

# Report

## Cabinet

---



### Part 1

Date: 18 September 2024

**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 2023-24.
- 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

<b>Risk Title / Description</b>	<b>Risk Impact score of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Risk Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Risk Mitigation Action(s)</b> What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect?	<b>Risk Owner</b> 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 provides a position statement on the current progress in delivering the Council's ambition to reach net zero carbon as an organisation by 2030 and ensure services support the city's journey to net zero and adaptation to climate change.

There are no direct financial impacts from this report as it is an annual update but the Council has invested in a climate change team and also in significant base budget for the team which allows them to leverage external match funding and make progress on a number of projects annually which contribute to the Council's ambition. Other one-off carbon reduction grants are also identified to support initiatives in this area, in particular on the Council's capital projects in relation to buildings.

## **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The Climate Change Plan sets out a series of proposals for reducing carbon emissions and other environmental harm over the lifetime of the plan. As the report identifies, the Council declared a Climate Change Emergency in 2021 and has a commitment in its Corporate Plan to taking action to reduce carbon emissions and otherwise mitigate the environmental harm of its activities. The Plan sets out detailed proposals of how these corporate objectives would be achieved.

The Climate Change Plan is not a policy or strategy which is reserved to Full Council as part of the Council's Policy Framework and it is therefore within the authority of the Cabinet to approve and adopt this Plan should it choose to do so.

## **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.

The FEIA completed at the outset of the plan considers 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.

The report bears no direct HR consequences and is clearly connected to the Council's People Plan.

## **Scrutiny Committees**

The Annual Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The Committee made the following comments and recommendations:

- The Committee recommended that figures are added to RAG rating summary tables to provide more detail regarding their total number/status and ensure that its clear in the difference between red and amber actions.
- The Committee were pleased with the improvement in the report following previous feedback from Scrutiny.
- The Committee were content with 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: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023