

Report

Cabinet



Date: 13 September 2023

Subject Climate Change Plan Annual Report

Purpose To review progress and approve the council's organisational Climate Change Plan Annual Report

Author Programme Manager – Climate Change

Ward All wards

Summary Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need for the world to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

Newport City Council Climate Change Organisational Plan sets out themes, priorities, actions and milestones that we need to take as a Council over the next five years to:

- Reach net zero as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and this report covers:

- Projects that have taken place in 2022-23.
- Annual carbon emissions data for us as a council.

Proposal To review progress and approve the attached Annual Report.

Action by Cabinet

Timetable As set out in the plan

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity
- Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee
- Chief Financial Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People, Policy & Transformation

Signed

Background

Climate Change is one of the defining global challenges of our generation and there is an urgent need for the world to decarbonise, to limit global temperature rise and avert the worst impacts of climate change.

There is also a need for the world to adapt to the impacts of climate change now and in the future. The accumulating impacts of climate change including rising sea levels, poor air quality and extreme weather events are already putting many people at risk both locally and across the globe.

In November 2021 the Council proposed a political motion and declared an Ecological and Climate Emergency.

As part of the declaration Council agreed to:

- Continue the good work that we have started and reduce our carbon emissions to net zero carbon by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to both net zero carbon and adapting to the impacts of climate change by 2050.
- Develop a clear Climate Change Organisational plan, in consultation with our citizens, for the next five years that will set out the actions we need to take to achieve this.

In March 2022 Cabinet agreed the council's organisational climate change plan for the next five years (2022-27). The plan was developed in collaboration with staff and managers across the council and the involvement of the public.

The Plan

The Aim of the plan is to:

- Reach net zero as an organisation by 2030.
- Review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

A consultation draft of the plan was developed by staff and managers across the council using the [Route Map for Decarbonisation Across the Welsh Public Sector](#) as a framework.

The consultation draft of the Climate Change Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in October 2021 and a public consultation period took place in November and December 2021. All responses were reviewed, and the Plan was amended accordingly.

The Plan sets out six key delivery themes: These are:

- Theme 1: Organisational Leadership & Culture
- Theme 2: Our Buildings
- Theme 3: Our Land
- Theme 4: Transport & Mobility
- Theme 5: The Goods & Services we Procure
- Theme 6: Our Wider Role

Each of the delivery themes sets out a 2030 vision, set of priorities, actions and milestones that we need to take over the next five years.

Delivery of the plan commenced in April 2022 and it was agreed that a progress and review report would be published annually. The delivery of the report was agreed as being in September each year as this allows us to include data on our annual carbon emissions which is not available until this time.

Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue)

The Climate Change Plan will change the way we make spending decisions in the future. The Plan sets out a financial commitment to plan for the financial impacts of climate change, and to ensure that our medium to long term financial planning contributes to the delivery of the Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions where possible.

- Climate change and carbon reduction initiatives are to be considered within the council's long term capital programme, revenue budget and medium-term financial plan, whilst also maximising the use of external funding where possible.
- Appropriate sources of external funding and innovative use of internal funds to drive the change required are to be explored, to achieve our aspiration to become net zero carbon by 2030.
- All business cases for the transformational change programme and projects are to consider carbon reduction financial and non-financial impacts.

Risks

Risk Title / Description	Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	Risk Mitigation Action(s) What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	Risk Owner Officer(s) responsible for dealing with the risk?
That the plan is not considered as an overarching plan of the council and is not aligned with the Corporate Plan and the strategic direction for the organisation	Medium	Low	All services need to be engaged in the implementation of the plan. When the next Corporate plan is developed Climate Change mitigation and adaptation should be considered as an underpinning principle. The delivery and governance of the climate change plan and the corporate plan must be aligned.	Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate
Short term planning instead of longer term working as part of the Climate Change Plan	Medium	Medium	Services are required to consider the long-term impact when making decisions as part of the WFG Act.	Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate
Insufficient resources & funding	High	Medium	Climate change and carbon reduction initiatives to be considered within the council's long term capital programme and revenue budget and medium-term financial plan, whilst also maximising the use of external funding where possible.	Strategic Director, Environment & Sustainability Strategic Director, Transformation & Corporate

* Taking account of proposed mitigation measures

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Limiting climate change and reducing our carbon emissions are key to achieving all our well-being objectives and the well-being goals. If we don't continue to reduce our carbon and tackle climate change our well-being objectives and the well-being goals will be difficult if not impossible to realise.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To review and approve the Climate Change Plan Annual Report.
- 2) Not to approve the Annual Report

Preferred Option and Why

Option 1 - To review and approve the Climate Change Plan Annual Report.

The report reviews progress made against our commitments in the Climate Change Plan to enable the council to work towards reaching net zero as an organisation by 2030 and review the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The annual report describes the action plan that has been implemented a number of projects and initiatives that have already begun and, in some cases, already completed. These schemes have been funded through the use of existing revenue and capital budgets or various grants.

As the Climate Change plan continues to progress it will be critical to continue to monitor and report on the financial impact. A key part of this will be to identify the financial impacts of the implementation of the Council's agreed "organisational climate change plan for the next five years (2022-27)". That work continues to be on-going and it's important this is completed as it's a key underpin to deliver the Climate Change plan. Inevitably, significant external funding will be required to progress some aspects of the plan as well as funding investment and re-allocation of existing budgets in the NCC budget.

As well as the impact upon revenue and capital budgets, the Council will also need to consider the carbon impact of its treasury management and procurement activities. In the case of treasury management, consideration will need to be given to the investments the Council makes and ensuring that, wherever possible, investments are ethical and contribute towards the reduction of CO2 emissions across the globe.

In the case of funding sources, as outlined in the report, the Council will need to be innovative in identifying funding sources to support the capital investment required, as well as ensuring the maximisation of external grant funding for carbon reduction initiatives. In the case of procurement activities, the Council will need to review its supply chains and look for opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of its external contracting activities by working with partners and identifying ways to incentivise good practice amongst suppliers.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no legal issues arising from the report, as this is a non-statutory plan. However, the Climate Change Organisational Plan is consistent with the Council's strategic corporate and well-being and carbon reduction objectives, and the Ecological and Climate Emergency declaration passed at full Council. Any legal issues will be addressed as part of the delivery of the individual actions within the Plan.

Comments of Head of People, Policy & Transformation

The report asks Cabinet to review and approve the first Climate Change Plan Annual Report. The report notes progress made against our commitments in the Climate Change Plan to enable the council to work towards net zero as an organisation by 2030 and reviews the services we provide to ensure they support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

A full FEIA was undertaken on the Climate Change Plan 2022-27, to which this annual report relates. The FEIA considered our legislative responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, including the Social-economic Duty, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. A consultation was also undertaken on the draft Climate Change Plan in 2021 and the Annual Report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 28 July 2023 to gather comments and recommendations, with amendments made to the report.

There are no direct HR implications associated with the report.

Scrutiny Committees

The Annual Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 28th July 2023. The Committee made the following comments and recommendations:

- The Committee asked for an exercise to be completed wherein the new changes to the measurement of supplier emissions be applied to previous years' data to better understand trends and changes – this has been completed and has been added to the report
- The Committee recommended that data on 3 weekly garden waste collections' impact on recycling waste be included in next report.
- The Committee recommended that lists of bus shelter improvements be shared more widely with Members and the work programme of these improvement be shared with Ward Members so residents can be informed.
- The Committee recommended a survey be carried out to ascertain in which areas would improvements to bus shelters encourage bus usage.
- The Committee recommended that monitoring be carried out to ascertain how often those in the Cycle to Work Scheme use their bicycles to travel to work.
- The Committee recommended that Red, Amber and Green RAG ratings have a commentary/explanation column added to the report – this has been added to the report

Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:

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

A full Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA) was undertaken on the Climate Change Plan 2022-27, to which this Annual Report relates. This FEIA considers our legislative responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010), including the Socio-economic Duty, the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure (2011). Therefore, no FEIA has been completed for this annual report.

Consultation

The consultation draft of the Climate Change Plan was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in October and a public consultation period took place in November and December 2021.

Background Papers

[Climate Change Plan 2022-27](#)

[Climate Change Plan Animation - YouTube](#)

Dated: 5 September 2023