

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: September 2022

### Subject **Climate Change Plan Annual Report**

Author Scrutiny Advisor

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Emma Wakeham	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer
Paul Jones	Director of Environment and Sustainability
Silvia Gonzales-Lopez	Head of Environment and Public Protection
Ross Cudlipp	Service Manager – Climate Change

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### 1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked:

1. To consider whether information submitted is adequate in providing understanding of the work being undertaken and progress being made.
2. To consider whether an annual reporting cycle is adequate to monitor performance relating to the work being undertaken and progress made.
3. To provide comment and recommendations on the Climate Change Plan Annual Report.

### 2 Context

#### Background

- 2.1 This report is for information and education purposes and to begin the reporting process. The report will return to committee in future for scrutiny regarding performance.
- 2.2 In 2021, [Newport City Council declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency](#). This specified a clear Organisational Climate Change Plan would be developed in consultation with Newport City residents.

- 2.3 A Climate Change Project Board was created to oversee the development of the plan and staff and managers from across the Council were involved in the writing of a consultation draft of the plan using the [Route Map for Decarbonisation](#) as a framework. The consultation took place during November and December 2021 and responses were reviewed and the plan amended accordingly.
- 2.4 In March 2022, [Cabinet agreed the Organisational Climate Change Plan](#) which sets out the themes, priorities, actions and milestones for the period. Newport City Council [Organisational Climate Change Plan](#) (Appendix 2) spans the period 2022-27.

### **Previous Consideration of this item**

- 2.5 This is the first time that the Climate Change Plan Annual Report has come to a Scrutiny committee.

## **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

- 3.1 The Climate Change Annual Report is affixed as Appendix 1. The report includes:
- Forewords
  - Background
  - Projects and Case Studies
  - Annual Carbon Reporting
  - Timescales Update
  - Glossary of Terms

## **4. Suggested Areas of Focus**

### **Role of the Committee**

#### **The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:**

- Assess and make comment on
  - Whether information included is adequate in providing an understanding of the Climate Change Plan
  - Whether the case studies provided provide a good understanding of work being carried out
  - Whether the information regarding Carbon Emissions is adequate
  - Whether an annual reporting cycle would be adequate to measure performance.
- Conclusions:
  - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the inclusion of general information, case studies and specific technical information?
    - Does committee feel that any further information needs to be included?
  - Do any areas require a more in-depth review by the Committee?
  - Do the Committee wish to make any Comments / Recommendations?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The Climate Change Plan Annual Report has strong links to all functions.

<b>Well-being Objectives</b>	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
<b>Corporate Plan Commitments</b>	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
<b>Supporting Function</b>	Modernised Council			

### 6 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

#### 6.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Well-being of Future Generations Act puts in place a sustainable development principle which helps organisations consider the impact they could have on people living in Wales in the future, and ensure they are focused on tackling long-term challenges. Below, consider how your decision promotes, advances, or contradicts the [5 ways of working](#) which underpin the sustainable development principle. You can access further guidance on considering the sustainable development principle [here](#).

Long term		<i>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs</i>	The Climate Change Plan will have long term benefits for current and future generations by reducing carbon emissions and reducing the impacts of climate change.
Prevention		<i>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</i>	In the UK, it is forecast that we will experience changing weather patterns with stronger storms occurring more often, bringing an increased risk of flooding to

		<p>local areas. During the summer months temperatures will continue to rise, bringing heatwaves and drought.</p> <p>These changes will affect the quality of land, land use, and agriculture. Water and air quality will continue to worsen, and there will be changes to local ecology and wildlife biodiversity as a result of this, with some local species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>With agriculture being affected, the cost of food will increase along with the cost of living. Damage to land and infrastructure will result in an increased strain on public services and local economies.</p> <p>Changes in temperatures will also result in pests settling further north due to the warmer climate which will bring with them more diseases, not usually seen in the UK. Changes to the climate will also bring with it new forms of illnesses linked to extremes in temperatures, with the young and the elderly being most affected. The health system will continue to be put under even more pressure.</p> <p>The Climate Change Plan will support the prevention of the worst impacts of climate change.</p>
<p>Integration</p>	 <p><i>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</i></p>	<p>Limiting climate change and reducing our carbon emissions are key to achieving all of our well-being objectives and the well-being goals.</p>

Collaboration		<i>Working together to deliver objectives.</i>	Staff and managers from across the council have worked together to develop the consultation draft of the Plan.
Involvement		<i>Involving those with an interest and seeking their view - ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area.</i>	A formal consultation process took place in November and December 2021.

## 6.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010 and Socio-Economic Duty

The Climate Change Plan will support the mitigation and adaptation of the impacts of climate change in the local area so has the potential to have a positive impact or to reduce the likelihood of a negative impact.

Public Health studies have shown that the impacts of climate change such as poor air quality, poor health, poor physical environment tend to have the biggest impacts in deprived areas.

For example, poor air quality combined with health impacts of deprivation interact to modify and strengthen associations with all-cause and respiratory disease mortality especially in the ‘most’ deprived areas where the most-vulnerable people live and where health needs are the greatest.

A two-month public engagement process took place during November and December.

## 6.3 Summary of impact – Welsh language

There will be no impact on the Welsh Language. All consultation materials were available in Welsh and the final plan will be translated in to Welsh.

## 7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Socio-economic Duty Guidance](#)
- [Public Sector Equality Duty](#)
- [Welsh Language Measure 2015](#)
- [Ecological and Climate Emergency declaration](#)
- [Route Map for Decarbonisation](#)
- [Cabinet’s agreement of the Organisational Climate Change Plan](#)
- [Organisational Climate Change Plan](#)

Report Completed: September 2022