

# Report



## Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development Cabinet Member for Assets

---

Date: 13 January 2020

**Subject** Carbon Management Plan

**Purpose** To consult with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development and the Cabinet Member for Assets regarding the Carbon Management Plan for the council's reduction in direct carbon emissions.

**Author** Energy & Sustainability Manager  
Housing & Assets Manager

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Council is responsible for direct carbon emissions of c17,000 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> per year, principally related to our buildings, street lighting and fleet. The UK has legally committed for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050. Welsh Government have set a challenge for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Carbon Management Plan provides a framework for the council's carbon reduction activities. Its approval will ensure our decarbonisation progresses towards the goal of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

**Proposal** To approve and adopt the Carbon Management Plan attached to this report, as a formal *policy* of Newport City Council.

This will provide a consistent framework to further develop an extensive carbon reduction programme and deliver long-term sustainable environmental and financial benefits.

**Action by** Head of Regeneration, Investment & Housing

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Capital Strategy and Asset Management Group
- Strategic Director - Place
- Head of Regeneration, Investment and Housing
- Housing & Assets Manager
- Head of Finance – Chief Finance Officer
- Head of Law and Standards – Monitoring Officer
- Head of People & Business Change
- Newport Norse

**Signed**

## Background

The Council is responsible for direct carbon emissions of 17,142 tonnes CO<sub>2e</sub> per year (2017/18), principally related to our buildings (75%), streetlighting (15%) and vehicle fleet (10%). The UK has put into law the commitment for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050 and the Welsh Government have set a challenge for the Welsh public sector to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Carbon Management Plan provides a framework for the council's carbon reduction activities in the coming years. Its approval will ensure our decarbonisation agenda progresses towards the goal of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

The council invested in the post of Energy & Sustainability Manager in 2017 and has now appointed two further members of staff to improve the management of utilities and accelerate the carbon reduction agenda. Completed, ongoing or future activities which contribute the targets within the plan include the following:

- The creation of interim targets for carbon reduction and renewable energy installations.
- Engagement with the RE:Fit energy efficiency procurement programme, targeting a multi-phase multi million pound retrofit of our extensive estate in the coming years.
- The delivery of a LED Streetlighting project reducing our total organisational carbon emissions by 6% (ongoing)
- A full review of our land to identify opportunities for grid scale renewable energy installations and EV rapid charging sites.
- The completion of a schools engagement project demonstrating innovative software developed in co-operation with a local tech start up
- The installation of advanced water monitoring equipment which allows the rapid detection or wastage with rapid return on investment
- The introduction of electric vehicles into our fleet and the installation of EV change points for fleet usage

The carbon management programme will be closely integrated with the councils Strategic Asset Management Plan and Medium Term Financial Planning.

The Council's structure and new carbon management board will ensure a robust governance arrangement for the management of the carbon reduction programme, including a range of integrated professional disciplines. Discussion of key issues and policy development is managed through the Corporate Strategy and Asset management Group, involving senior managers of all council service areas.

## Financial Summary

	Year 1 (Current) £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Ongoing £	Notes including budgets heads affected
<b>Costs (Income)</b>					
<b>Net Costs (Savings)</b>					
<b>Net Impact on Budget</b>					

Each carbon reduction measure will be assessed on its own carbon and financial merits. The budgets affected will come under the heading of utilities; there may also be revenue generation and potential revenue and capital savings relating to assets. The specific affects of each measure will be identified in each business case.

## Risks

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
There is insufficient organisation buy-in to the carbon management plan targets and objectives	M	M	The plan will be communicated widely and supported at the highest level to ensure that all senior managers understand and support the plan and its objectives.	NCC
Resource to deliver the plan is restricted or access to capital is prevented.	H	L	The council has invested in an Energy & Sustainability Manager and now a further two project based post's on an invest to save basis for the next three years. Access to loan capital has been and must continue to be available at all times for the programme to continue at pace.	NCC
Service requirements will change over the course of the lifetime of the Carbon Management Plan	M	H	The plan sets out interim monitoring and reporting periods so that the programme can be updated and remain fit for purpose. However the goal of become a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 will not be compromised.	CSAMG NCC

## Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- NCC Corporate Plan 2017-2022
- Medium Term Revenue Plan (MTRP)
- Service Plans
- Strategic Equalities Plan

## Options Available and considered

1. Take no action and do not adopt the Carbon Management Plan
2. To adopt the Carbon Management Plan

## Preferred Option and Why

Option 2 - To adopt the Carbon Management Plan attached to this report.

This will provide a consistent framework to further develop an extensive carbon reduction programme and deliver long-term sustainable environmental and financial benefits.

## **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

The delivery of the Carbon Management Plan will require investment from the Council and each project will be assessed to evaluate the costs / benefit of delivering the scheme. As the plan states, each project should make an appropriate saving/ financial return to justify the investment though some projects may give rise to a net cost for the Council.

The Council should look to secure external funding where available to assist in the delivery of the plan, including Welsh Government grants and other grants that may be available such as those being used to deliver the Electric Vehicle charging points.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The proposed Carbon Management Plan is in accordance with the statutory requirements of the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and is consistent with the Council's sustainability and well-being objectives. The policy document will provide a framework for the delivery of Council initiatives and projects which will help to reduce carbon emissions in line with legislative commitments. Any specific legal issues arising from individual initiatives and projects within the Plan will be addressed as part of the delivery process.

## **Comments of Head of People and Business Change**

The report seeks approval for the Carbon Management Plan to be adopted as a policy of Newport City Council. As such it strengthens an organisational wide approach to sustainability, both environmentally and financially, whilst considering the impacts on future generations. As such it fully supports the Council's well-being objectives and its shared responsibilities with other statutory partners, as defined within the Well-Being Plan for Newport.

There are no, specific HR impacts as a result of this report.

## **Comments of Non-Executive Members**

### Councillor C Evans:

Last year, I suggested and asked this administration, in several 'questions at any time' to urgently publish a 'carbon Reduction Plan' even including examples of plans produced by other councils, the replies were vague in my view, when we look at it 'in the whole' and non-committal to say the least, to refresh our memories, here's a question I asked in July and 'reply':

Councillor C. Evans asked: Can you update us on your administration's carbon reduction plans? Will you commit, as many other councils have done, to Newport becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and thereby potentially limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees? Councillor Whitcutt responded: The Local Government Association has declared a climate emergency at the recent annual LGA. The motion supported the principle that all levels of government must work together to successfully implement the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The Association's motion:

- Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area; and
- Encourages councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs
- Declares a 'Climate Emergency', and commits to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils

With regards to mitigating the Council's own (direct) impact on the climate, we have an ongoing programme of carbon reduction activities and projects. Our long-term approach will be published in our first Carbon Management Plan which is currently in review.

Public

Declaring emergencies is fine but 'we are in an CRISIS, to quote 'we do not have it under control, we can fix things, but unless we recognise the failure of our whole system, which includes investments we will not have a chance, now is not the time to speak politely, we have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gases, either we do that or we don't, they suggest nothing is simply, that is potentially dangerous, either we reduce CO2 emissions or we don't' Whilst I welcome the 'beginnings' of a strategy now being produced it's a small step in the right direction, the plans just don't go far enough and one must wonder why it took so long to produce? I've attached a 'comprehensive' what I would call real strategy produced by another council, in, 2016!! 4 years ago!!!! . kids get it, it's about choice, there are no grey errors when it comes to survival, we have a choice, let's play our part in safe guarding the living conditions for future generations.

I suggest as well as adopting more radical policies to address the crisis we also set up, as a matter of urgency, a cross party scrutiny committee (unpaid) to monitor the councils progress towards zero emissions, another idea I suggested several months ago, which was dismissed at the time.

Response from Cabinet Members:

Thank you for your response to the consultation on the Carbon Management Plan and the level of interest you have shown, the Head of legal has confirmed that this is an operational question and thus can be answered by myself as Head of service.

The Council takes very seriously its responsibility to future generations, the climate crisis and the commitment that will be required to tackle this complex and long term challenge for Newport and Wales. In keeping with this, the authority has *recently published its Carbon Management Plan which is a public commitment to lead by example and achieve an ambitious target. In 2017, the administration invested in a dedicated post to tackle carbon reduction, a further two posts were added in 2019.*

*The development of these posts in turn has seen significant steps forward in this area which include*

- *A reduction in direct carbon emissions of 18% in 2018/19 vs 2016/17*
- *Converting ~18,500 streetlights to LED which will reduce our direct carbon emissions by a further 6%*
- *Developed proposals for a ground mounted solar PV system which when implemented will generate the equivalent of 10% of our annual electricity usage and reduce our total direct emissions by 4.5% per year*
- *Working with a community energy group to install 6,500 solar panels on or buildings in 2020 which will reduce our total direct emissions by 3%*
- *Committed to deliver a large scale programme of energy efficiency works in building which will reduce direct emissions by 3% per phase*
- *Installing LED lighting in our buildings*
- *Continued and improved the efficiency of day-to-day utility usage in our buildings*
- *Investment in automatic meter reading technology to reduce water consumption across the estate*
- *Implementing electric vehicles and charge points within our fleet*
- *Significantly reducing staff grey mileage via a robust staff travel policy*
- *Implementing electric vehicle charge points for residents*
- *Working with BEIS to undertake heat network studies within the city*
- *Working with Welsh Government to develop Arbed-am-byth schemes for residents*
- *A range of measures to tackle air quality in the city as published in our air quality progress report*

*Although these steps have had a significant impact, the authority felt greater strategic direction was needed, which has led to the creation of a cabinet member post (December 2019) who will take direct responsibility for sustainability and climate change – this cabinet member role is in place to have the exact impact that you suggest is required and we welcome all councillors to be involved in this difficult but exciting challenge for the future.*

## **Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010**

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011.

The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership.

The single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users.

In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

### **Children and Families (Wales) Measure**

Although no targeted consultation takes place specifically aimed at children and young people, consultation on planning applications and appeals is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. Depending on the scale of the proposed development, applications are publicised via letters to neighbouring occupiers, site notices, press notices and/or social media. People replying to consultations are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Carbon Management Plan covers the period April 2018 to March 2022 and sets out the vision of how Newport city Council will reduce carbon emissions. Many differing decisions will be taken in relation of carbon management during this period.

Each decision taken as part of the Carbon Management Plan will follow the five ways of working principles set out in the guidance for compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations ( Wales ) Act 2015.

Discussion on each scheme and how the five ways of working impact upon the decision to be taken can form part of the overall scheme approval and monitoring within carbon reduction programme board and the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Group.

### **Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

### **Background Papers**

Carbon Management Plan for direct Carbon Emissions (August 2019)

Dated: 27 December 2019