

Meeting of:	<b>Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Tuesday, 16 January 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero.
Report Owner:	Rob Thomas, Chief Executive
Responsible Officer:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. Progress from April to September 2023 includes: ongoing work on new active travel routes and A rated council housing; funding secured to retrofit some of our Community Centres with photovoltaics, LED lighting and other energy efficiency measures; a successful 2023 Vale Food Trail held in the summer; and funding secured for new posts.</li> <li>• RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress during this period has been introduced at Appendix A detailing progress against the 80 underlying steps within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.</li> <li>• This report provides details of the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s 2022-2023 carbon emissions.</li> <li>• The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve.</li> <li>• The report also updates on the approach to programme management.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) note the progress detailed in this report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
2. That the Committee note RAG rating of progress from April 2023 to September 2023 in Appendix A.
3. That the Committee note the Council's 2022-2023 carbon emissions.
4. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date.
5. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee who considered this report on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
6. That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that this report is distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To enable the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to consider how Project Zero is being taken forward.
2. To ensure that the Members are aware of the RAG rating of progress from April 2023 to September 2023 against the steps within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
3. To ensure that the members are aware of the Council's 2022-2023 carbon emissions.
4. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the projects awarded funding to date.
5. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
6. To update all elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.

## **1. Background**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**1.2.** [Project Zero](#) is the Council's response to the climate emergency. At the Council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 2023-24 includes Project Zero as one of its three critical challenges, committing that we respond to the climate and nature emergencies and deliver the commitments in our Climate Change Challenge Plan.

**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 introduced at Appendix A. The rating reflects the progress from April

2023 to September 2023 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 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 meeting and updates on these are outlined below:

- The importance of analysing the figures surrounding the amount of recycled versus non recycled waste collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council since the roll out of changes to recycling services in parts of the Vale.
  - Update: The Vale of Glamorgan Council are legally required to submit quarterly figures to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on the waste material collected and its end destination. As the table below shows, there has been a positive shift down in residual waste tonnage, and since introducing the new recycling blueprint, 2022-23 figures show a large decrease in residual waste and an increase in green/food waste and co-mingles / source segregated recycling.

Year	Residual waste (tonnes)	Green / food waste	Other recycling
2012-13	27,733	12,583	12,144
2017-18	25,069	13,302	12,648
2022-23	19,963	15,302	14,216

- When collecting comingled recycling it would normally contain a contamination rate around 20%: by collecting source segregated recycling the contamination is below 1% which provides a much cleaner material that the Council can then receive an income for, keeping the material in the UK rather than paying to have the material processed and exported.
- The need to look at the potential carbon savings (if any) of Council staff working from their home location as part of agile and hybrid working versus commuting to and working at Vale of Glamorgan Council premises.
  - Update: As the carbon reporting did not capture emissions pre-covid, it is not possible to compare across years. Our 2022-23 carbon emissions included 3,000 Tons of CO2 for staff commute and 271 Tons of CO2 for homeworking, the latter figure has been estimated from the responses to the staff travel survey earlier this year.
- The importance of the prioritisation or reprioritisation of the Council’s key challenges, targets and objectives in order to achieve net zero and to undertake a focused approach to help implement this.
  - Update: A Carbon Management Plan has been commissioned and is due for completion Q4 2023/24. This will set out priorities and

recommendations that will support the consideration of targets, policy refreshes and staff behaviour change.

- For the Council, in conjunction with Scrutiny, to look at how they can use social media, the new Project Zero online hub and other means of engagement in order to foster greater involvement and participation of residents of the Vale of Glamorgan with Project Zero.
  - Update: work on communications and engagement from April to September 2023 is in Appendix A, commitments 1 and 2.
- The importance of the Council working with local communities and groups, and Welsh Government, to help achieve net zero and having the mechanisms in place to ensure the ongoing accountability and responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council for achieving this goal.
  - Update: The Vale of Glamorgan Council gathers carbon data from across the organisation annually and submits this to the Welsh Government (WG), ensuring visibility of and benchmarking of progress towards net zero. Other mechanisms in place to ensure engagement with WG priorities include membership of groups including the WLGA Climate Officers group.
  - As we move towards prioritising the county-wide net zero by 2050 goal, we anticipate increasing engagement with local communities and groups. A 50+ Forum climate event in July 2023 and a Youth Climate Conversation event in October 2023 helped us hear the climate concerns directly affecting both groups.
- The need to tie-in Project Zero with other areas of the Council's work, as recently seen with the new Procurement Strategy, and to ensure that social value, reusing, repurposing, recycling, remanufacturing is taken into account and to have the necessary governance in place to help drive these forward.
  - Update: work on procurement, social value and the circular economy is in Appendix A, commitment 13.

**2.3** Some of the key progress from April to September 2023 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**

- In July we ran a climate workshop for the 50+ Forum, raising awareness of climate issues and hearing the concerns and ideas of older people.
- We showcased Oakfield primary school and a Pencoedre volunteer group who planted their own 'tiny forest'. The [First Minister visited them](#) to announce that the tiny forest would now be counted as part of the national forest network.
- Our 2022/23 Carbon return has been calculated, submitted to Welsh Government, and presented to the Project Zero Board. Data to support the submission was collected from across the organisation. In 2022/23 our emissions were just over

69,000 Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, a drop of around 25% compared to 2021/22. There is more information at Appendix A.

- The Public Services Board (PSB) new Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028, officially launched in June, includes tackling climate change as one of three priority workstreams. The commitments include delivery of the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.

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

- [Restore the Thaw Landscape Project](#) has begun, a three-year programme of work to make biodiversity improvements along the River Thaw, its tributaries, and surrounding landscapes. Alongside monies from the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Project Zero fund, the project received funding from the Waterloo Foundation and Nature Networks, a fund delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund on behalf of Welsh Government and in partnership with Natural Resources Wales
- A number of projects funded by Section 106 monies have been consulted on and progressed.
- A Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Issues, Vision and Objectives background paper was presented to Cabinet in April 2023. In November 2023 the Draft Preferred Strategy was presented to cabinet along with an amended delivery agreement. The Preferred Strategy will be consulted upon through December and until early February 2024.
- Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) work is underway with consultants 'Arup' and Cardiff Capital Region colleagues. As well as a data collection exercise, 4 stakeholder workshops have taken place in the Vale of Glamorgan during this time period to help inform the plan, with a 5<sup>th</sup> planned. A draft plan is due to be delivered by February 2024, to be reviewed by The Council and Stakeholders up to the end of March 2024. Completion and publication of the plan is expected by May 2024.
- Consultants have been instructed to carry out feasibility work to inform planning policy on net zero buildings. This work is progressing positively, and the consultants have also recently presented to Council Officers on potential policy interventions and net zero buildings more broadly.
- The Council are in receipt of a completed Green Infrastructure Strategy from the appointed consultants, and they have also presented to Council Officers on its implementation. The Strategy now needs to be consulted on and adopted, and an action plan for its delivery needs to be produced.
- Construction of an active travel route through Eglwys Brewis started May '23 and construction of a route through Station Road, Rhose, started in July 2023.
- A Food and Farming role funding was approved via Shared Prosperity Funding and Project Zero reserves. This role will focus on several specific challenges in the action plan and begin to look at the feasibility of an Agri Hub project.
- The 2023 Vale Food Trail was successfully held in the summer with over 14 business/organisations and 500 people engaging in the range of activities on offer.
- We have appointed the 3 recycling officers and implemented a new system to monitor interactions with householders. The recycling officers are currently working

in areas known to have limited recycling participation to assist educating residents and increasing recycling rates.

- External consultants have been appointed to assist with delivery of a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).
- Solar photovoltaic feasibility site visits have been completed at six buildings (within schools and the Place Directorate). Additional funding has been secured to retrofit a group of Community Centres, which will include solar photovoltaics, LED lighting and other energy efficiency measures.

### **Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18**

- Establishment of relationship with Ardal, the shared procurement service with Monmouthshire, Cardiff and Torfaen Councils. Ardal have started work on the contract register, the approach to reducing carbon in the supply chain, spend analysis, and on a tailored set of TOMs (Targets, Outputs, Measures).
- In relation to our A-rated new Council homes, the scheme at Hayeswood Road is progressing well with phased handovers likely from December 2023 through to March 2024. The scheme at St Cyres Road was completed and handed over in July. Phase 2 of the scheme at Clos Holm View started on site in June. The schemes at Colcot Clinic and Eagleswell Road are progressing well.
- Community links have been made with a local nature reserve, two community gardens and a local care home. These projects aim to improve these natural spaces for school pupils and the wider community, creating teaching spaces and areas to relax and reflect in nature.
- Project Zero funding awarded for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project on Council land.

### **2.4 Programme Management**

- In response to recommendations, progress reporting at Appendix A now includes 'RAG' rating (Red, Amber, Green) against the 80 steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
- The new process for considering Project Zero reserves has been implemented and the Project Zero Board met in August to consider applications. Reserves meetings will take place every quarter for applications of £5,000 and over, with applications of under £5,000 considered as they are submitted.

### **2.5 Carbon reporting**

- Many of the actions that we undertake under Project Zero will indirectly affect our carbon emissions, for example our communications around Project Zero, and our work with the Cardiff Capital Region does not have an easy or directly measurable carbon footprint. Nevertheless, our annual carbon footprint is a crucial benchmark as we aim for net zero by 2030. This section provides more detail on the background to carbon reporting, and our progress.

- In 2017, the Welsh Government set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, followed by guidance in the [Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach](#); The approach focuses on three key Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions which contribute the greatest to climate change: Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Methane (CH4) and Nitrous Oxide (N2O). To aid simplicity, calculations data for all emissions are translated into a single comparable unit, carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e). To further aid understanding in the make-up of organisational carbon emissions, three ‘Scopes’ are used for GHG accounting. Scope 1 emissions include direct emissions such as fuel combustion and fleet emissions, Scope 2 emissions include in-direct emissions such as electricity purchased from the grid, and Scope 3 emissions include in-direct emissions such as those attributed to procured goods and services.
- The first year of public sector Net Zero Carbon reporting was 2019-20, and each subsequent year the Welsh Government issues a reporting template and methodology that is further refined, with 2022-23 guidance [here](#). In 2022-23, the datasets reported included: buildings, fleet and other assets (e.g. streetlights); business travel, staff commuting and homeworking; waste (organisational and municipal); land use; supply chain; and renewables.
- The total carbon emissions for the Vale of Glamorgan Council in 2022-23 were 69,285,128 kgCO2e. Of this, 88% of the organisation’s emissions were calculated as Scope 3, 8% as Scope 1 and 4% as Scope 2. Reporting for 2022 – 23 has seen a 25% drop in emissions from 2021-22, although elements of the methodology has changed (e.g. changes in emission factors and changes to the breakdown of supply chain / procurement reporting). We have increasing confidence in the data that we are collecting, and work will be ongoing in 2023/24 to tighten data collection. More information on the Council’s carbon emissions is available at the [Vale of Glamorgan Council Carbon Data Dashboard](#) which highlights some of the key data reported to Welsh Government.

## 2.5 Resources

- The Council’s financial reserves available to support the delivery of the Project Zero Programme have been consolidated and are set out in the table below. In addition, 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.

Reserve Name	Balance 01/04/2023	Capital Commitment 23/24	Revenue Commitment/ Transfer 23/24	Projected Balance 31/03/2024
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Project Zero	1,423	(49)	(93)	1,281
Ash Die Back	335	(30)	(240)	65
Energy Management Fund (Salix Funding)	159	(187)	(105)	77
Energy Pressures (includes budget for	3,885	(150)	(2,400)	1,335



decarbonisation schemes)				
Social Services Vehicles and Licences reserve (includes budget for electric bike scheme)	408	(40)	(95)	273
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>(456)</b>	<b>(2,723)</b>	<b>3,031</b>

- In the context of the current budget challenges and inflationary pressures all reserves have been reviewed as part of developing the Council's budget for 2023/24 and will require further review as part of the preparation for the 2024/25 revenue budget. Given the strategic importance of Project Zero it was considered appropriate to establish reserves to support the delivery of the programme.
- The use of the Project Zero reserve will also reflect the commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan.
- As agreed by the Project Zero Board, the process for use of Project Zero reserves was implemented in this reporting period. The Board meets quarterly to review applications and discuss bids from £5,000 upwards, and applications of up to £4,999 are considered jointly by the Director of Corporate Resources and the relevant Senior Reporting Officer. Applications awarded in the period are below.

### Project Zero Reserves Commitment at end September 2023

Project	£ TOTAL Amount	23/24 £	24/25 £	25/26 £	26/27 £	Other funding applicable
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>1,1422,590</b>					
Restore the Thaw	<b>75,000</b>	25,000	25,000	25,000		
Corporate water meters installation	<b>11,000</b>	11,000				
Pendoylan Primary biomass boiler	<b>8,802</b>	8,802				
Energy Sparks schools programme	<b>10,005</b>	4,230	5,775			
Buildings decarbonisation feasibility study	<b>30,000</b>	30,000				
Energy / agriculture Hub feasibility study	<b>40,000</b>	40,000				
Sustainable food and farming project post	<b>99,555</b>			66,370	33,185	To supplement SPF grant by extending the post from 2025 – 2027 (18 months).
Business Decarbonisation and Local Area Energy Plan post	<b>98,555</b>			65,370	33,185	To supplement CCR & SPF grants by extending the post from 2025 – 2027 (18 months).
Cycle friendly employer accreditation	<b>2,892</b>	2,892				
School vegetable growing	<b>1,064</b>	1,064				
Cardiff Airport Charging feasibility study	<b>4,550</b>	4,550				

Youth Climate Conversation event	825	825				
UKGBC corporate membership	1,300	300	500	500		
<b>TOTAL Committed</b>	<b>383,548</b>	<b>(128,663)</b>	<b>(31,275)</b>	<b>(157,240)</b>	<b>(66,370)</b>	
<b>TOTAL Remaining</b>	<b>1,039,042</b>					

- Welsh Government announced in January 2022 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme were required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards, and they committed to fund 100% of all net zero carbon costs on projects within Band B of the programme. The Council has created a net zero carbon in operation school building model and South Point Primary School was the first project in the Authority and in Wales to achieve net zero carbon in operation. The model has been implemented on all new schemes.
- There is an additional cost associated with the delivery of net-zero carbon schools. The uplift in costs range between £500,000 to £1,000,000 for new primary schools depending on the scale of the development. Although these costs are currently 100% funded by Welsh Government, no further commitment has been announced to cover these costs outside of Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Costs will be kept under review to ensure market changes are monitored and factored in for potential projects that will likely come forward outside of Band B, in case the Welsh Government commitment is not extended.
- During 2023/24, several schemes have or are being delivered to contribute towards the Council’s decarbonisation aims using a variety of funding sources outside of Project Zero Reserve including:
  - PV panels installed at Cowbridge Leisure Centre and the Belle-Vue Pavilion.
  - School Decarbonisation LED scheme provided lighting in Peterston Super Ely CIW and Rhws Primary schools.
  - Improvements and enhancements to several active travel routes with a new bike hire scheme at Llantwit Major funded through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund.
  - Electric Bike scheme for social workers, as funded from the Electric Vehicle and Licences Reserve.
  - Several electric charging points installed in the Civic and Alps Offices staff car park funded through grants.
  - New, more efficient boiler at Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.
  - Llantwit Major Leisure Centre – Air Handling Pump Renewal (90% grant funded)
- For 2023-24, a variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across several assets within the Council’s

portfolio. A delivery programme across the Council which complements the Welsh Government Zero Carbon by 2030 target and the council's own Climate Emergency Declaration is being prepared which will lever in as much funding as possible from various external sources including Salix funding. £650K has been included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme, £500K from reserves and £150K from the Salix Recyclable funding. Schemes totalling the value of £274K have been identified including:

- Penarth Learning Community 3G Pitch LED lighting
  - Dinas Powys Junior LED lighting
  - Community Enterprise Centre, Holmview LED lighting
  - Alps Garages LED lighting
  - Pen y Garth Primary LED lighting
  - Cogan Primary PV panels
  - Llangan Primary PV panels
  - Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home PV panels
- An unallocated figure of £367k remains within the budget for the decarbonisation scheme on the 2023/24 Capital Programme and discussions are ongoing to allocate the remaining budget across schemes that have been identified during the Capital bid process.
  - The Council has continued 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). Welsh Government recently launched the revised WHQS 2023, with it contributing towards governmental climate change goals expressed through the Net Zero Wales plan published in 2021 (and updated in 2022). The council will now be working towards the following decarbonisation targets set out in the revised standard i.e. Carrying out a whole stock assessment and producing Target Energy Pathways for our homes to reach SAP 92 -EPC A by 31 March 2027, in the interim, we are working towards all our homes meeting a minimum of SAP 75 – EPC C by 31 March 2030. This investment is further outlined in the Housing Business Plan that was reported to Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
  - The UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has specific allocations to address decarbonisation schemes in the local community and the programme will develop schemes to deliver against this commitment over the three-year period of the funding envelope. Funding has already been identified for several schemes within Active Travel and other areas and schemes will be added to the programme in the coming months.

### **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. This report includes details of work including ongoing work on new active travel routes and A rated council housing, funding secured to retrofit a group of Community Centres with photovoltaics, LED lighting and other energy efficiency measures, a successful 2023 Vale Food Trail held in the summer, and funding secured for new posts.

### **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

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

#### **Employment**

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

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

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

## **6. Background Papers**

Council Notice of Motion 29 July 2019 - Minute 209

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Council/2019/19-07-29/Minutes.pdf](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](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/achieving_our_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx)

Vale of Glamorgan Council Coronavirus Recovery Strategy Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Minute - Project Zero Update Report

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

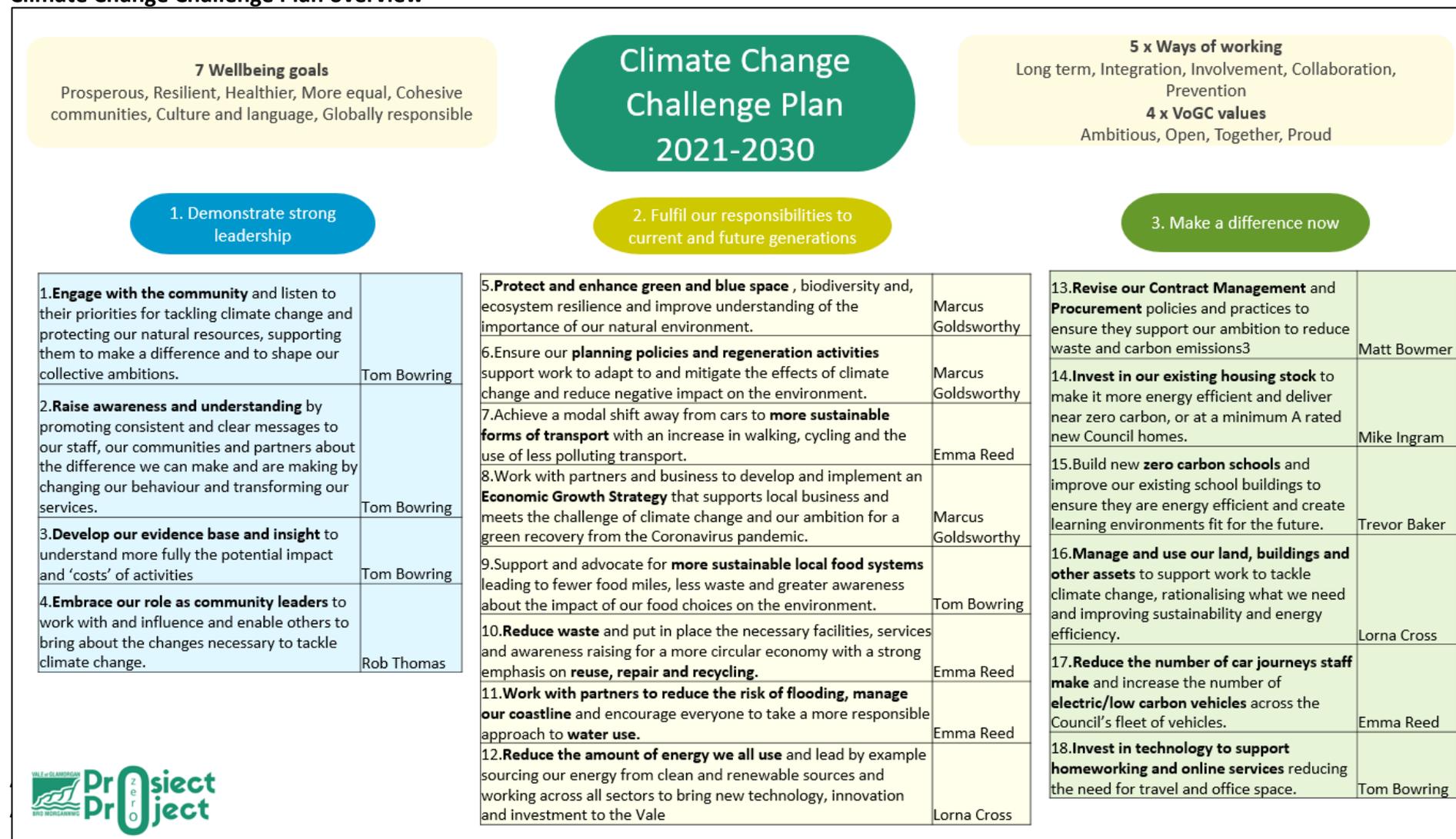
Cabinet Report (Reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny 18<sup>th</sup> January) Minute - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 Project Zero Update report

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

## Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress. April 2023 to September 2023

### Climate Change Challenge Plan overview



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

<b>Challenge 1. Engage</b> 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				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress April '23 - September '23</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24</b>
PZC1.1. Build momentum around the Climate Change Community Conversation as an ambitious campaign for change.	<p>In July we ran a climate workshop for the 50+ Forum, raising awareness of climate issues and hearing the concerns and ideas of older people.</p> <p>We codesigned a Youth Climate Conversation event with the Vale Youth Forum, focusing on transport and waste, themes chosen by the young people. The event will be in October, and invitees include delegates from all secondary schools, PSB youth groups, council teams, the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales, WRAP Cymru and a representative from the 50+ Forum.</p>	None	On track	<p>We will run the Youth Climate Conversation in October 2023, and report on the findings and recommendations of young people. We will then work with the Youth Council on how to take those ideas forward, drawing on the expertise of the Council and other organisations.</p> <p>We will hold a staff 'Christmas Swap' event and climate conversations during Wales Climate Week. The swap will enable staff to bring and take items from home that can be regifted, lowering the environmental impact and cost of Christmas.</p>



<p>PZC1.2. Involve Stakeholder groups and develop a green ambassadors group to shape our plans and encourage behaviour change.</p>	<p>In May we presented on Project Zero during Learning at Work week, gathering interest in a green champions group.</p> <p>We planned a PSB workshop to explore how organisations will deliver the Vale Well-being plan, including encouraging behaviour change within their organisations across the Vale. The workshop was delayed to the next period due to attendee availability.</p>	<p>Champions groups have variable levels of success.</p> <p>Variable engagement from PSB colleagues due to capacity.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Continue to scope opportunities for a green champions group, linked to the launch of the Project Zero Learning and Development Plan.</p> <p>Run a Youth Climate Conversation event and develop a follow up 'next steps' plan.</p> <p>Undertake stakeholder mapping of community groups in the climate and environmental arena across the Vale.</p>
<p>PZC1.3. Promote volunteering opportunities and community projects.</p>	<p>Our Corporate Volunteering Policy has been launched and is in line with corporate priorities: we have provided links to opportunities for volunteering in environmental projects.</p> <p>A number of projects with volunteers are supported by the Council's s Community Investment team, working with local stakeholders and partners to ensure long term sustainability. Projects include the development and enhancement of green space at Runcorn Park, Grange Gardens community garden, Crawshay Court Sheltered Scheme Garden, and Penarth food pod and community garden.</p> <p><a href="#">Value in the Vale</a> continues to lead work with volunteers, connecting individuals to organisations and projects including Restore the Thaw, Volunteer Beach Clean, Friends of Fonmon Woods and Benthgy Cymru. <a href="#">Blogs and case studies are here.</a></p> <p>See PZC5.RTT for volunteer updates on Restore the Thaw Landscape Project.</p>	<p>Digital access can be a barrier to people accessing Value in the Vale opportunities. The team work 1 on 1 to overcome this and link with Digital Communities Wales to support.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Quarterly corporate volunteering events to take place, one on a Project Zero theme.</p> <p>Organisational Development (OD) to explore opportunities for building a calendar of events and links, to include environmental opportunities including Restore the Thaw project work.</p> <p>Value in the Vale awaiting the outcome of funding decisions before confirming actions.</p>

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

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC2.1. Develop a co-ordinated programme of internal and external communications.	<p>We continue to see good engagement with our awareness campaigns linked to Project Zero. Those with Vale-specific examples or case studies perform better than general assets from national campaigns. Monthly meetings take place to review the success of our campaigns and plan what's to come.</p> <p>New <a href="#">grassland management webpages</a> have been added to the website.</p>	None	On track	<p>Continue to update and promote the <a href="#">Project Zero Hub</a> to encourage engagement with content.</p> <p>Support Wales Climate Week in December.</p>
PZC2.2. Report on the progress being made and the impact of the changes we make.	<p>Progress from Project Zero has been reported extensively in the Chief Executive's weekly email, including details of the projects receiving funding.</p> <p>New Project Zero Teams channels have been added giving staff from across the Council easier access to information, progress updates, and shared resources.</p> <p>The Council's 22/23 Carbon emissions data has been reported to the Project Zero Board.</p>	None	On track	<p>Continue to share progress through the Chief Executive's weekly email, intranet and Project Zero Teams channel.</p> <p>Present the 22/23 Carbon data to senior teams across directorates.</p> <p>Gather updates on projects funded by Project Zero reserves.</p> <p>Review proposals in forthcoming Carbon Management Plan.</p>
PZC2.3. Showcase community projects across the Vale.	<p>Over the summer we showcased Oakfield primary school and a Pencoedre volunteer group who planted and grew their own tiny forest. The First Minister visited them to announce that the tiny forest would now be counted as part of the national forest network.</p>	The comms team aren't always made aware of community projects to highlight.	Slower than expected progress	<p>Develop a list of projects in this space &amp; ensure that we are following them on social media.</p>

PZC2.4. Signpost people to information and services within their community.	The <a href="#">Council Housing and Energy webpages</a> have been updated to include information on home energy efficiency, schemes such as ECO4 Flex, and signposts to other supporting organisations.	None	On track	Review and update the Project Zero Hub webpages.  Review Project Zero through the cost of living lens, making more of any linkages and information available that supports cost of living and the green agenda.
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**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC3.1 Bring in external expertise and research best practice in other organisations inc. with PSB partners to understand our impact.	<p>WLGA Climate Leadership seminars on Communities at Risk, and Regeneration took place. These share research and best practice from other Welsh Local Authorities and wider. The seminars were advertised widely with officers and members joining.</p> <p>Ongoing membership of a number of speciality-specific groups and membership bodies raises awareness of research and best practice.</p>	None	On track	<p>A PSB workshop is planned for November to explore what is working well, future plans and opportunities against the new Well-being plan.</p> <p>The new consultant-led Carbon Management Plan will be completed.</p> <p>A Buildings decarbonisation feasibility study and energy / agriculture Hub feasibility study will be delivered, as funded through Project Zero reserves.</p>
PZC3.2 Provide training for staff and Members.	<p>The Project Zero learning plan was agreed by the Project Zero Board however implementation was delayed due to staffing issues.</p> <p>A Project Zero event was delivered to staff at the Learning at</p>	<p>Loss of technical expertise and recruitment gap.</p> <p>Essential course</p>	Slower than expected progress	<p>Launch initial Project Zero learning offering for all staff.</p> <p>Build a Project Zero Learning Cafe mailing list to target those with interest in the</p>

	<p>Work week in May.</p> <p>An Organisational Development and Learning channel has been added to the Project Zero Teams group, and learning opportunities are shared regularly.</p>	<p>catalogue switch took longer to negotiate – now no additional cost for 2023/24.</p> <p>Delay in accessing content from another Council to re-purpose for our needs.</p>		<p>subject and present learning opportunities to a warm audience more likely to engage.</p> <p>Funding for Climate Leadership training for SLT and Heads of Service will be explored through Project Zero Reserves. If approved, training will be delivered in this period.</p>
<p>PZC3.3</p> <p>Calculate and understand the Council's carbon footprint and publish other key data detailing our performance and progress.</p>	<p>A consultant has been developing a Carbon Management Plan. This will draw on our carbon footprint data and current working practices and will provide a roadmap to reduce emissions.</p> <p>Our 2022/23 Carbon return has been calculated, submitted to Welsh Government, and presented to the Project Zero Board. Data to support the submission was collected from across the organisation.</p> <p>see 13.1 re procurement</p>	<p>A small number of gaps in data, e.g. a lack of schools waste data.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>We will be presenting the 22/23 Carbon data to directorates and suggesting ways to make improvements.</p> <p>See 13.1 re work on the impact of procurement.</p>
<p>PZC3.4</p> <p>Set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment.</p>	<p>No planned action in this period</p>	<p>Awaiting the development of the Carbon Management Plan to take this step forward.</p>	<p>No planned action in this period</p>	<p>Utilise the new Carbon Management plan to draft and consider appropriate targets.</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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<p>PZC4.1 Work with Welsh Government and influence policy change and legislation.</p>	<p>Members and senior officers meet regularly with WG to discuss relevant issues. These are raised at Project Zero Board meetings.</p> <p>We feed back to the WG through the CLAW Energy and Decarb group and the PSB Asset Management and Climate Emergency group - often flagging lack of funding opportunities to decarbonise.</p> <p>Planning Officers Society Wales (POSW) and WLGA continue to raise issues such as a measurement of embedded carbon in policy decisions, policies around zero carbon building, and decarbonisation of the economy.</p>	<p>Current funding position with regards to Local Government.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue conversations with WG via WLGA, POSW and the PSB.</p> <p>Share feedback from the Youth Climate Conversation and wider Climate Conversations with WG.</p>
<p>PZC4.2 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change across the region.</p>	<p>We continued to work with the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) to install public EV charging points across the Vale.</p> <p>Work is underway to formalise lines of communication between LAs and Corporate Join Committee (CJC) in relation to regional working.</p> <p>CCR sites and premises fund continues to be promoted as an option to support development on stalled projects.</p>	<p>Current state of economy means some businesses due to access CCR sites and premises fund have pulled out due to rising costs and uncertainty.</p> <p>Lack of funding will present a barrier going forward.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>EV charging points to be installed.</p> <p>Work will continue with CCR to support sustainable development where possible.</p> <p>Work with WLGA and neighbouring authorities to set up blueprints for lines of communication with the CJC.</p>

<p>PZC4.3</p> <p>Work with PSB partners to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.</p>	<p>The new <a href="#">Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028</a> was published in July and includes tackling climate change as one of three priority workstreams with a number of commitments including delivery of the charter. These will be explored further at a workshop in November including a review of the Climate Emergency Charter to update and incorporate a stronger reference to nature, environmental impact assessments and behaviour change.</p>	<p>Capacity across partners.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Following the November workshop, work will commence to review the <a href="#">Climate Emergency Charter</a> and to take forward the priority areas identified to deliver commitments in the <a href="#">Well-being Plan</a>.</p>
<p>PZC4.4</p> <p>Work with business and industry, Town and Community Councils, Community groups and the Third Sector to make a difference locally.</p>	<p>A successful bid was made to Project Zero Reserves for a post to lead on business decarbonisation and the Local Area Energy Plan. Project Zero funds support the match funding of Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and CCR funds and the post also includes work with the third and community sector.</p> <p>The energy team have been engaging with community associations regarding advice and support to assist in the reduction of carbon in their assets (community buildings). Work is progressing to shortlist pilot buildings for the WG ACPW3 funded project.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The business decarbonisation post will be advertised.</p> <p>Continue with engagement with community groups re decarbonisation.</p> <p>There will be an item on Climate Change at the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.</p> <p>A future PSB Town and Community Council exchange meeting will be held.</p>

**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.

<b>Challenge 5.</b> Protect and enhance <b>green and blue space</b> , biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment. SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress April '23 - September '23</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks and barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24</b>
PZC5.1 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Plan including a survey of all trees in the Vale and an assessment of the current infrastructure.	The Green Infrastructure Plan tender document was internally consulted on and posted on Sell2Wales. After a competitive tender process, CBA Studios were instructed to complete the work. Throughout key Council stakeholders were updated.	None.	On track	Work with instructed consultants to complete the Green Infrastructure Plan. Seek political endorsement for the plan and consult on it publicly. Formally adopt the Plan.
PZC5.2 Implement the biodiversity forward plan and raise awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife.	Reviewed other Council's Biodiversity Forward Plans (BFPs) and set out a framework for the revised BFP. The decision was made to wait to incorporate as much of the Vale Nature Recovery Action Plan and The Green Infrastructure Action Plan as well as the Tree Strategy. This has meant a delay.  In addition, the projects below are progressing well:  <a href="#">Vale Local Nature Partnership</a> (VLNP) Development of the Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP), led by VLNP is progressing to the final stages, and two rounds of the <a href="#">Biodiversity Grant Scheme</a> have been	Delay due to pressure of other work and timing.  Delay in VLNP funding allocation from WG meant that the project	Slower than expected progress  NB. Other projects are on track	Agree targets for next three years with key players. Produce initial draft BFP for comment. Revise and amend. Final version of BFP.  <b>Vale Local Nature Partnership planned actions:</b> VLNP Support Officer to start in Q3

	<p>completed. Meetings held at Llantonian Hall and Cadoxton Ponds with over 60 attendees. Recruitment complete for VLNP Support Officer.</p> <p>Welsh Government approved allocation and project plans for 2023-2025 Local Places for Nature Funding. Cut and collect machine purchased for Parks and Open Spaces Team to help deliver <a href="#">the creating space for nature scheme</a> across grasslands in the Vale. Contractor appointed to create 6 biodiversity management plans for Parks and Open Spaces (St Cyres, St Josephs, The Kymin, White Farm and Dobbins Road) and for Cosmeston Country Park. Vale Verges Group Meetings have taken place to plan autumn works programme for pilot verges.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Restore the Thaw Landscape Project</a></b> Two new project officers appointed. Site visits to 14 landowners to identify opportunities for biodiversity improvements through practical land management activities, including tree planting.</p> <p>Early discussions with South-East Wales Rivers Trust, Natural Resources Wales and VoGC Public Rights of Way Team exploring and prioritising physical infrastructure and path access improvements.</p> <p>88 volunteers engaged in 11 practical volunteering days including footpath maintenance, orchard restoration, litter picks and tree seed harvesting. 418 community members engaged through community events (Vale Agricultural Show, a Family Day, St Athan Summer Fete), public meetings, Project Training (Water vole training, Smart Rivers training) and Citizen science activities.</p>	<p>started in July 2023.</p>		<p>Vale Nature Recovery Action Plan to be discussed with the PSB in November.</p> <p><b>Restore the Thaw planned actions</b></p> <p>Apply for planning applications for 2 wildlife ponds and plant 1,000 new trees – both as standards and hedgerows.</p> <p>Undertake 3 further training events for local community on otters, invertebrates, and reptiles. Carry out 4 practical conservation sessions with local communities.</p> <p>Continue to promote the project through range of avenues, including walks, talks, social media.</p>
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	<p>Early engagement with schools suggest many pupils will engage with project-related education programmes such as autumn focussed 'Going nuts for Trees' tree seed harvesting and planting project.</p> <p>Project promotion through a <a href="#">dedicated Restore the Thaw website</a>, blog, social media and information boards, and <a href="#">Newsletter/ Newyddlen</a>.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Great Glamorgan Way</a></b>  Three successful volunteer days run to educate and work on the removal of Himalayan Balsam, an invasive non-native species.</p> <p>All bird boxes erected have been inspected: findings show over 90% success rate with fully fledged nests, as reported to the British Trust for Ornithology. Four solitary bee posts and educational panels installed at three primary schools and on Penllyn Estate outside Forage. Seven bat boxes installed in woodlands around central Vale. Landowners educated on the importance of bat conservation and the sensitivities surrounding their welfare. Frog and Toad shelters have been put in schools in Llangan and Peterston where they already have ponds.</p> <p>A large pond in Hensol Forest was cleared in collaboration with NRW. A contractor was appointed with funds from the project to fell and remove dead-hanging trees from around the pond to allow for more light and therefore, more life. This will be monitored through the seasons of 2024.</p>	<p>Pond clearance at Hensol risked running into ground-nesting bird season and as such, works were reduced to less-sensitive areas.</p> <p>Funding via ENRaW finished in May and the project eventually continued under UKSPF despite initial delays in confirmation.</p>		<p><b>Great Glamorgan Way planned actions</b>  Winter clearance schedule, improving access to Public Rights of Way, and using brush generated to create habitat for local wildlife.</p> <p>Continue with stakeholder engagement and host various presentations with countryside access groups.</p> <p>Working on clearance on the SSSI on Old Castle Down by clearing scrub/gorse to allow for spring wildflowers to bloom which in turn will aid in the survival of the High Brown Fritillary, one of Britain's most endangered species of butterfly. Old Castle Down is Wales' only known location for the High Brown Fritillary.</p> <p>Planning volunteering days to tackle invasive non-native species in Q1 of 2024. Clear/clean all of our monitored bird boxes ready to be used next season.</p>
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<p>PZC5.3 Replace lost trees and promote tree planting across the Vale including working with owners of large areas of land.</p>	<p>Draft tree strategy presented to SLT and officers across the Vale for comment.</p> <p>Work undertaken through the Restore the Thaw project to develop links with landowners regards future tree planting schemes (see update below).</p> <p>We do not plant trees in the first 2 quarters as the failure rate is so high due to weather conditions.</p>	<p>Cost of strategy adoption and limited space left for planting in Country Parks.</p> <p>Need for review of land ownership and ID suitable planting areas.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Draft tree strategy to be submitted to Cabinet November 2023 for approval.</p> <p>Trees to be planted in Country Parks.</p> <p>See PZC5.RTT</p>
<p>PZC5.4 Improve existing and create more green and blue spaces through Council led schemes, s.106 funds and new transport schemes.</p>	<p>Completion of Barry Docks transport interchange including new landscaped areas and new cycle shelters with integrated green roofs and bug hotels.</p> <p>Work on Wenvoe outdoor gym equipment funded by S106 complete. Tenders received for St Athan scheme.</p> <p>S106 public consultation undertaken on the proposed upgrading of Celtic Way Park in Rhoose to include re-designing and upgrading existing play area, new seating areas and biodiversity enhancements such as new tree planting and re-wilding. A local environmental group Replant Rhoose has been involved with the planting elements of the scheme.</p> <p>A S106 public consultation was undertaken on the proposed improvements to Murchfield Courts in Dinas Powys. The public open space scheme will include additional planting elements.</p>	<p>Limited internal resources may result in the prioritisation of other schemes and slippage may occur to some S106 projects as a result.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>The new outdoor gym at Lougher Place, St. Athan is due to be completed.</p> <p>Bulb planting, tree planting and the preparation of the wildflower areas at Celtic Way Park.</p> <p>Planned improvements at Murchfield, Dinas Powys will be finalised and work will commence.</p>

PZC5.5 Work with local communities to increase the number of allotments and community garden space.	See PZC1.3 and PZC9.5	None.	See PZC1.3 and PZC9.5	See PZC1.3 and PZC9.5
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**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC6.1 Produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.	No significant progress to date. Discussions with Local Planning Authority (LPA) over the potential for a SuDs Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to facilitate better alignment between planning and SAB (SuDs Approval Body) rather than standalone guidance.	No budget or funding available at this time to progress guidance.	Slower than expected progress	Develop business case for Project Zero funding.
PZC6.2 Review/produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on tackling climate change.	Employment SPG reported back to Cabinet in May 2023. The guidance includes a chapter on sustainability and climate change, and a section on active travel and travel plans. Retail and town centre SPG has also been adopted. The document seeks to promote a flexible approach to town centres as areas that are accessible by sustainable transport modes and encourages use of sustainable materials.	None.	On track	No further SPGs planned for Q3 & Q4. Additional SPG to be prepared in 2024-25 as part of evidence for the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

<p>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</p>	<p>Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Vision and Objectives endorsed by Cabinet in April. Work progressing on RLDP Preferred Strategy including stakeholder engagement on Growth and Spatial Options, drafting of strategic policies and assessment of candidate sites. Workshop held to consider alignment with PSB Well-being plan, including Climate Change objectives.</p>	<p>Timetable for Preferred Strategy consultation delayed due to need to collate additional evidence to support key site selection. Revised Delivery Agreement including timetable due to be reported to Council in Q3.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>LDP Annual Monitoring report approved by Cabinet in October 2023 – identifies performance against policy targets including delivery of housing on brownfield land.</p> <p>RLDP Preferred Strategy to be reported through committee process in Q3. Strategy seeks to co-locate housing, employment and other services and facilities to reduce the need to travel, and targets development to places well served by public transport.</p>
<p>PZC6.4 Work with developers to develop zero carbon buildings.</p>	<p>see below</p>	<p>see below</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>see below</p>
<p>PZC6.5 Create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy.</p>	<p>Officers researched planning policy for reducing the carbon intensity of new buildings and formulated a pathway to developing such policy. External expertise was considered necessary to complete this work and a successful bid was made for funds from PZ Reserves. Using this funding, procurement has progressed and a Request for Quotes to complete the feasibility work needed to develop this policy has been posted on Sell2Wales.</p>	<p>Risks on identifying hooks, exemplar work and funding have been overcome.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Instruct consultants to carry out the necessary feasibility work to justify a policy intervention on these grounds and complete that work. It may also be possible in late Q4 to use the feedback from the consultants work to inform whether or not we can make an intervention on these grounds.</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>Delivery of SAB function ongoing from the previous period with a total 10 SAB cases including 10 pre-applications and 22 full applications, 16 of which have been determined, 1 withdrawn and 5 still under consideration.</p>	<p>No additional staff funding confirmed to improve robustness and effectiveness of enforcement activities.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue delivery of SAB function. Recruit additional staff as required subject to budget being made available.</p>
<p>PZC6.7 Use S106 agreements to invest in environmental and sustainable transport measures.</p>	<p>Section 106 sustainable transport contributions continue to support: the Greenlinks service; feasibility and design work on active travel improvements including a new crossing at Westgate, Cowbridge; the installation of active travel infrastructure such as a new bike pump repair station in Llantwit Major; the approval of additional street lighting in Llanmaes Road; the implementation of pedestrian enhancements including dropped kerbs and tactile crossing points on Gladstone Road, Barry. A bus shelter review was undertaken in Sully and a £1 fare scheme for the 303 bus service to Ogmore by Sea was subsidised in the summer holidays.</p> <p>The new Belle Vue Pavilion in Penarth opened and includes a green roof. Biodiversity enhancements will be included as part of the planned improvements at Celtic Way Park, Rhoose and Murchfield courts, Dinas Powys. The Section 106 annual report for 2022/23 confirms that the Council received section 106 contributions totalling £5.4 million in the last financial year and over £6.2 million was spent over that period.</p>	<p>Limited internal resources to manage scheme prioritisation.</p> <p>Potential for a drop in planning applications due to economic climate and resulting drop in S106 contributions.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>In Q3 and Q4 2023/24, the Section 106 officer will continue to work closely with relevant members and service areas to identify appropriate new environmental and sustainable transport schemes that can be delivered using Section 106 funding. Other funding opportunities will also be investigated where appropriate to assist in the delivery of Section 106 projects.</p> <p>Repairs to the boardwalk are due to commence using S106 monies.</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>Discussions have continued with the Barry Docks owner ABP over the potential development of a green growth hub.</p> <p>The Development of Aberthaw by CCR energy is progressing and demolition contractors have now been appointed for the removal of the former power station.</p>	<p>Docks owned by ABP (the Council can support proposed uses through land allocation in the LDP, policy decisions &amp; general support including from CCR).</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Announcement from ABP regarding Docks due in Q3.</p> <p>Aberthaw Masterplan due to be consulted upon.</p>
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<p><b>Challenge 7.</b> Achieve a modal shift away from cars to more <b>sustainable forms of transport</b> with an increase in walking, cycling and the use of less polluting transport. SRO: EMMA REED</p>				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24

<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>Continued to work regionally to understand what local bus services run commercially and which ones will need financial support. Decision on future funding due from WG in Q3.</p> <p>£200k Local Transport Fund grant awarded to the Council to upgrade bus stops within the Vale of Glamorgan, including the passenger terminal bus stop at Cardiff Airport.</p> <p>Barry Dock Transport Interchange opened Q2.</p> <p>Work ongoing with CCR regarding further installations of EV charging points.</p>	<p>Uncertain future funding for bus services.</p> <p>£600k LTF grant applied for, but only £200k awarded, which reduces our ability to upgrade more bus stops and purchase additional e-displays. Workload capacity of the Design &amp; Construction team to undertake the two bus stop upgrades planned.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Phase 2 EV charge point site installations to be completed and commissioned for public use. Phase 3 progressed to detailed design subject to submission for ORCS funding by CCR and approval by Welsh and UK governments. Further funding opportunities for additional on-street EV charging bays to be discussed with CCR &amp; options to include school sites with MUGAs (Multi-use games areas) that get regular visits from the public.</p> <p>Tender all local bus services that are not commercially viable and take a regional decision on those that will be funded from April 2024.</p> <p>Progress design and construction to upgrade the Cardiff Airport passenger terminal bus stop and a stop on Fonmon Rd, Rhoose.</p> <p>Improvements to some existing shelters and purchase additional bus stop information displays with remaining grant funding.</p>
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<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>S106 agreement in principle with WG for substantial Sustainable Transport contributions at Cosmeston. Member consultations regarding spend of S106 funds including at Sully (Cog Road development) and Barry waterfront.</p> <p>Consistent implementation of Parking Standards SPG which promotes lower levels of parking.</p> <p>Employment developments approved in Barry/Hayes Road area, and Llantwit Major.</p> <p>RLDP Preferred strategy written and explained to members in engagement sessions.</p>	<p>Delays in reporting Cosmeston &amp; Leckwith application to Planning Committee. Sustainable transport viability affected by need for Leckwith development to provide funds to replace road bridge. Model Farm employment development not approved by Planning Committee- now subject to a lengthy appeal delay.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Determine application at Cosmeston and S106 officer to liaise with the Transport team regarding use of Sustainable Transport funds.</p> <p>Secure approval of Replacement LDP Preferred Strategy, which will be the first steps of allocating land for new housing in sustainable locations, and which can deliver significant transport infrastructure improvements.</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>Construction of active travel (AT) route through Eglwys Brewis started May 23.</p> <p>Construction of AT route along Station Road, Rhose started July 23.</p> <p>Audits undertaken of pedestrian routes in Barry ahead of proposed improvements.</p>	<p>Funding given through WG application process once a year.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Toucan crossing to be installed on Port Road shared use path near Walston Castle; improvements to be made through Wenvoe village; completion of AT routes at Egwys Brewis and Station Road, Rhose; Barry pedestrian routes improvements.</p> <p>Prepare bids for 24/25 funding applications.</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.	Monthly rentals are significantly less than previous years due to numbers in service (through vandalism). Nextbike are prioritising ebikes in the Vale to maintain the hire fleet as much as possible.	Vandalism throughout the summer months has hit the serviceable number of bikes available for hire.	On track	Dependent on status of Nextbike scheme.
PZC7.5 Work with all schools to ensure they have green travel plans and adequate cycling facilities.	Active Travel (AT) officer has worked with 2 schools to develop their AT plan.	Lack of staff resource and funding.	Slower than expected progress	Welsh Government have issued a toolkit for all schools to work with Sustrans Cymru. The AT officer aims to work with some schools in the Vale over the rest of the academic year to help them develop their plans.
PZC7.6 Establish a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and support projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles.	On-going installations taking place with Cardiff Capital Region.  Website delayed.	Limited resources to undertake required actions.	Slower than expected progress	Further options provided to CCR for EV charger install consideration, including school sites with MUGAs that get regular visits from the public. See further comments in PZC7.1

**Challenge 8.** Work with partners and business to develop and implement an **Economic Growth Strategy** that supports local business and meets the challenge of climate change and our ambition for a green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

SRO: MARCUS GOLDWORTHY

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
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<p>PZC8.1 Develop and implement a sustainable and green Economic Growth Strategy.</p>	<p>Meetings have taken place with Town Councils and initial drafts of some placemaking work has been sent to the Design Council Wales (DCW) for comment. Applications will now be made to WG for funding to support the development of placemaking plans. Cowbridge in particular is moving at pace, thanks to a very proactive Town Council who have embraced placemaking. The intention is for plans to be co-produced.</p>	<p>Capacity across Town Councils is mixed and this needs to be reflected in any bids. Barry presents a particular challenge in that it is a large space of different zones. Areas of most need are being focused on at this stage.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Funding applications to be submitted to Welsh Government and more detailed work to commence with Barry Town Council.</p> <p>Further discussions will take place between the Council and both Llantwit Major and Penarth Town Councils.</p>
<p>PZC8.2 Support increased digital access and literacy in the community.</p>	<p>Weekly job club within Barry Library ICT Suite continues and has grown in popularity week on week. Participants are encouraged to stay in the library following the job club to attend the Digital Skills Session, and some of our participants are taking this opportunity to upskill.</p> <p>New Training and Participation Officer who has increased promotion and enrolment into digital courses and online qualifications. Our mentors are actively involved to support these participants with these courses and into employment.</p>	<p>The main risk to our activities is participant engagement and motivation. Due to our programme being voluntary, we do see some participants disengage which does also result in disengagement with the digital courses.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Development of further courses online. Further improvements to be made to our other job clubs. Training and Participation Officer to continue to increase engagement on the courses available.</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>Food and farming role funding approved via SPF and Project Zero reserves. Food role will focus on several specific challenges in the action plan and also begin to look at the feasibility of an Agri Hub project.</p>	<p>Role has yet to be approved internally although funding is in place.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Recruit officer subject to new job creation being approved.</p>

<p>PZC8.4 Work with businesses, colleges, and universities to identify opportunities and promote new technology.</p>	<p>Multiple meetings have taken place in relation to the CCR energy project at the power station. Funding has also been launched to enable businesses to apply for new tech and decarb projects.</p>	<p>Lack of formal lines of Communications between CCR and Authorities in the Region can prove a challenge. However, CCR energy has hosted meetings at the power station in relation to that project.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Discussions will take place with CCR energy around a potential supply chain project linked to the power station. Funding will be issued to businesses to implement new technology and green investments.</p>
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**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<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 2023 Vale Food Trail was successfully held in the summer with over 14 business/ organisations and 500 people engaging the range of activities on offer. The trail helped promote local producers across the Vale. The activities included cooking workshops, food tasting and garden and orchard tours.</p> <p>Work to implement the Move More Eat Well (MMEW) plan continues with <a href="#">the 2022/23 annual report</a> showing the progress made to date across all priority areas.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Food Vale partners will begin planning for a 2023/24 Vale Food Trail. Work will progress to develop a new MMEW framework with stakeholder for post April 2024 aligned to the Healthy Weight: Health Wales Welsh Government policy agenda.</p>

<p>PZC9.2 Work within Food Vale to obtain Sustainable Food City status and promote businesses that have sustainable practices.</p>	<p>A new Food Vale Officer was successfully recruited for a 12 month period and is working to develop the partnership and to achieve Silver Status including the development of a new Food Strategy for the VOG with partners, stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>Work to explore the root causes of food insecurity in the Vale and support actions under the Llantwit Food Project.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>A workshop using the 3 horizons model is planned to take place in November helping to develop a draft Food Strategy for the Vale.</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 have implemented a new compliant menu that will start after half term. The menu has looked at cost effective products and ingredients to stay within the nutritional guidelines which will help us achieve compliance without compromising on quality for our pupils.</p> <p>Big Fresh have now moved to paper straws and removed all single use plastic on site at both cafes.</p>	<p>Rising costs may lead to the need to change suppliers.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue to work with our suppliers to reduce the impact of packaging on the environment.</p> <p>Follow up work from the Youth Climate Conversation scoping opportunities to work with the waste team and schools to talk about recycling and waste dispensing from purchases at our service counters. This will educate and raise awareness of the need to recycle and not to litter.</p>
<p>PZC9.4 Review procurement arrangements to support less food miles and less packaging and waste.</p>	<p>Single use plastic is banned in all new leases / licences - there have been 2 new concessions in this period plus Big Fresh licences at Penarth Pier Cafe and Belle Vue Park.</p> <p>Working to reduce our use of single use disposal cups at Council run events - we have purchased an urn and mugs which have been used for internal and public events reducing the waste we generate.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>To scope opportunities for reducing food miles and packaging through Big Fresh's procurement arrangements.</p> <p>We have identified the items banned by the Single Use Plastic Ban and are taking steps to ensure these are removed.</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 in development and includes reference to the importance of food growing in the Vale.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>The planning team are consulting internally on the GI plan.</p> <p>Food Vale are holding a Food Strategy Event in November which will invite stakeholders and members of the public to discuss their priorities for a sustainable local food system in the Vale, including needs around growing food.</p> <p>Food Vale are surveying schools to understand what they are already doing around food growing, and what their ambitions are.</p>
<p>PZC9.6 Promote and facilitate food waste recycling for residents, business and schools</p>	<p>Beginning the process of a service change from comingled to source segregated recycling for commercial premises, which includes our schools.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Send letter to all commercial businesses including schools on future service changes and approve the new commercial waste pricing structure.</p> <p>Participate in waste discussions at the Youth Climate Conversation to assist the awareness to school children regarding recycling. Planning to attend a headteachers meeting to raise awareness of the forthcoming workplace waste regulations and council-run waste services.</p>

**Challenge 10. Reduce waste** and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling.

SRO: EMMA REED

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC10.1 Adopt a new Waste Management Strategy with a strong emphasis on working with the community.	We are currently working on our next update to Cabinet. The report will include updates on the Garden Waste subscription service, the 3 weekly black bags, new waste legislation from 1st April regarding businesses recycling, waste services and efficiencies going forward and how these will be delivered and capturing additional recycling from flats and apartments.	None	On track	Prepare the Cabinet report.
PZC10.2 Develop campaigns to change behaviour e.g. to reduce single use plastics and packaging and to increase reuse, recycling and composting.	We have designed the required artwork and manufactured the panels in preparation for installation of campaign materials in 8 locations.	None, as funded externally.	On track	Receiving funding to undertake some bus stop advertising working with Clear Channel.
PZC10.3 Promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste.	We have appointed the 3 recycling officers and implemented a new system to monitor interactions with householders. The recycling officers are currently working in areas known to have limited recycling participation to assist educate residents and increase recycling rates.	We need to take an evidence based approach in Q3 & Q4 to narrow down the areas that require further assistance.	On track	We will be implementing monthly contamination audits of the material offloaded by our recycling vehicle to help further understand the areas that require further assistance and education.

PZC10.4 Establish a Reuse Shop to take in products, repair as necessary and sell them on.	The contract is taking longer to sign although will be opened in Q3.	Delay in signing the new contract.	Slower than expected progress	Open a new reuse shop in Atlantic Trading Estate, run by the Enfys Foundation.  To work with FCC Environment (the company that runs our Household Waste recycling centres at Barry and Llandow) to maximize the number of items reused and diverted from being recycled.
PZC10.5 Roll out of recycling arrangements across the Vale and work with schools and business to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.	The Roll-out of recycling arrangements into Penarth has been completed and we are currently writing to businesses regarding the new regulations which come into force in April 2024. We are also working with facilities regarding public buildings.	Resource could be a future risk especially if we receive a large increase in commercial customers.	On track	Continue working with Schools, Facilities, and local businesses to implement the required changes ahead of the <a href="#">Wales Workplace Recycling Regulations</a> to be introduced in April '24.
PZC10.6 Build a new Resource Recovery Centre in the Western Vale.	We are still working with the property section to locate a suitable parcel of land for the new resource recovery facility. An additional Capital bid has been submitted towards the development costs.	Risks include the increase costs of purchasing and developing the required land.	Slower than expected progress	To continue to work with the property section to locate the required land.
PZC10.7 Commit to avoiding the export of any residual waste or recycling materials from the UK.	We have signed new contracts with off takers ensuring that material remains in the UK. These contracts are for a period of 1 year + 1.	Completed	Completed	

**Challenge 11.** Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding, manage our **coastline** and encourage everyone to take a more responsible approach to **water use**.  
SRO: EMMA REED

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC11.1 Implement a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan.	External consultants appointed to assist with delivery of new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Property counts completed and review of existing data sets nearing completion. An internal review of local objectives and measures is ongoing but slower than programmed.	Internal resource to manage external consultant and undertake internal review local objectives and measures.	Slower than expected progress	Commencement of statutory consultation on the draft document by March 2024 or as soon as practicable thereafter.
PZC11.2 Ensure Sustainable Drainage measures Systems (SuDS) are delivered.	See PZC6.6	See PZC6.6	On track	Continue delivery of SAB function. Recruit additional staff as required subject to funding.
PZC11.3 Promote water efficiency measures in our work and buildings.	Water AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) is being installed. There was a pause while we waited for Welsh Water to change non pulsed meters which is now being done. We are currently up to 148 water AMR devices installed on meters across the estate including schools, parks, our principal buildings, and care homes. The meters are identifying continuous water flow, and work is ongoing to identify the causes.  We have replaced oversized meters in some settings to reduce standing charge costs.	Lack of identified contacts in our buildings to track progress when flow issues / leaks are flagged.  Lack of capacity to review water meter sizes and sizes of supply means missed opportunities to save on standing charge costs.	On track	Continue with the roll out of AMR, with the aim of completing across the full Council estate in this period.



PZC11.4 Encourage the re-use of rainwater where possible.	No significant progress to date. Related to progress on PCZ11.1 above.	Officer time and resource. See action PCZ11.1 above.	No progress	To be discussed internally with facilities team and Planning policy. Also to be progressed as part of the objectives and measures referred for the LFRMS in PCZ11.1 above.
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**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC12.1 Develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan and contribute to the work of the Cardiff Capital Region.	4 Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) stakeholder workshops took place. Attendees included internal colleagues, larger businesses, and energy consumers in the Vale. Workshop themes included 'Pathway Prioritisation' and 'Scenario setting' for future energy needs.	Gaps in stakeholder input.	On track	Further stakeholder workshops are being planned as well as a briefing for SLT and members on progress to date.  A draft plan is due to be delivered by the beginning of February 2024, to be reviewed by The Council and Stakeholders up to the end of March 2024.
PZC12.2 Work with developers and businesses to move away from fossil fuels and explore opportunities for investment in alternative energy supplies.	Funding agreed for Business Decarbonisation role supported by SPF and Project Zero reserves.  SPF Business Grant offer to encourage decarbonisation advertised and circulated to businesses across the Vale.		Slower than expected progress	Appointment of Business Decarbonisation Officer.  Issuing of first tranche of business decarbonisation grants.

<p>PZC12.3 Support community renewable energy projects and develop district heating networks.</p>	<p>Solar photovoltaic feasibility site visits have been completed at six buildings (within schools and Place Directorate).</p> <p>Additional funding has been secured to retrofit a group of Community Centres: this will include solar photovoltaics, LED lighting and other energy efficiency measures.</p>	<p>Capital to make further investment.</p> <p>Structural surveys and grid infrastructure checks to be completed.</p>	<p>On track</p>	
<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>Information on energy efficiency and grants available is regularly updated on our <a href="#">cost of living webpages</a>.</p> <p>Co-ordination with Housing Department and the Council's registered Social landlords to update them on the assistance available.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing promotion of energy efficiency in the home and available grants including working with the Town and Community Councils.</p>

### 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.

<b>Challenge 13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement</b> policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions SRO: MATT BOWMER				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress April '23 - September '23</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks and barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24</b>
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 <a href="#">Procurement Policy and strategy and supporting documents</a> were published on the intranet.</p> <p>Establishment of relationship with Ardal, the shared procurement service with Monmouthshire, Cardiff and Torfaen Councils. Ardal have started work on the contract register, the approach to reducing carbon in the supply chain, spend analysis, and on a tailored set of TOMs (Themes, Outcomes, Measures).</p> <p>A distribution list of all the Council's commissioners and procurers has been created and 'Reducing Carbon in the Supply Chain' note has been circulated.</p>		On track	<p>Procurement policy to be reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Contract register and forward plan to be in place.</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.	<p>A session with Insight Board on community benefits was delivered to raise awareness of the opportunities to deliver more from our procurement.</p> <p>Ongoing discussion with Ardal on streamlining the Welsh Government TOMs in the Strategy &amp; Policy to ensure social value is delivered where it has the greatest impact on the Council's objectives, including the Net Zero commitment.</p>		On track	Publish new streamlined TOMs framework and implement on a pilot basis for larger contracts.

**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<p>PZC14.1 Deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A-rated new Council homes.</p>	<p>In total 133 units were started in this period</p> <p>Scheme at St Cyres Road completed and handed over in July.</p> <p>Scheme at Hayeswood Road is progressing well and nearing completion.</p> <p>Scheme at Clos Hom View Phase 2 started on site in June.</p> <p>Schemes at Colcot Clinic and Eagleswell Road are progressing well.</p> <p>Coldbrook Road East scheme is progressing, though more slowly than expected.</p>	<p>Scheme at Maes y Ffynnon on hold as tendered sum not affordable.</p> <p>Coldbrook Road East - contractor issues.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>In total 30 new units are planned to start in this period.</p> <p>Continuation of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)/EPC A schemes currently under construction: EPC A new starts on site at Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major; Clos Holm View Phase 2; Maes y Ffynnon, Bonvilston; Olive Lodge, Barry and Cadoxton House, Barry.</p> <p>Maes y Ffynnon remains part of the Council Housing Development Programme and will be commenced during 2024/25 Coldbrook Road contractor has been replaced and work will recommence in January 2024.</p> <p>Phased handover of Hayeswood Road scheme likely from Dec 2023 through to March 2024.</p> <p>Completion of new Council housing schemes at St Cyres Road, Penarth and Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major.</p>

<p>PZC14.2 Improve the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock and utilise Optimised Retrofit Programmes.</p>	<p>Completion of rebuild of three Aireys properties* in St Georges Super Ely, the first homes to receive a full PAS 2035 survey and works to achieve the highest efficiency ratings that the buildings can achieve.</p> <p>Work towards the introduction of Airwit sensors in 28 x pilot properties including the gathering of baseline data.</p> <p>Continued delivery of existing fabric first schemes including blocks of flats and Houses. Pontalun Close and Severn Avenue schemes have started, with Severn Avenue identified to pilot Solshare PV and battery backup system that distribute electricity to individual flats.</p> <p>Development of the 28 x whole house approach pilot scheme design and tender package continues with consultants Michael Dysons. The retrofit assessments and air tightness testing have been completed and the in-house Retrofit Coordinator has identified the options to achieve net zero. Designs have been finalised and tenants have been consulted on the finished appearance of the blocks and individual properties. Michael Dysons are now developing the tender package for the pilot scheme to be procured.</p> <p>*An Airies property is a non-traditional house/flat construction type, usually of reinforced concrete structure. These are difficult and expensive to maintain and improve, and costly to improve the EPC or SAP rating. Many of ours are also off gas in rural areas and therefore will require heat pumps etc when converting fuel source from oil or coal.</p>	<p>Contractor issues: Limited number of contractors available and the recent set-back of targets has reduced the appetite of contractors to enter the market. Lack of upskilled contractors available who are signed up to Trustmark to deliver the Pilot Scheme.</p> <p>Tenant issues: not allowing access to contractor to undertake surveys and not wanting monitoring systems installed in their homes.</p> <p>Current SAP assessment does not recognise the impact of up to date renewal technology which reduces a property's carbon footprint.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Undertake reviews of data received from the installation of the Airwit Sensors, of outcomes of the PAS2035 retrofit and monitoring data of each property's performance.</p> <p>Continued delivery of installation of remaining Airwit sensors and Fabric first schemes such as Pontalun Close and Severn Avenue.</p> <p>Review of Aireys property performance and identifying their new SAP rating. Support new tenants to ensure their property and its renewable technology system are working efficiently.</p> <p>Engage contractor and start work to deliver PAS2035 28 x properties whole house approach pilot scheme.</p> <p>Plan and start the PAS2035 Retrofit assessment on the properties to be included in the next property decarbonisation scheme which will include the next 300 x council house properties.</p>
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**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 '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating (dropdown)	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
PZC15.1 Invest in carbon reduction measures across the educational estate.	Planned review of our Employer’s requirements which date from 2018. These are used for tenders and then in the final contract setting out what is required from a development in the contract including net zero carbon, ecology, and social benefits. They will be reviewed and updated in line with Project Zero, the Corporate Strategy and the WG’s strategies to reflect future environmental potential and sustainability goals.	Increase of project costs.	On track	Completion of updating Employer's Requirements to enhance developments in meeting WG Carbon Reduction targets.
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.	Under construction: St Nicholas, a NZC in Operation Primary school.  In development: Ysgol y Deri expansion is due to begin and will be a reduced carbon/NZC school with our first green roof and living wall, plus PV panels. St Richard Gwyn is currently within the Planning and SAB process and will be a reduced carbon/NZC comprehensive school with a green roof, in addition to an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) and PV panels.	Planning/SAB determination dates.  Increase project cost due to delays for on site starting	On track	St Richard Gwyn – SAB and Planning determination dates November. Consultation running from 5th September - 17th October.  Progress with planning for Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.  St Nicholas CIW Primary phase 2 to be completed. Ysgol Sant Baruc due for completion. Ysgol Y Deri expansion construction due to start.

<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>Construction waste has been monitored and will continue. Enhancement on demolition materials reuse to be explored.</p> <p>Fact finding case study has begun working with the demolition contractor at St Nicolas to look at the feasibility of local reuse of construction / demolition waste (currently 96% diverted from landfill).</p>	<p>Increase project cost for diversion of construction waste to other sites of separation material.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Within the updated Employer's Requirements for each specific project, we will be incorporating the need for a full breakdown of waste material plus the reuse of demolition material to other sites - reducing our carbon footprint through development.</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>Our standard model for delivering Net Zero Carbon (NZC) in Operation is always under review to ensure the building fabric is as airtight as possible.</p>	<p>Increase in project cost.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Updating on Employer's Requirements with lessons learnt on delivered projects i.e. to increase the thermal efficiency of the building fabric by removing all penetrations (sockets, switches) from the external walls (excluding windows etc) to gain small margins that enhance the thermal envelope.</p>
<p>PZC15.5 Improve school grounds biodiversity as a means of decarbonisation and map natural carbon sinks.</p>	<p>Community links have been made with a local nature reserve, two community gardens and a local care home. These projects aim to improve these natural spaces for pupils and the wider community, creating teaching spaces and areas to relax and reflect in nature.</p> <p>St Nicholas contractors are planning on revamping the old nature reserve in the school to make it a safe teaching space with lots of areas to encourage more wildlife and increase biodiversity.</p>	<p>funding available, buy-in to manage areas of land going forward.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Working with Big Fresh to install wormeries at 3 schools.</p> <p>Working with the Local Nature Partnership to enhance an area in Barry for the local community and schools to utilise.</p> <p>Updating our Employer's requirements for future schemes - taking lessons learnt and build on these.</p>

<p>PZC15.6 Focus on methods to further reduce in-use consumption, e.g. reducing catering, monitoring community usage.</p>	<p>Project Zero reserves funding has been received for <a href="#">Energy Sparks</a> to provide support to 6 schools on becoming more energy efficient and promoting behaviour change.</p> <p>Big Fresh have worked with us on delivered a scheme to reduce equipment such as fridges/freezers, which in turn reduces energy required.</p> <p>Metering has been placed in our new buildings to monitor and advise schools of their consumption - advising on where this can be improved e.g. for 'Switch off Fortnight' a newsletter was issued to all schools, which has had some positive feedback.</p>	<p>Small barrier - schools are extremely busy and providing regular data and feedback to us is a challenge. Installing meters removes the barrier, but these do come at a cost.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Schools will be identified for Energy Sparks support and work will commence.</p> <p>Future newsletters and advice along with case studies will be issued to all schools to encourage more eco-friendly, energy friendly and less wasteful approaches.</p>
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<p><b>Challenge 16. Manage and use our land, buildings and other assets</b> to support work to tackle climate change, rationalising what we need and improving sustainability and energy efficiency. SRO: LORNA CROSS</p>				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<p>PZC16.1 Review the Asset Management Strategy.</p>	<p>No action as yearly update due in Feb 2024.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No planned action</p>	<p>Annual update to Cabinet in February.</p>



PZC16.2 Progress the Space Project to modernise and rationalise Council buildings including the creation of more green areas.	Business case approved. In light of budget issues, options were reviewed for a revised scheme.	Lack of available budget.	Slower than expected progress	Options continue to be reviewed for a wider rationalisation programme.
PZC16.3 Invest in and implement a programme of energy saving projects to reduce energy use across our buildings as part of the carbon management plan.	LED lighting projects delivered at Pen-y-Garth, Dinas Primary Schools. PV feasibility undertaken.  Consultant provided with data sets for review. Our Net Zero Carbon report for Welsh Government for 2022/23 has also been shared.	Not all activity has sufficient data granularity to map the way forward to net zero carbon, which make costings to deliver net zero carbon difficult.	Slower than expected progress	Prepare PV tenders for procurement and installation. Progress LED lighting projects for The Alps Garage, PLC and Cowbridge 3G pitches.  Carbon Management Plan - draft to be circulated with project team and finalised.
PZC16.4 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.	Project Zero funding awarded for a feasibility study for a renewable energy project on Council land.	None.	On track	Officers are working towards the appointment of a consultant to carry out a feasibility study for a potential energy project on council owner land.
PZC16.5 Encourage leaseholders to be more sustainable in how they use property leased from the Council.	No new EPC ratings needed in property leased this period as the existing ratings have not expired.	Lack of resource for monitoring.	On track	none planned

<p>PZC16.6 Implement plans to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.</p>	<p>We are currently at 93% LED. Upgrades to LED to small schemes in the period include: Cliff Road/Cliff Hill Heritage style lanterns x 16 to LED; The Mount, Dinas Powys, 19 x illuminated bollard lights to LED; Penarth Marina, 228 x lanterns to LED; 30 x cast Iron column refurbishment and upgrade to LED in Penarth &amp; upgrade 19 x lanterns to LED.</p>	<p>Added expense of heritage / bespoke may be a barrier for future conversions.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Capital funds to be confirmed to convert the remaining 7% (1120) of lighting, and remaining road lighting to LED. Many are heritage / bespoke style.</p>
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<p><b>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.</b> SRO: EMMA REED</p>				
<p><b>Step</b></p>	<p><b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress April '23 - September '23</b></p>	<p><b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks and barriers</b></p>	<p><b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b></p>	<p><b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24</b></p>
<p>PZC17.1 Develop an electric /alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.</p>	<p>No new orders for EV vehicles placed. Two welfare units purchased which although still have diesel generators also have solar panels to reduce carbon output.</p> <p>Delivery of EV recycling vehicles delayed - anticipated in Q4.</p> <p>Engaged with consultants to scope an alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.</p>	<p>Due to change in personnel, new orders have been limited.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Continue to consider the option of electric/alternative fuelled vehicles when purchasing or hiring vehicles.</p> <p>Delivery of EV recycling vehicles.</p> <p>Tender and appoint consultants to undertake a comprehensive fleet review and produce an electric/alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.</p>

<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>	<p>Working with the region and operators with regard to the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) funding withdrawal.</p> <p>Staff Travel Survey undertaken.</p> <p>Promoted TfW rail flex tickets and young persons travel through StaffNet.</p>	<p>Funding.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Work with the Communications team to improve staff travel webpages.</p> <p>Review staff rewards scheme and opportunities to incentivise more sustainable ways to travel to work through staff rewards.</p>
<p>PZC17.3 Develop hub facilities for staff to work from to reduce the need to travel.</p>	<p>Office-based staff can work from any building that has wifi which is not reliant on Council owned or managed buildings if it meets their service requirements and offers a suitable working environment.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Finalise the next phase of Eich Lle works.</p>

<p><b>Challenge 18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services</b> reducing the need for travel and office space. SRO: TOM BOWRING</p>				
Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<p>PZC18.1 Utilise new technologies and digital practices to reduce electricity usage and reduce carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Completion of initial specification and testing of archiving software that will enable shut down of legacy servers.</p> <p>The project team have almost completed the specification to be included in the procurement process. New Head of Digital is currently reviewing the</p>	<p>Delays in Oracle archive project due to resource capacity of Oracle Archiving Implementation partner. Support resources for Teams Telephony</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Decommissioning of Oracle on premise servers now planned for Q4.</p> <p>HoS to complete their review and confirm approach. Decision will inform the actions to take place in this period.</p>

	<p>approach and proposed timescales to inform the way forward.</p> <p>The hybrid meeting platform is in its final stages of testing. Training has started to be rolled out to Elected Members and Officers, mainly via iDev, but face to face workshops are also being provided.</p>	<p>are being reviewed as part of the HoS review to ensure ICT Service has the capacity and knowledge to provide quality support.</p> <p>Takeup of the training is integral to the successful introduction and use of the new platform: A cost pressure bid has been submitted for additional resources to increase capacity to support hybrid meetings.</p>		<p>Complete meeting platform testing, carry out soft launch and go live with designated public meetings.</p> <p>Training will continue to be offered / provided during this period.</p> <p>We will be looking at the opportunity to reduce our Carbon Footprint through the increased use of cloud computing in data centres that are focused on reducing environmental impact. We are undertaking a review of our device strategy to increase the re-use of our devices and are planning activities that increase the use of our 365 architecture to reduce the volume of emails sent.</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>Project Zero response to the draft Digital Strategy included the recommendation to strengthen the focus on reducing the organisation's digital carbon footprint.</p> <p>The new Head of Digital has been appointed and is reviewing works.</p> <p>The draft Digital Strategy consultation has concluded and has been updated to reflect feedback.</p>	<p>No major barriers.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Draft digital Strategy to go to Cabinet for approval with the response recommendation to strengthen the emphasis on reducing the organisation's digital footprint.</p> <p>New Head of Digital to drive through the Digital agenda by initially considering current corporate priorities, Digital Target Operating Model and governance options.</p>