



# Project Zero - Responding to the Climate Emergency

Community Liaison Committee 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

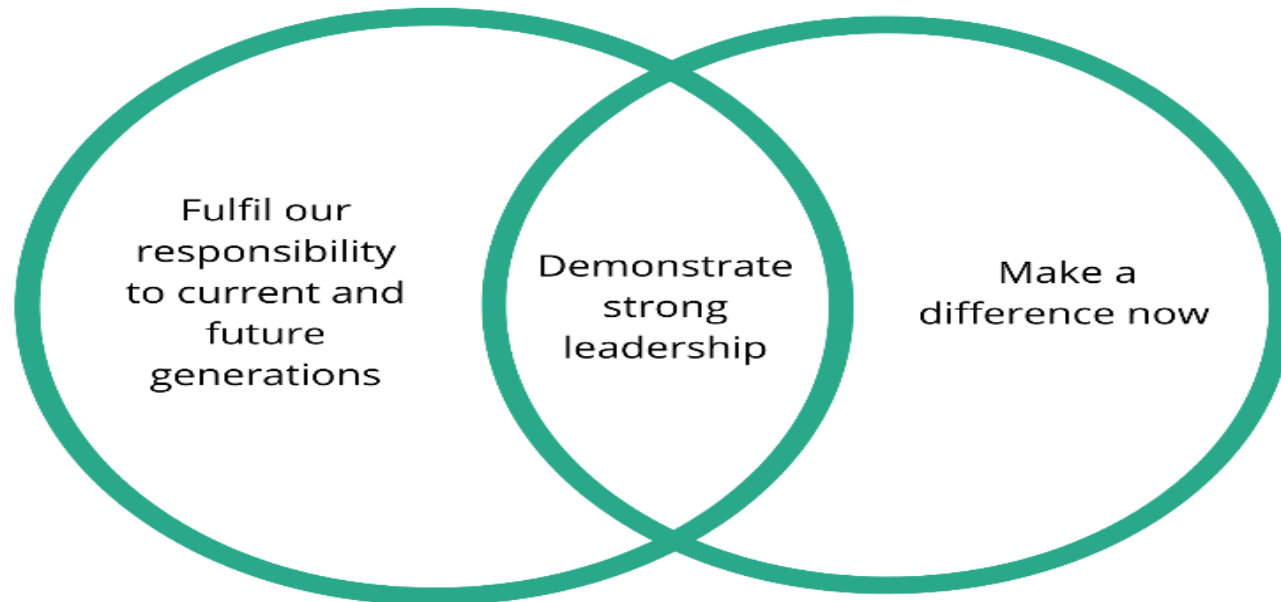


## In July 2019 Council declared an emergency and made a commitment to...

- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero before 2030.
- 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.
- Continue to work with partners across the region.
- Work with local stakeholders 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.

- In February 2021 the Vale PSB agreed a Climate Emergency Charter.
- In March 2021 consultation launched on Project Zero. Our draft Plan details:
  - Eighteen challenges and the proposed steps to meet those challenges.
  - Work already underway across the Council
  - How the different strands fit together and the governance arrangements.

The challenges and steps to deliver **Project Zero** are framed around the need to:



- **Engage** with the community and listen to their priorities for tackling climate change, supporting and enabling them to make a difference in their community and to shape our collective ambitions.
- 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.
- Develop our **evidence base and insight** to understand more fully the potential impact and 'costs' of activities and to set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment
- Embrace our role as community leaders to work with and **influence and enable** others to bring about the changes necessary to tackle climate change.

## Fulfill our responsibility to current and future generations

Work with partners to reduce the risk of **flooding**, manage our **coastline** and encourage everyone to take a more responsible approach to water **use**.

Promote and enhance green/blue space, sustainable drainage, green travel routes, ecology and tree coverage through a **Green Infrastructure Plan**.

Work with partners and business to develop and implement an **Economic Growth Strategy** that meets the challenge of climate change and our ambition for a green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

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.

## Fulfill our responsibility to current and future generations

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

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.

Reduce **waste** and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse and recycling.

Achieve a modal shift to more **sustainable forms of transport** with an increase in walking, cycling and the use of less polluting transport.

Revise our **Contract Management** and **Procurement** policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions

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.

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



**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.

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

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

- On line survey
- Message from the Managing Director to a range of partners including Town and Community Councils and local groups
- Promoted via a range of networks and contacts across the Council
- Social media campaign and Twitter polls
- 4 on line discussion groups
- Youth Services
- Vale 50+ Strategy Forum
- Schools
- Scrutiny Committees
- Community Liaison Committee
- Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee
- PSB Climate Change and Asset Management Group

- Have we got the right challenges and framework?
- Is it ambitious enough?
- Will this deliver?

- Consider the feedback
- Revise the Plan
- Cabinet 5<sup>th</sup> July
- Council 26<sup>th</sup> July