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**ONE PLANET CARDIFF – MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE**

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**Reason for the Report**

1. To provide the Committee with an update on the proposals contained within the report titled ‘One Planet Cardiff – A Response to the Climate Change Emergency’, and to discuss how best the Committee can provide constructive input into the six-month consultation period.
2. The report will be received at the Cabinet meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, and it is anticipated that it will recommend that Cabinet:
  - *Approve the vision set out in the One Planet Cardiff Strategy for Cardiff to become a carbon neutral city by 2030;*
  - *Authorise a period of public consultation on the strategy and bring the One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan back to Cabinet in due course for approval.*

**Background**

3. The reason for the Cabinet report titled ‘One Planet Cardiff – A Response to the Climate Change Crisis’ is to approve the One Planet Cardiff Strategy as the Council’s initial response to the declared Climate Emergency, and to authorise a period of public consultation to help shape a final strategy and action plan for approval in Spring 2021.
4. It is broadly accepted that Climate Change remains the defining global challenge of our generation. The impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, flood risk, extreme weather events, unsustainable energy supplies and ultimately, widespread economic instability, are putting tens of millions of people and their jobs across the globe at direct risk. These issues are already affecting the Cardiff area, and its

population. The Council's actions in the coming decade are crucial; they will define the shape and wellbeing of our society and our planet for generations to come.

5. The climate change issue is not just about environment and carbon neutrality, but has clear implications for our society and economy. The approach of the One Planet Cardiff strategy is to identify the fundamental interdependency of these issues and, in doing so, to identify the real opportunity for positive action and improvement to create a society and economy that is successful, resilient, sustainable and well-being focussed in the long term.
6. The Council has recognised the scale of this challenge and declared a Climate Emergency. The One Planet Cardiff Strategy has been prepared as a strategic response to this declaration. It contains a vision that:
  - Sets out the Council's 10 year ambition to be Carbon Neutral in its own activities;
  - Calls on partners and stakeholders to work with us to develop a City-Wide road map and action plan for a carbon neutral City by 2030;
  - Identifies opportunities that could reframe the Cardiff economy in a way that is resilient, robust and long-term, ensuring that Cardiff is one of the leading UK green cities; and,
  - Defines the immediate programmes and opportunities that we urgently need to address.
7. The document analyses the scope and scale of the challenge facing the Council and the City, and also highlights the opportunities that could arise from positive action to address this challenge. It outlines the significant progress that the Council has made to date to address its carbon footprint, and then proposes a wide range of immediate and potential actions that will form the basis of its longer term response to the climate emergency.
8. The development of the strategy coincided with the Covid-19 emergency (and the resulting public health and emerging economic crises that have resulted in turn from this), and it is clear that the two emergencies, and the Council's response, cannot be mutually exclusive.

9. Cardiff's recovery response to Covid-19 has already established some key resilience principles. The administration's Capital Ambition, of building a fairer, greener, more prosperous city is more important now than ever. The development of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy has therefore had a renewed focus, highlighting projects and opportunities that can stimulate a "Green Recovery", with the Council leading a capital city that will be at the forefront of a green and inclusive economy, supporting both environmental and economic recovery in Wales.
10. The Council plans to consult widely on the draft Strategy to help prioritise actions, and to gather support for a whole-city response. At the same time, the Council will be seeking to generate a better and more consistent means of analysing its carbon and climate impacts across all of its activities, generating an evidence base and more detailed project feasibility work to prioritise and measure the impact of its actions.
11. The consultation analysis process will then inform a detailed committed action plan that will be approved later in the spring 2021. However, given the urgency of this agenda the Council won't wait until then to move forward, and so the Strategy also highlights the immediate actions, business case development, engagement with strategic partners, and quick wins that the Council is already putting in place to address the Climate Emergency.

## **Issues**

### ***Background Policy***

12. There is a range of live and well-publicised international and national policy surrounding the Climate Change agenda. This includes:
  - The International Paris Accord 2015, which seeks to keep global temperature increases well below 2 degrees;
  - The Welsh Government's Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, which requires public bodies in Wales to consider the long term impacts of all their key decisions;
  - Welsh Government's 2019 ambition for a Carbon Neutral Public Sector in Wales by 2030; and,

- The UK Government's 2019 policy for Net-Zero Greenhouse Gases in the UK by 2050.
13. In light of the assertions and warnings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' on 28 March 2019. The Council is not alone; so far over 250 other councils across the UK have also motioned a declaration, alongside the Welsh and UK Government.
  14. The risks associated with climate change are significant and well known. Many, including rising sea levels, extreme weather, increased pollution and associated public health implications are already being experienced in Cardiff, and will in some cases make the Council's services more difficult and more expensive to deliver. However, a consolidated approach to tackle climate change could bring opportunities, making the city a healthier, safer and more competitive place, and underpinned by a thriving green economy.
  15. Estimates are that Cardiff is currently a three-planet city, this means that if everyone in the world consumed natural resources and generated carbon dioxide at the rate we do in Cardiff, we would need three planets to support us. This is not sustainable for us, or equitable to those we share the planet with, however, the answer is not simply to consume less but rather to operate better, enabling activity that is smarter, more energy efficient and environmentally positive.
  16. The Council's aspiration is to become a One Planet City, living within its environmental means, but with a thriving and dynamic economy, a healthy population and high quality city environment that ensures Cardiff is among the greenest in the UK.

### ***Progress to Date***

17. The Council has a good starting position for this agenda that puts Cardiff among the best UK cities for green and smart development, for instance:
  - It has achieved a 49% reduction in carbon emissions from our estate in the last 5 years;
  - It has installed energy efficiency measures in almost 10,000 homes since 2013;

- It has installed over 2MW of renewable energy generation on our estate;
- It has installed over 20 on-street electric vehicle charging points in the city, are converting 90 council fleet vehicles to electric and have put in place Planning Guidance that encourages EV infrastructure in all major new development.
- It has helped to deliver the first-of-a-kind “Greener Grangetown” sustainable drainage scheme;
- It is in contract to build 2,000 affordable homes in the city, all exceeding national energy standards; and,
- It has approved an ambitious Transport White Paper to facilitate a significant and sustainable shift in how people move around the city.

18. The Council also has other ambitious projects that are already approved and in progress, these include:

- A 9MW solar farm which is nearing completion;
- Fully funded plans for a low-carbon heat network in the Bay and City Centre, using energy from waste in place of fossil fuels;
- Pilot schemes to develop a zero carbon schools and a Passivhaus standard housing estate;
- A fast, safe and fully segregated cycle network of a further 5 cycleways across the city; and,
- A Sustainable Food Strategy.

19. However, the Council understands that it needs to do more, quickly and in collaboration with others, if it is to tackle the Climate Emergency.

### ***Areas of Focus***

20. The One Planet Cardiff Strategy will identify a very broad ranging programme which could position Cardiff as a UK leader in a climate responsive economy, shaping environmental solutions to deliver benefits for business and the wider city as well the new skills and jobs that will be crucial to deliver this change.

21. The draft strategy focuses on seven key themes. The Council’s current progress is identified for each theme, along with a series of planned and potential actions that it is considering for the next phase of work. The key themes are:

- **Energy:** This includes how energy is used, how it is sourced, distributed and generated. The Council aim is to use less, to source more from clean renewable generation, and to help build business around this growing sector.
- **Built Environment and Housing Quality:** This comprises existing and planned buildings and infrastructure. The Council needs to constantly improve the energy efficiency and resilience of our new and existing buildings and communities, and capture the skills and jobs required to achieve this for the benefit of the local economy.
- **Green Infrastructure:** This covers our integral green spaces and biodiversity. The Council needs to take bold steps to add to the natural green assets of the city making a healthy, clean, biodiverse, environmentally positive place in which citizens and business can thrive.
- **Transport:** This covers how we move around the city and the infrastructure required to minimise the impact of vehicle emissions and air quality. The Council's plans are to replace as many single user, fossil fuelled trips as possible with sustainable low carbon modes of travel.
- **Waste Management:** By reducing overall waste production and by recycling residual waste in the right way, the Council can help to reduce Cardiff's carbon footprint. The Council also recognises that certain waste can be an important low carbon energy source helping to build new, clean, local and resilient economic activity.
- **Food:** The production, transportation, processing and disposal of food is a major source of emissions and the Council's proposals are aimed at supporting smarter, more localised and more socially equitable food systems that can also boost the local food economy.
- **Water:** How the Council sources, uses and manages water, and how it can protect against drought and flooding is crucial to the aim of building climate resilience. The strategy outlines a series of current and future responses to this challenge.

22. Furthermore, there are also a series of cross-cutting areas in which the Council understands that it needs to act, these are:

- **Leading City Economy & Development** - The Council needs a stronger focus on growing a sustainable local economy. This includes ensuring that Cardiff has the right skills to achieve and maintain a successful carbon neutral city, with new jobs and security created in the post-Covid-19 landscape.
- **Collaboration** - The Council cannot do this alone. It needs citywide support from engaged citizens, communities, organisations, businesses and academia.
- **Finance** – This is crucial, as significant investment and funding will be needed to create a carbon neutral Cardiff by 2030. The Council needs to invest to save, bring carbon into our cost equations, and explore all sources of support and grant funding, recognising that doing nothing will ultimately cost more than positive action now.
- **Governance** - Bold collaborative leadership is required. Climate impact and carbon emissions will need to have a more central place in decision-making activities, and be appropriately integrated amongst other priorities.
- **Engagement & Behaviour Change** - The Council needs to get the right messages out to stakeholders, ensuring that we're all making well informed, climate responsive choices.
- **Procurement** - The Council's spending activities can have a huge carbon impact across all operational areas. It needs a more focussed oversight to ensure that it is buying the right things in the right way, and to identify small changes that can deliver positively for the climate emergency whilst also supporting the right sort of business.
- **Digital** - Capacity underpins our ability to deliver many of our objectives and targets, especially in communications and in measuring and monitoring progress.

- **Regulation & Policy** - This needs to be fit for purpose in the context of the climate change emergency, and the Council needs to highlight and seek change in areas that fall short.

23. The One Planet Cardiff Strategy will contain details of the various projects, plans and aspirations that could help to deliver real change in respect of each of these issues.

### ***Next Steps***

24. The Strategy sets out the overarching vision for the Council's Climate Emergency response, bringing together the Council's many recent and current actions, alongside proposing projects that will set us on a path to carbon neutrality.

### ***A Fairer, Greener, More Prosperous City***

25. The diverse range of projects in the Strategy, especially in the context of the Covid-19 emergency, highlight a series of clear opportunities to support a Green Recovery. The projects listed below are those that the Council knows that it has to focus on in the short-term, and it will develop business cases and implementation plans for these during the consultation process so that it can be ready to respond early. It is important to recognise that the scale of some of the projects proposed is significant. Therefore, it will be essential to understand this process with key regional and national partners. Some of the proposals are within the Council's direct control, whilst others will require co-ordinated city, regional or even national effort. They include:

- **Largescale Housing & Development Retrofit:** Under-insulated housing is a major source of community (fuel) poverty, health conditions exacerbated by cold and damp homes, poor air quality and energy wastage across the city. Upscaling and accelerating work to make existing homes more energy efficient and comfortable not only addresses this, but could also stimulate new areas for skills development and employment. The Council will be developing its ideas and funding proposals on this to present to prospective delivery partners who could assist us in realising this ambition, possibly at a regional or national scale.
- **Resilient Development:** The Council will be moving forward with a range of planning policy and guidance to facilitate and maximise low energy, resource

efficient and resilient development across the city. It will lead by example, in its own and partners construction activities.

- **Low Cost Efficient Energy:** The Council will investigate a new pipeline of clean energy generation schemes in the city, developing detailed business cases for those that are the most promising. It will investigate all of the potential local opportunities, including potential tidal power, so that it can fully understand the Council's facilitating role in some of the more challenging but potentially beneficial projects. A Cardiff tidal lagoon could deliver a strategically important volume of sustainable energy for the National Grid, as well as providing energy for the city, creating jobs, providing flood risk mitigation, and acting as a catalyst for a wider green energy cluster in the city region. Cardiff, and its city region leadership role, has the potential to lead on the development and application of new green technologies, putting the city at the forefront of the UK's low carbon transition.
- **Low Energy Active Transport:** The Council's sustainable/active travel projects are increasingly visible across the city, having the co-benefits of reducing carbon emissions, and reducing congestion in the city that may also increase economic productivity. The Council also believes that there is an opportunity to support the early roll-out of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in our fleet and across the city, and charging infrastructure. It has a number of potential projects relating to EV infrastructure, localised hydrogen fuel production, and supporting wider access to Electric Car Clubs. It will assess and promote the partnership and funding structures that will be needed to deliver the best of these.
- **Greening the City:** Increased tree coverage and smarter maintenance and planting regimes will form important features of a future low carbon Cardiff. Ideas for a City Tree Farm concept, and biodiversity friendly land management could help to deliver this, and might also bring new skills and employment. The Council will examine the business models required to bring these aspirations to life.
- **Low Carbon Affordable Healthy Food:** The Covid-19 lockdown highlighted the imbalance in access to healthy, local, and affordable food. The Council has already had great examples of Local Food Pantries providing better access to food for those in need, alongside the increasingly sophisticated methods available

to deliver sustainable Urban Farming. The Council is currently analysing how its underused land assets and procurement activities (especially in feeding thousands of school children) could be used to support an enlarged sustainable food economy for the city.

- **Procurement:** The Council's annual spend is significant. It has a direct impact on the local economy and the associated activities generate a large carbon footprint in their own right. The Council will be instigating "circular economy" training for specifiers so that our contracts are more accountable for their climate consequences, and will also start to investigate procurement policies which could attract more suppliers that are able to deliver lower carbon goods and services.

26. Across all of these projects the Council will be focused on developing an understanding of further dependencies and opportunities that arise from the new economic activity required to deliver a low carbon city, thereby helping to establish Cardiff as a UK leading Green Economy.

### ***Consultation***

27. The Council now plans to conduct a consultation on the proposed actions in the Strategy, and will be seeking views to help shape and prioritise a full action plan for approval next year. A consultation programme, addressing both the public and local businesses and organisations has been developed to support this and will go live in October 2020. It is proposed that the consultation includes both feedback questionnaires, and informative video clips to ensure that some of the more complex messages and aspirations can be communicated clearly.

### ***Accelerating our Response***

28. The Council will be putting in place some immediate measures to underline the urgency of the issues. In doing this the Council will:

- Organise an internal One Planet Cardiff Steering Group, led by Cabinet Members and attended by Senior Officials from areas across the Council;
- Initiate effective outline business case development, defining the resources and governance required, with key partners for the key programmes. The Council's

initial priorities will focus on housing retrofit, resilient development policy, increased local renewable energy, clean transport, city greening, sustainable food and procurement activities;

- Work with the Public Service Board to bring together existing carbon reduction plans of all public sector organisations in the City, identifying synergies and gaps, and agreeing a position statement on which to base a city wide collaborative action plan;
- Instigate further studies to generate a better picture of our total carbon footprint and to develop robust methods to help prioritise the most cost effective and impactful projects, and to monitor progress more clearly;
- Begin an appraisal of our internal governance and procurement processes to ensure that carbon and climate impacts are embedded appropriately in Council procedures.

29. These parallel processes will all contribute to the production of a final One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan, which will include a prioritised list of short, medium and long terms actions. This will be brought back to Cabinet for approval in the spring 2021.

### **Way Forward**

30. Members will be asked to note the content of this Member Briefing Note, and agree a way forward for scrutiny of One Planet Cardiff within the six-month consultation window.

### **Legal Implications**

31. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be

within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

32. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

33. The Committee is recommended to:
- (i) Consider the information in this report and the information presented at the meeting;
  - (ii) Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations to the Cabinet on this matter; and,
  - (iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**