorities	No progress	Consider Project Zero funding application subject to resource.
PZC6.2 Review/produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on tackling climate change.	No Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) currently under preparation due to other RLDP commitments regarding the Strategy and Deposit Plan. Background work to inform future Net Zero buildings SPG is underway via Spring Design. This will also inform policies in the Deposit Plan.	Resource, funding and competing priorities	Slower than expected progress	Consider Project Zero funding application subject to resource.
PZC6.3 Maximise opportunities to meet our communities need for housing, employment and services through, where possible, the sustainable redevelopment of brown-field land in appropriate locations, through the existing Local Development Plan and the plan review commencing in June 2021	2023/24 Annual Monitoring Report has been reported to Cabinet and Scrutiny and approved by both for submission to Welsh Government. RLDP Consultation Report was approved by Full Council, and this has enabled the Policy team to progress compiling the Deposit Plan. The proposed inclusion of planning policy relating to Net Zero buildings would require dwellings to comply with heightened energy/ heating standards. There is continued assessment of the viability/deliverability of key/strategic sites to ensure that they can deliver on affordable housing and infrastructure requirements.	Resource, funding and competing priorities	Slower than expected progress	Continue writing deposit plan, for political reporting in 2025.
PZC6.4 Work with developers to develop zero carbon buildings.	See PZC 6.5	See PZC 6.5		See PZC 6.5

<p>PZC6.5 Create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy.</p>	<p>The substantive feasibility work on whether or not a Net Zero buildings policy is possible has been completed and the Council now have all the information required to inform whether or not a policy should be taken forward.</p>	<p>The main risk was delay, but this was overcome.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Business Cabinet have considered the feasibility work underpinning the proposed Net Zero policy for new dwellings and resolved to support this approach through the RLDP. The final workstages of the project (practical implications) are to be completed and the policies for inclusion within the RLDP will be drafted.</p>
<p>PZC6.6 Require all new and significant developments to implement appropriate sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to appropriately manage surface water, water quantity and biodiversity.</p>	<p>This action represents business as usual. The team has recently expanded with an Apprentice role to assist with workload. Other posts are being considered to assist with inspections and enforcement arrangements associated with SAB (the SuDS approval body).</p>	<p>Limited resource to undertake enforcement activities subject to review of posts and funding.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing review of resources and service delivery to improve effectiveness</p>
<p>PZC6.7 Use S106 agreements to invest in environmental and sustainable transport measures.</p>	<p>Pedestrian improvement works carried out near Y Bont Faen school, Cowbridge. Toucan crossing on Ffordd Y Mileniwm completed. Replacement Cosmeston bus shelter completed. Free 303 bus service during summer school holidays publicised as planned.</p> <p>Pedestrian improvements near Sully primary school underway. New pedestrian crossing at Westgate, Cowbridge currently on hold pending the publication of the draft Placemaking Plan.</p>	<p>Time resources.</p> <p>Resistance from some members of the community in relation to some proposed sustainable transport schemes.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Progress with new pedestrian crossing in Cowbridge and bus stop enhancements in Sully. Complete pedestrian improvements near school in Sully. Continue to use some S106 sustainable transport funding to support Greenlinks service. Identify further environmental and sustainable transport S106 schemes in conjunction with relevant members, officers and stakeholders.</p>
<p>PZC6.8 Work with Cardiff City Region to explore opportunities to promote and develop clean growth hubs capitalising on Barry as a dock and maximising renewable energy potential.</p>	<p>Regular meetings are taking place with Associated British Ports (ABP) to maximise the benefits of the new clean growth hub in Barry. ABP and Hynamics, EDF Group subsidiary, have announced an ambitious partnership to evaluate developing low-carbon hydrogen production and distribution at the Port of Barry in order to help reduce local industries' CO2 emissions.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>An expression of interest window for the site completes in October 2024. Further meetings are scheduled between the Council and Hynamics in October</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: COLIN SMITH

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC7.1 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to improve public transport options for the region and implement taxi charging points as well as a future network of car park and bus charging points.</p>	<p>A further 22 EV Charger bays have been identified and agreed with CCR to be implemented this financial year on highways and in car park areas.</p>	<p>Objections from local residents and / or councillors.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Review EV Charger provision and draft an EV charging policy for highway usage.</p>
<p>PZC7.2 Work with developers to ensure new business, leisure and housing developments plan appropriately for transport needs and encourage behaviour change.</p>	<p>Work on Cardiff and Vale College's Rhoose and Barry Waterfront College Sites: reviewing the transport elements of planning applications. Improvements include improved bus stop facilities and a controlled crossing close to the site.</p>	<p>Limitations due to WG school funding model which could better integrate WG active travel funding streams to enable more off-site work to incentivise active travel.</p> <p>Provision of EV charging infrastructure on new developments requires a change to planning policy to achieve meaningful change and adoption.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Rhoose Point residential homes planning applications will be reviewed to ensure that bus routes are planned and that the potential of S106 funds to support local schemes for public /active travel improvements is maximised.</p> <p>Review arrangements and processes to achieve developer led improvements in modal shift with planning team.</p>
<p>PZC7.3 Increase active travel (walking and cycling) and improve the transport infrastructure in the Vale through the use of Welsh Government grants to improve access, safety and the joining up of the active travel network.</p>	<p>The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Active Travel Survey 2023/24 was submitted to Welsh Government highlighting activities and impacts over the period. More schools completed active travel plans, almost 900 pupils undertook National Standard Cycle Training, pupils in five primary schools completed Kerbcraft and over 600 students in 16 schools receiving child pedestrian training. New work on AT routes, pedestrian enhancements and new bus stops.</p>	<p>Land ownership issues: the land agent is instructing clients to seek Compulsory Purchase for Barry/Dinas and Waycock Cross/Airport AT routes.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Planning applications to be submitted for Barry/Dinas and Sully/Cosmeston AT routes: construction is funded in FY25/25.</p> <p>Consultation to take place on AT improvements along Coldbrook Road with a view to construct next financial year.</p> <p>Further pedestrian improvements planned for Sully Primary neighbouring streets, funded by (S106 funded).</p>

	<p>Detailed design of Active Travel (AT) routes in Sully/Cosmeston, Barry/Dinas and Waycock Cross/Airport are being progressed.</p> <p>Works outside Sully Primary School were completed over the summer (Welsh Government Safe Routes in Communities funded)</p> <p>Pedestrian improvements completed on the East of Barry scheme (Langlands Road and Dobbins Road). An options and feasibility study for cycle infrastructure on Coldbrook Road East has been completed ready for consultation.</p>			<p>SPF funding request submitted to construct pedestrian improvements in Barry leading to the town centre. If successful, these will be completed in Q4.</p>
<p>PZC7.4 Expand the Nextbike e-cycle hire scheme into other parts of the Vale following on from the implementation of the scheme in the Penarth area.</p>	<p>Options and Feasibility report completed by WSP Consultants on the potential for a future bike hire scheme. A need has been identified as part of a programme across a number of Local Authorities due to funding limitations.</p>	<p>Planning applications have to be submitted for Brompton Lockers not on LA land. This is time consuming with an additional cost.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Meeting with Newport and Cardiff to discuss their plans for implementation, to include funding suggestions.</p> <p>Install 4 Brompton docks in Penarth, Dinas Powys, Barry Dock and Barry train stations.</p>
<p>PZC7.5 Work with all schools to ensure they have green travel plans and adequate cycling facilities</p>	<p>20 schools have completed Active Travel School Plans, 16 with assistance from Sustrans/LA. These will help identify the support needed by schools to develop their AT, and some have identified infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Gwenfo CiW Primary and All Saint's CiW Primary had shelters installed. Y Bont Faen had a footpath constructed leading to their school.</p>	<p>Schools have priority pressures and struggle for time/resource to complete their AT plans</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Present to Headteacher Conference to explain importance and assistance available for schools to complete their Active Travel School Plan.</p>
<p>PZC7.6 Establish a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and support projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles.</p>	<p>See PZC7.1</p>	<p>See PZC7.1</p>		<p>See PZC7.1</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 GOLDSWORTHY

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC8.1 Develop and implement a sustainable and green Economic Growth Strategy. []</p>	<p>While we do not have an Economic Growth Strategy at present, a number of future projects being scoped will support green economic growth e.g. the Aberthaw site and the Green Growth hub being considered at Barry Docks.</p> <p>Placemaking is also identifying the importance of sustainable local places to the economy, including access to transport when accessing work and leisure.</p> <p>Also see PZC 8.3 for green skills growth.</p>	<p>Lack of an Economic Growth Strategy.</p> <p>Buy in to Placemaking is varied across towns and departments. It is vital that a broad spectrum of local stakeholders and residents are consulted as part of this process, and that takes time.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>2025 will see the development of county wide strategies such as a new Destination Management Plan. Consideration will be given to economic growth which will include green economic activities.</p> <p>Placemaking will continue to explore opportunities for diversifying high streets local service needs. Further community mapping will be taking place in Barry and Penarth, with a first draft of the Cowbridge plan being consulted on in November 2024.</p>
<p>PZC8.2 Support increased digital access and literacy in the community.</p>	<p>Courses and sessions have been delivered to increase individuals' digital skills alongside Adult Community Learning. The Pod is now a digital inclusive hub, offering online courses for individuals to develop skills. There are now also preloaded sim cards available for anyone experiencing data poverty.</p>	<p>Potential lack of engagement with the courses</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Digital skills sessions will continue, with a planned 'Get Online' event. There will also be a focus on supporting individuals with comparison websites to reduce monthly costs.</p>

<p>PZC8.3 Support employment opportunities linked to a green economy and work with the Cardiff Capital Region to explore green jobs growth potential in areas such as renewables.</p>	<p>The skills project led by the CCR continues to develop through a regional skills partnership of which VoGC is a member. There is a focus on green skills and future green jobs.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>The CCR are planning to commission a skills study for the Vale to be delivered by consultants Arup. This will look at key employment / future employment (see PZC 8), existing skills, gaps, and future skills needs.</p> <p>We will apply to the Quick Start Programme to support a post to work on Project Zero priorities.</p>
<p>PZC8.4 Work with businesses, colleges and universities to identify opportunities and promote new technology.</p>	<p>See PZC4.2 on CCR and the Council's work on Aberthaw on a renewable energy and business hub.</p> <p>See PZC4.4 on SPF support for business decarbonisation</p> <p>See PZC6.8 for information on working with the CCR on a new clean growth hub in Barry</p> <p>See PZC8.3 for detail on CCR Green Skills development</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>See PZC4.2 on CCR and the Council's work on Aberthaw on a renewable energy and business hub.</p> <p>See PZC4.4 on SPF support for business decarbonisation</p> <p>See PZC6.8 for information on working with the CCR on a new clean growth hub in Barry</p> <p>See PZC8.3 for detail on CCR Green Skills development</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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC9.1 Work through the PSB and Food Vale to implement the Move More Eat Well Plan and to promote buying local produce and shopping locally</p>	<p>The Llantwit Food Project was awarded the Ystadau Cymru Award. It reached 85 households, distributing 300kg of food weekly and investing £2,500 locally.</p> <p>The Vale Food Trail connected 500+ participants and 30+ businesses with local food sources.</p> <p>An approach to healthier advertising has been developed, referrals from professionals have increased in the Western Vale through the 'Nutrition For Your Little One' programme, and increased engagement in the golden pass scheme. 160 participants from the PSB partnership have worked to shape a revised MMEW Framework, called 'Good Food and Movement' which will be taken forward through the PSB.</p>	<p>There were difficulties in obtaining sufficient responses from the school survey distributed by MMEW, but the results can help illustrate some of the key activities and indicate the appetite for doing more on school premises</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The new Move More Eat Well framework is expected to be finalised and published setting the new regional framework on this agenda.</p>
<p>PZC9.2 Work within Food Vale to obtain Sustainable Food City status and promote businesses that have sustainable practices</p>	<p>Work continued to produce and consult on draft version of the Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan.</p> <p>In collaboration with UWC Atlantic and Natural Resources Wales, Food Vale hosted an event bringing together over 25 pupils from across the Vale aged between 16-19 to find solutions to how we can build a healthy and sustainable food system in the Vale. A further event engaged over 12 farmers and food producers from across the Vale on the Food Strategy, facilitated by the Food and Farming Officer based in the VOG Regeneration team.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Drawing on extensive consultation and work with the Food Vale Steering Group and wider partners, Food Vale will produce the first draft of the Vale Food Strategy.</p> <p>Further refinement of the Food Strategy draft actions and performance measures.</p>

<p>PZC9.3 The Big Fresh Catering Company which serves nearly 2 million meals a year will take steps to further reduce its impact on the environment</p>	<p>Big Fresh joined the Welsh Vegetables for schools project headed by Food Sense Wales and supported by Castell Howell, working with small growers/producers around South Wales. 10 Vale schools with the highest volume of meals are receiving locally grown organic, supporting suppliers & strengthening routes to market. The project has had media coverage on Radio Cymru and BBC Wales Today.</p>	<p>Food Sense Wales are subsidising the increased costs of veg from local producers for the pilot. The costs are not sustainable if / when the subsidy is removed.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Big Fresh have been invited to the Welsh Real Food and Farming conference to be part of a panel to talk about part in the project. More growers are keen to come on board in 2025.</p>
<p>PZC9.4 Review procurement arrangements to support less food miles and less packaging and waste.</p>	<p>See PZC9.3 and Welsh Vegetables for Schools project</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>See PZC9.3 and Welsh Vegetables for Schools project</p>
<p>PZC9.5 Work with community groups and through the Green Infrastructure Plan to encourage people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.</p>	<p>The Green Infrastructure Plan is awaiting confirmation on who will lead. There is currently no council-led work with community groups to encourage people to grow their own fruit and veg, but the following has happened: At New Beggarswell Allotments in Barry a WG allotment grant has enabled wildflower planting to support biodiversity.</p> <p>A school survey was undertaken by Food Vale to scope engagement with and interest in food growing opportunities.</p>	<p>Financial</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>At the Slaughterhouse Allotments in Barry, the community of allotment holders will be developing a shared space with wild flower planting and seating.</p> <p>Food Vale will work with the Food Growing in Schools working group and VOG comms to produce case studies to champion school food growing and signpost funding.</p> <p>Food Vale is commissioning a community food mapping project for the VoG.</p>
<p>PZC9.6 Promote and facilitate food waste recycling for residents, business and schools</p>	<p>Food waste services are offered as standard for residents and have been launched to businesses and schools. We are seeing a growth in uptake from businesses and schools.</p> <p>Recycling officers have attended a number of schools to promote recycling activities.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue to work with Schools to promote recycling and reuse.</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: COLIN SMITH

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC10.1 Adopt a new Waste Management Strategy with a strong emphasis on working with the community.	<p>Recycling officers are working directly with residents through our housing and housing associations.</p> <p>We have given recycling presentations to a number of schools. As a result, we have seen an increase in the number of schools requesting information and a growth in the number using our waste services.</p>		On track	<p>Continue to work with Housing and Housing associations to promote reuse and recycling to limit the amount of residual waste.</p> <p>Continue roll out of education work with Schools in the Vale.</p>
PZC10.2 Develop campaigns to change behaviour e.g. to reduce single use plastics and packaging and to increase reuse, recycling and composting.	<p>In 2023/24 we achieved a recycling rate of 70% - above the Welsh average of 67%. In addition, our total waste per person is 390kg (of which 116kg is not recycled), below the Welsh average of 445kg (of which 149kg is not recycled).</p> <p>Communications have been sent to encourage increased recycling and reduce black bag waste: we are seeing a positive impact as black bag waste is reducing and recycling increasing.</p>		On track	Plans to roll out a weekly soft plastic collection trial – residents will receive communications in advance.
PZC10.3 Promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste.	See PZC10.4	See PZC10.4		See PZC10.4
PZC10.4 Establish a Reuse Shop to take in products, repair as necessary and sell them on	<p>In the 12 months since opening, the Enfys reuse shop at Atlantic Trading Centre in Barry has been extremely successful, with almost 20,000 items sold and 85 tonnes of items reused.</p> <p>Our first Reuse pop up shop took place at the National Play Day at Gladstone Gardens and was a success.</p>		On track	Explore other pop-up locations working with the Project Zero team to enable the wider community to access the reuse shop.

<p>PZC10.5 Roll out of recycling arrangements across the Vale and work with schools and business to reduce waste and improve recycling rates</p>	<p>Supported by DEFRA and WRAP we analysed the results of our purple bag scheme. This showed that some residents were using the bags incorrectly, and our recycling officers then provided additional education. Future bag analysis will help us measure the change.</p> <p>Businesses can now sign up online for our commercial waste services. Recycling officers have visited local businesses to promote the service, and we have seen an increase in businesses using our services.</p> <p>See PZC15.6 for work with schools</p>	<p>Lack of capacity and space to rerun the purple bag audit.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>see PZC10.1 See PZC15.6 for work with schools</p> <p>Ongoing work to bring more schools and larger businesses across to our waste services. This will enable better engagement with these organisations including on waste reduction.</p>
<p>PZC10.6 Build a new Resource Recovery Centre in the Western Vale.</p>	<p>Continued work with colleagues to secure the required land. Remedial works to the access road have been completed</p>	<p>Financial constraints and finding suitable land.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Continue working with the property section to locate the required land.</p>
<p>PZC10.7 Commit to avoiding the export of any residual waste or recycling materials from the UK</p>	<p>We have been working with WRAP to extend our current material contracts. Source segregated recycling remains in the UK.</p>	<p>Risk of recycling markets failing</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>We are currently undertaking a procurement exercise for an offtaker for the soft plastic pilot to start in Q4.</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: COLIN SMITH

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC11.1 Implement a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan.	No progress in last quarter.	Resource and competing priorities within the service area	No progress	Take forward internal consultation to develop LFRMS aims objectives and measures prior to public consultation.
PZC11.2 Ensure Sustainable Urban Drainage measures Systems (SuDS) are delivered.	See PZC6.6	See PZC6.6		See PZC6.6
PZC11.3 Promote water efficiency measures in our work and buildings.	We now have loggers installed at 182 sites across all directorates. A weekly report is being run to identify sites where there are issues. A number of significant leaks have been fixed including at Gladstone Primary School (with Welsh Water input), at Ty Jenner, and at the Travellers site at Llangan. Tis has saved water and associated costs.	Challenges identifying the responsible person for site maintenance and getting sites to action identified issues in a timely way. Welsh Water can be slow to complete meter changes.	Slower than expected progress	Complete logger installations. Continue to monitor consumption and provide information to sites on their water use.
PZC11.4 Encourage the re-use of rainwater where possible.	No progress in last quarter other than discussions at high level.	Resource and competing priorities within the service area.	No progress	Discuss inclusion of rainwater reuse within RLDP, complimentary to a future SuDs Supplementary Planning Guidance.

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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC12.1 Develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan and contribute to the work of the Cardiff Capital Region.	The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) is now complete and was adopted at Cabinet formally in July. Next steps on how the LAEP is to be taken forward are being investigated from both a local and regional level. See PZC4.2 for all CCR related activity.		On track	if no further stakeholder input is required, the LAEP report should be finalised at this point. See PZC4.2 for all CCR related activity.
PZC12.2 Work with developers and businesses to move away from fossil fuels and explore opportunities for investment in alternative energy supplies.	See PZC4.4 for work with the LAEP and businesses. See PZC6.5 for work with developers.	See PZC4.4 and PZC6.5	Slower than expected progress	See PZC4.4 for work with the LAEP and businesses. See PZC6.5 for work with developers.
PZC12.3 Support community renewable energy projects and develop district heating networks.	No work planned in this area		No planned action	Dependent on resourcing identified to take the LAEP forward - see PZC4.4

<p>PZC12.4 Provide information about being more energy efficient in the home including raising awareness about grants and schemes for homeowners and tenants.</p>	<p>The SRS work on Minimum Energy Efficiency in the private rented sector continues through engagement with landlords and letting agents with further F and G rated properties being brought into compliance by achieving ratings of E or better. Progress has been made in establishing the status of unrated properties and addressing these as appropriate. Infrastructure is being put in place to take enforcement action under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.</p> <p>In supporting low-income households, we continue to raise awareness of the support available and have submitted 61 Eco-flex applications to date enabling residents to access energy efficiency measures. Regular meetings with E.ON and 3 other regional Councils to track progress and discuss issues with eco-flex support.</p> <p>See PZC2.4 for the information that the VoGC shares on home energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Limited resource.</p> <p>Unable to access data from benefits. This data would assist to target assistance to low-income households.</p> <p>Slow pace of installations- E.ON has been asked to look at this.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>SRS will be serving formal compliance notices to landlords and letting agents who have failed to respond / make the necessary improvements under the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 following correspondence and advice.</p> <p>ECO4 is being progressed with additional support from part of a temporary role within the regeneration housing team. Interest free loans continue to be available. Ongoing capacity to be reviewed.</p> <p>See PZC2.4 for the information that the VoGC shares on home energy efficiency.</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				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC13.1 Revise the procurement policy and strategy and train staff on more sustainable procurement to reduce consumption and encourage a circular economy.	<p>The Corporate Resources Task and Finish work is drawing to a close. The group has had a number of sessions and have been meeting with procurement experts from both within and outside our partnership on the key themes of circular economy and carbon reduction.</p> <p>Workshops focusing on the circular economy and carbon reduction have been organised through Ardal with WRAP with representatives from all four councils participating. These will cover the themes of Food, Social Care and Highways expenditure/ activity.</p>	Updated Procurement Policy & Strategy to be approved by Cabinet in January.	Slower than expected progress	<p>The Procurement Policy & Strategy will be revised to provide additional focus and direction on the circular economy, plus other enhancements. It will align more closely with that of our partners and enable a more consistent approach by the category managers.</p> <p>WRAP workshops on the circular economy within food, social care and highways procurement to take place with the aim of building the skills of officers who undertake procurement.</p> <p>Work with Ardal to deliver Carbon Reduction training for procurers and commissioners, using PZ Board session as basis</p>
PZC13.2 Explore social and environmental clauses in contracts which place an increased focus on local supply chains and business, with a commitment to supporting the foundation economy.	A Social Value workshop took place with the Council's Insight Board, followed by one-to-one sessions on a service basis. This has had two key benefits - firstly, there is a better understand of social value and its contribution over and above the core contract deliverables and secondly, the adoption of a streamlined framework to operate from. Procurement Quick Guides have been launched covering the four routes to market dependent on monetary value of the tender. Communications were circulated to raise awareness and reminding colleagues of other procurement/contract requirements.	Limited capacity for officers to build on learning and make the relevant changes to their tender processes following training.	Slower than expected progress	<p>Review of implementation of Social Value requirements to be undertaken to ensure full adoption of agreed approach.</p> <p>Work with the Category Managers to exercise social value requirements in all above threshold tenders.</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				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
PZC14.1 Deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A-rated new Council homes.	<p>Completed new energy efficient Council housing schemes at Hayeswood Rd x 53 units and at Heol Croeso x 90 units. Both schemes achieved EPCA and SAP scores between 92 and 99 depending on unit type. The schemes benefited from energy efficient hot water cylinders, air source hot water cylinders, high heat retention storage heaters, infrared heating panels, and MVHR (mechanical heat and ventilation heat recovery). All also had solar arrays. Both schemes were SAB compliant having above ground water features including swales and detention basins. Domestic water waste reduction features include low flow taps and shallow baths.</p> <p>Maes Y Ffynnod scheme in Bonvilston has been delayed until April 2025, due to the presence of Great Crested Newts detected on site.</p>	Delays for ecological reasons	Slower than expected progress	<p>Preparation for the Maes Y Ffynnod scheme in Bonvilston.</p> <p>The 'Delivering Net Zero Pattern Book': to be completed and launched at an event in January 2025.</p> <p>Complete Cardiff & Vale Housing Partnership tender evaluation. Preferred bidder will be announced in December 2024.</p>
PZC14.2 Improve the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock and utilise Optimised Retrofit Programmes	<p>Last Airey's property and Severn Avenue retrofit scheme completed. Awaiting grid upgrade so that tenants can receive payment for excess energy going back into the grid. A tenant video on energy saving benefits has been produced in collaboration with TPAS.</p> <p>Tender evaluation for delivery of PAS2035 28 x properties whole house approach pilot scheme delayed due to queries arising. Reports are being produced to award the contract to the most advantageous tender bid.</p> <p>Work has been slow to undertake the retrofit assessments to develop the next scheme to retrofit 300 more council house properties.</p> <p>Ongoing programme of retrofit assessments was delayed due to the change in retrofit assessment criteria which now also requires an air tightness test to be undertaken.</p> <p>Exploration of software package to assist in the development of the housing stockroute map to carbon zero.</p>	<p>Lack of grid capacity to maximise benefits of PV energy overproduction.</p> <p>Limited numbers of Retrofit Assessors & extra time for new air tightness testing.</p> <p>Resources to manage differing priorities</p>	Slower than expected progress	<p>Gather further feedback from tenants on how the Airey's and Severn Avenue projects are performing.</p> <p>Complete PAS 2035 works to four properties in St Georges to improve energy efficiency and install zero carbon technology. Monitor results</p> <p>Start delivery of the PAS 2035 Pilot Scheme</p> <p>Complete the tender package for the next PAS 2035 retrofit scheme for the next 300 housing stock properties. Start modelling routemap to carbon zero for the 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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '24 – September '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions Oct '24 – March '25
<p>PZC15.1 Invest in carbon reduction measures across the educational estate.</p>	<p>Net Zero in Operation schools Cowbridge Primary and Derw Newydd are fully operational. St Nicholas Primary Schools is operational with minor snagging to the PV system due to ISG going into administration. Cowbridge incurred minor issues that were rectified.</p> <p>Carbon reduction measures include a fabric first approach meaning that schools are built to high insulation standards reducing the need for heating while also providing ventilation options to reduce the need for cooling. New schools have air source heat pumps, and PV arrays are connected to onsite battery storage reducing the reliance on mains electricity. Fridges and freezers are emptied and turned off over the summer break, further reducing energy use.</p>	<p>ISG have gone into Administration, and a new monitoring process is needed to ensure the three school buildings are functioning as designed.</p> <p>Connectivity to Building Management System from Civic Offices has been slow/difficult which is limiting availability of data being received.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Address connectivity to BMS for monitoring both internally and externally.</p> <p>Appoint external consultant to monitor building functionality.</p>
<p>PZC15.2 Design new schools to meet BREEAM Excellent standard, delivering energy efficient buildings, enhancing habitats for wildlife, and reducing the carbon cost of construction.</p>	<p>Ysgol Llyn Derw (formerly known Ysgol y Deri Expansion) contract was progressing well until ISG went into Administration in September putting the project on hold.</p> <p>St Richard Gwyn tender has been awarded to Morgan Sindall, currently in the process of formalising the contract.</p>	<p>Ysgol Llyn Derw: ISG going into administration causes delays and may increase costs. This will not impact the requirement for a BREEAM Excellent building and enhanced biodiversity on the site.</p> <p>St Richard Gwyn: possible cost increases. Implications of the green roof with the PV panels - we may not be able to include as many panels as required or the export cap from the utility provider limits possible revenue gains for the school..</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Ysgol Llyn Derw - secure new contractor and revise programme to delivery.</p> <p>St Richard Gwyn - Firm cost plan to ensure all suitable elements are affordable.</p> <p>Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg - submit tender documents and ensure received tenders align to VoGC principals for sustainability of our buildings.</p>

<p>PZC15.3 Monitor and control carbon footprint at the construction stage and investigate options to address embodied carbon through natural materials and modern methods of construction.</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p></p>	<p>as above</p>
<p>PZC15.4 Adopt a fabric first approach to achieve high thermal performance and install photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pumps.</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p></p>	<p>as above</p>
<p>PZC15.5 Improve school grounds biodiversity as a means of decarbonisation and map natural carbon sinks.</p>	<p>2 of the 3 wormeries are thriving and taking food waste from the canteens. Big Fresh has funded an additional wormery at Whitmore High School that is installed and in use.</p> <p>Surveys at the Old Hockey Pitch opposite St Curig are complete and the site qualifies as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and it is pending official designation.</p> <p>Ten ponds and planters have been delivered to primary schools with little to no green space.</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership funding opportunities for nature enhancement resources have been shared with schools.</p>	<p>A wormery was not successful due to staff cuts</p> <p>Lack of capacity to monitor the resources provided to schools</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Big Fresh to fund a second Wormery.</p> <p>Monitoring of new ponds and planters in schools</p>

<p>PZC15.6 Focus on methods to further reduce in-use consumption; e.g. reducing catering, monitoring community usage.</p>	<p>Three new school were selected to take part in the second cohort of Energy Sparks schools: Stanwell have signed up and are pending their audit. Wick and Marcross have declined the opportunity. We are working with the energy team to offer the invite out to a new third school.</p> <p>An Education Eco-directory has been drafted and sent to three schools for feedback. This is currently being collated and reviewed and includes a calendar of events.</p>	<p>Delay in getting the Eco-directory finalised and lack of engagement with schools reviewing it.</p> <p>Low engagement in Energy Sparks take up.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Present Eco Directory at Head Teachers to raise awareness and engagement.</p> <p>Arrange workshops with Eco leads and eco council pupils to raise awareness of the support available from the Council.</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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC16.1 Review the Asset Management Strategy. (corporate man plan)</p>	<p>The Corporate Asset Management Plan yearly update was presented to Cabinet in July with the action tracker. The rationalisation of our office accommodation estate will have an overall positive impact on our carbon emissions and assist with the decarbonisation of our estate.</p>	<p>Resources to progress each action across the organisation.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Annual update to Cabinet</p>
<p>PZC16.2 Progress the Space Project to modernise and rationalise Council buildings including the creation of more green areas</p>	<p>The latest phase of Eich Lle project has been completed with Learning and Skills, and a team of staff from Ysgol Y Deri has been relocated and moved into their new locations within Civic Office.</p>	<p>Funding.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>LUF funding now confirmed, The Eich Lle project team are now working on the next phase of the project to move the Place and Social Services Directorates from the Docks office with the intention to find a partner to run the Docks office as a flexible workspace Hub. Work continues to plan for the next stage of the project.</p>

<p>PZC16.3</p> <p>Invest in and implement a programme of energy saving projects to reduce energy use across our buildings as part of the carbon management plan.</p>	<p>PV arrays have been installed: 32kW at Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home, 30kW at St Joseph's RC Primary school (on the nursery roof) and 50kW at Penarth Leisure Centre. Benefits will be seen in our 2024/25 Carbon reporting.</p> <p>The energy and waste departments are investigating the possibility of installing a PV array on the Resource Recovery Facility at Atlantic Trading Estate to work in tandem with the proposed new fleet parking and to reduce the amount of electric use from the grid for the running the plant.</p>	<p>Funding and suitability of energy saving interventions at specific sites (e.g. not all roof structures are suitable for PV arrays).</p> <p>Short timeframes for works, e.g. school holidays.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Further PV arrays projects will be delivered, and LED projects continue to be assessed.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Morgannwg primary school air source heat pump to become fully operational. Secure further grant via Ystadau Cymru ACPW3 funding for decarbonisation works to 3 or 4 additional community centres.</p> <p>Review the report undertaken by consultants on the feasibility of PV arrays, and explore further funding opportunities.</p>
<p>PZC16.4</p> <p>Maximise the potential of Council owned land and assets in the production of renewable energy and exploring ways in which this could benefit the local community</p>	<p>Draft report on the opportunities for renewable energy on Council owned sites received from consultants. Project Management Unit (PMU) is currently reviewing and will report on next steps during the next quarter.</p>	<p>Business Case will be required which needs to support progressing with the project.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>PMU to report outcome of the consultancy report to PZ Board before deciding how to progress.</p>
<p>PZC16.5</p> <p>Encourage leaseholders to be more sustainable in how they use property leased from the Council.</p>	<p>Continues as business as usual.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continues as business as usual.</p>
<p>PZC16.6</p> <p>Implement plans to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.</p>	<p>Overall, we have successfully converted 96% of our street lighting stock to LED and have seen a reduction in our lighting-related carbon emissions in 2023/24 reporting.</p> <p>De-illuminating bollards and road signs is ongoing – in this period we removed over 15 conventional lanterns on road signs.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Use remaining Capital budget to progress with converting lighting stock to LED.</p> <p>Purchase LEDs to replace conventional bulbs in zebra crossings across the Vale, to use in St Richard Gwyn subway, and in the Gibbets Hill section of Cowbridge bypass.</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: COLIN SMITH

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
PZC17.1 Develop an electric /alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.	<p>Plan a workshop led by consultants Cenex to support the development of an EV strategy.</p> <p>An application has been submitted to Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) for the replacement of seven small vans to EV-vans. 4 x electric taxis received from CCR: 2 for the Greenlinks fleet and 2 for Social Services. Delivery of two recycling vehicles delayed until December 2024.</p> <p>Support from Business Innovation to look at the WGES report and rationalisation of vehicles.</p>	<p>The delay of delivery of the EV -Recycling Vehicles governed by the Supplier.</p> <p>Reliance on WGES grants.</p> <p>Delay in reviewing the rationalisation of vehicles, however with the Business support this is now currently being reviewed.</p>	Slower than expected progress	<p>Cenex will hold a workshop for Council stakeholders to begin the process of development of an EV strategy.</p> <p>Delivery and roll out of the recycling vehicles. Await outcome of the grant application for EV vans. If successful, purchase and roll out.</p> <p>Rationalisation of vehicles will be looked at on a departmental basis.</p>
PZC17.2 Promote and incentivise more sustainable staff travel including corporate membership for Nextbike, pool bikes, local bus services and Tfw rail service with reduced charges for staff, non-car parking days for staff and a cycle to work scheme.	<p>Our staff travel survey had over 1000 responses: 78% of staff say they used their car to travel to work at least once a week, over 10% walking to work at least once a week, and around 5% each for cycling, taking the bus and the train. Around half responded that they work from home at least once a week.</p> <p>Cycle2Work scheme launched in June 2024 for 6 weeks and had 56 successful applications.</p> <p>Information from Transport for Wales for 'My Travel Pass' (Young Persons Travel Card) were shared with those aged 16+ with their school/college bus passes.</p>		On track	<p>Opening of the Cycle2Work scheme throughout the year.</p> <p>Posters on Traveline Cymru to be put up in bus stops throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.</p>
PZC17.3 Develop hub facilities for staff to work from to reduce the need to travel.	<p>The Eich Lle project ensures that the council has collaborated with public sector bodies to share our spaces, and this is working in practice. As such, this action is complete.</p>		Completed	Action complete

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

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC18.1 Utilise new technologies and digital practices to reduce electricity usage and reduce carbon emissions</p>	<p>Phase 2 of Housing Project NEC is due for July 2025. Interim solutions to reduce the amount of travel for colleagues are being explored.</p> <p>Teams Telephony has been successfully implemented, further improving our Modern Workplace offering. By decommissioning the servers, we have reduced our emissions, and 95% of our calls now go through Teams negating the need for new hardware.</p> <p>WiFi in schools is now disabled overnight, reducing energy consumption. By shutting these off for 8 hours a day we will save almost 30,000 kW and around £6,000 per year.</p>	<p>Housing Project is complex however remains on target</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continuation of Housing NEC project.</p> <p>Discovery phase of Cloud Migration.</p>
<p>PZC18.2 Implement a new Digital strategy to support increased use of technology and a reduction in office space and travel.</p>	<p>Our new Digital Strategy is a multi-year project expected for delivery by 2026. We have identified how we will transfer our on-premises server and networking environment to the cloud. This will save around £20k of energy use per year, as well as the potential decommissioning of the cooling gases required. Servers would instead be provided by a cloud provider who use 100% renewable energy and innovative ways to reduce energy consumption such as underwater storage.</p> <p>Room Booking due for implementation to increase space utilisation.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Exploration of Zero Trust Networking Architecture to reduce energy consumption</p>

Appendix B: The Council's electrical vehicle fleet and necessary infrastructure, December 2025

The Council has increased the number of electric fleet vehicles to 23 and will see a further increase to 33 by the end of March 2025 (when EVs will make up 10.5% of the fleet). There are now a broad range of electric vehicles across fleet cars and vans, with electric recycling vehicles to be added to the fleet this financial year. Funding for the vehicles has come from the Council's vehicles replacement programme budget and a Welsh Government Energy Service grant.

Number of fleet vehicles - 310

Number of EVs in our fleet - 23

- 12 Pool cars (replaced 12 diesel pool cars)
- 4 Nissan Taxi's – donated from CCR – currently additional vehicles, however looking to dispose of 2 Greenlinks vehicles
- 1 Polaris Ranger – replaced a diesel equivalent (Countryside Parks)
- 3 Vauxhall Combos – replaced 3 small vans (Buildings)
- 1 Mercedes e-Vito – replaced 1 diesel van (SRS)
- 1 Peugeot Partner - on-hire - grant funded for a specific project (Countryside Parks)
- 1 Ford e-Transit – replaced a diesel van

Number of EVs we will have by end of March 2025 - 33

- 2 Romaquip e-recycling vehicles – currently have two diesel on loan (Free of charge) - Cleansing
- 7 Toyota Proace Citys – replace 7 small diesel vans (Buildings)
- 1 Toyota Proace Max, converted to a youth facility – replace v-pod bus

Number of diesel vehicles these have replaced – 28

Demo vehicle due in soon - 3.5T Electric Iveco Van

The current chargers located at The Alps and the Civic offices are sufficient for the electric vehicles that are and will be added to the fleet this financial year. Subsequent years will need investment into additional chargers, potentially at Atlantic Trading estate for Refuse vehicle parking, but also at The Alps as vehicles will need to be charged over night following routine inspections and other necessary work.

Appendix C: Corporate Performance Indicators results for Project Zero, 2023/24

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Green and blue space							
CPM/200: Number of trees planted per year.	New for 2023-24	16,384	No Target	N/A	N/A	These figures relate to trees planted by Place (13,910), Environment & Housing (2393) and via the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme (82).	
CPM/108: Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land that has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as a naturalised area.	312,403m2	348,090m2 (up 35,687.62m2)	Up 35,000m2 from previous year	Green	↑	Continued improvement on last year's performance.	
CPM/193: Amount of Public realm / green infrastructure improved / created	New for 2023-24	19 + 11941m2 from ND	No Target dependant on factors outside control of Planning – PI for reporting purposes only	N/A	N/A	Through the restore the Thaw project we have been able to deliver 19 green infrastructure projects across the catchment area. The projects have all involved the creation and development of new woodlands and hedgerows that have improved connectivity for wildlife. 11941m2 of public realm improvements have been pledged via Shared Prosperity Funding.	
CPM/156: Number of local nature projects financially supported	New for 2023-24	37	No Target	N/A	N/A	All projects are funded by Welsh government through Local Places for Nature	
Planning and regeneration							

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
CPM/199: The number of private rented properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services.	New for 2023-24	44	No Target	N/A	N/A	<p>A further 7 improved EPCs were received during Qtr 4 in respect of Vale rental properties identified as having F and G rated EPCs that SRS has engaged with. As a result, a total of 44 improved certificates have been received this year, which equates to an estimated reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) produced from these properties of approximately 127.1 tonnes together with a reduction of 151559 KWh in energy needed for heating. These figures are based on information provided in certificates however there are occasions where this information is not available. For this reason, the actual improvements generated as a result of improved EPCs is thought to be much greater.</p> <p>In addition, a further 10 certificates have been received from properties that were previously unrated who now hold certificates rated C to E increasing the overall total of unrated properties now holding certificates to 26 equating to 52% of those contacted.</p>	
CPM/159: The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.	New for 2023-24	0.13ha	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
CPM/160: The area of public open space (ha) which would be gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.	New for 2023-24	0	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided	
CPM/161: Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	New for 2023-24	2	No Target	N/A	N/A	We only record where schemes produce at least 1MW as per WG guidelines.	
CPM/162: Total energy output capacity (MW) granted planning permissions for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	New for 2023-24	7.3MW	No Target	N/A	N/A	We only record where schemes produce at least 1MW as per WG guidelines.	
Transport							
CPM/066: Satisfaction with public transport including a) accessibility and b) road safety.	a) 14.55% b) 11.11%	a) 38.68% b) 37.17%	(a) 44.15% (b) 42.61%	Red Red	↑ ↑	The total number of all responses received (i.e. very unsatisfied, unsatisfied, satisfied and very satisfied) to Q.1 on the Vale of Glamorgan Public Transport and Road Safety Survey 2023-24 (Survey Report for 02 October 2023 to 01 November 2023). Data used from Q1 of the VoGC Public Transport and Road Safety Survey 2023-24 (Survey Report for 02 October 2023 to 01 November 2023). Calculated using above Numerator 1,262 divided by above Denominator 3.263, multiplied by 100	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
CPM/067: Satisfaction with public transport in the Vale of Glamorgan.	14.54%	44%	44%	Green	↑	Calculated using data from Q1 of the VoGC Public Transport and Road Safety Survey 2023-24 (Survey Report for 02 October 2023 to 01 November 2023) with specific regard to 'public transport'. Calculated using above Numerator 1,111 divided by above Denominator 2,527, multiplied by 100.	
CPM/068: Percentage of adults 60+ who have a concessionary bus pass.	71.36%	72.56%	72%	Green	↑	Increase in percentage of Adults aged 60+ over 2023/24.	
CPM/047: Value of investment levered into the Council that is dedicated to transport improvement schemes.	£3,685,632	£6,372,795	£5,290,131	Green	↑	Amount achieved as at beginning of April 2023 dedicated to in year improvement schemes.	
CPM/120: Number of passenger journeys undertaken on the Greenlinks service	1517	1137	4870	Red	↓	Cumulative total of passenger journeys is 4870.	
CPM/121: Number of members who used the community transport service over the year	230	170	200	Red	↓	Total number of people who have used the service Since April 2023 to March 2024.	
CPM/201: Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.	New for 2023-24	24	No Target	N/A	N/A	As more people begin the switch to electric vehicles, the Cardiff Capital Region has contracted Connected Kerb to deliver public electric vehicle charge points across South-East Wales as part of a regional delivery programme funded by the CCR, Welsh Government, UK Government and UK Government department ORCS (On Street	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
						Residential Charging Scheme). Over the last 12 months, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has worked in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region to support the delivery of the programme. 24 dual chargers have been installed across 18 sites in the Vale of Glamorgan as part of Phase 1 of the regional delivery programme.	
CPM/202: Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network	New for 2023-24	750m	No Target	N/A	N/A	Eglwys Brewis Active Travel route constructed in 2023/24.	
CPM/203: Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network	New for 2023-24	300m	No Target	N/A	N/A	Station Road Active Travel route constructed in 2023/24	
CPM/195: Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions.	New for 2023-24	6.80%	No Target	N/A	N/A	The number of electric vehicles has increased by 8. This is inclusive of hired vehicles and vehicles donated from Cardiff Capital Regen. There are a further 3 vehicles - 2x recycling vehicles and 1 van on order.	
CPM/196: Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are hybrid.	2.50%	2.50%	No Target	N/A	↔	The number of Hybrid vehicles remain the same as last year.	
Business decarbonisation							
Number of decarbonisation plans developed [by businesses]							
Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support							

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Waste							
CPM/116: Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.	128.62	116.73	160kg	Green	↑	Same calculation was used as with previous years using Total MSW figures including commercial tonnages. Including 'guesstimates figures with removal of non HH waste tonnage is only very slightly less at 113.03kg/person.	
PAM/030: The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated bio- wastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way.	67.82%	70.35%	71%	Amber	↑	Good performance against the Welsh Target of 64% and just ahead of the 2024/25 target of 70%.	
Flood management							
CPM/204: Financial investment in flood protection measures in the local authority (annually).	New for 2023-24	£141,175.04	No Target	N/A	N/A	<p>For following cost centres – Flood Risk Management – Relining contract works only. Not investment in new features.</p> <p>Coast protection and land drainage general-Relining contract technical salaries for supervision and project management only.</p> <p>FCERM Small Scale Works 2023-24 – New headwall and screens at Brean Close and Skomer Road inlets, plus</p>	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
						<p>installation of telemetry at Skomer Road. 85% WG grant in aid funded. Propose classed as 100% investment in flood protection measures.</p> <p>Dinas Powys PFR Scheme - Technical salary costs for project management and supervision of the Dinas Powys PFR scheme, installing PFR measures to 186 properties in Dinas Powys.</p>	
Council housing							
CPM/139: Average SAP rating for the Council's housing stock	N/A	72.6	75	Amber	N/A	No commentary provided	
Council buildings and assets							
CPM/097: Percentage of change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1000 square metres.	-20% (Change of DEC provider likely had an impact on continuity of the data)	6.41%	3%	Green	↑	Positive result representing an improvement, which exceeded the target of 3%.	
CPM/098: Percentage change (reduction) in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock.	14.4% (Change of DEC)	1.57%	3%	Red	↓	Performance is below our target of 3% for 2023/24.	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
	provider as above)						
CPM/100: Percentage of Council streetlights that are LED.	91.3%	93.15%	95%	Amber	↑	Slow progress with pushing this works further, however the HM team are currently looking at sites where works are required and have been waiting on the results of structural and electrical testing. Works to complete and increase LED assets will recommence in Quarter 1 of 24/25.	

Appendix D. Let's talk survey 2023/24

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overarching							
CPM/264: Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.	New for 2024-25	12.6%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Council buildings and assets							
CPM/216: Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the climate emergency.	New for 2024-25	16%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Transport							
New CPM/308: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: a) Public transport	New for 2024-25	58.4%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/309: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: b) Walking routes	New for 2024-25	68.7%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/310: Percentage of residents who use the following	New for 2024-25	18.3%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: c) Cycling routes							
New CPM/311: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: d) Ovo bike hire	New for 2024-25	2.6%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/312: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: e) Ovo e-bike hire	New for 2024-25	2.4%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/313: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: f) Community transport	New for 2024-25	3.2%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/314: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: a) Car or van	New for 2024-25	75.1%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/315: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: b) motorbike	New for 2024-25	0.6%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/316: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: c) bus	New for 2024-25	5.5%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Performance Indicator	Q4 2022/23	Q4 2023/24	Target 2023/24	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
New CPM/317: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: d) train	New for 2024-25	2.8%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/318: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: e) cycle	New for 2024-25	1.7%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	
New CPM/319: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: f) walk	New for 2024-25	11.6%	No Target	N/A	N/A	N/A	