

**ONE PLANET CARDIFF STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN: PRE-DECISION
SCRUTINY**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with background information to aid the scrutiny of the draft report to Cabinet regarding the One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan which is due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 14 October 2021.

Scope of Scrutiny

2. At their meeting on 14 October 2021 the Cabinet will consider a report that seeks approval of the 2021 One Planet Cardiff Strategy (OPC) which sets out the Council's plan to deliver a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030 and to work with city-wide partners to develop a road map and action plan for a Carbon Neutral City by 2030.
3. The draft report to Cabinet entitled 'One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan' is attached at **Appendix A** and has **two** appendices:
 - **Appendix A1** - One Planet Cardiff – Our Vision for a Carbon Neutral City by 2030
 - **Appendix A2** - One Planet Cardiff – Action Plan
4. During this scrutiny, Members have the opportunity to explore:
 - i. The proposed final draft of the One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan following consultation and a detailed analysis of carbon emissions;
 - ii. The extent to which the Committee's comments and recommendations from their meetings and discussions held in both

- December 2020 and May 2021 have been taken into consideration and addressed in the final Strategy;
- iii. The extent to which the views of key stakeholders and those involved in the consultation process have been used to inform the final Strategy;
 - iv. The proposed level of collaboration work required in order to achieve the maximum outcome – both internally between the various Directorates as well as externally with stakeholders and Local Authorities;
 - v. The timeline and next steps for delivering the One Planet Agenda;
 - vi. Whether there are any risks to the Council, including financial;
 - vii. The recommendations to Cabinet.

Background

- 5. As stated in the Cabinet report attached, Cardiff Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has since been preparing the One Planet Strategy which sets out how we will respond and tackle this emergency and become carbon neutral Zero as a Council and a City by 2030.
- 6. On the 15 October 2020 the Cabinet received a report titled '*One Planet Cardiff – A Response to the Climate Change Emergency*'. The purpose of this report was to approve the Draft 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.

Consultation

- 7. In 2020 and early 2021, the Council consulted with city wide stakeholders, including the general public, businesses, key stakeholders and Cardiff's youth on the draft OPC. A Cabinet Report published in May 2021 contains a detailed appraisal of this consultation.¹

¹ [Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 20th May, 2021, 2.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

8. In the presentation to Scrutiny, also in May 2021, the key results from the consultation were highlighted as follows:

- Climate emergency response needs to be resourced
- Consultation, engagement, leadership and partnership all crucial
- Critical to effectively involve public / stakeholder groups
- A leadership board essential
- Any final action plan needs to identify the projects that can be realistically delivered + timetable, costs and prioritisation
- Public behaviour change is the biggest challenge - needs to be well resourced, and continually in collaboration with partners long term.

9. The more significant issues that were observed are summarised below:

- i. The scale of the climate emergency response needs to be resourced appropriately both in terms of staff, resource and implementation funding;
- ii. Consultation, engagement, leadership and partnership will be crucial throughout the implementation period to 2030 and beyond;
- iii. The strategy will need to consider and deploy a range of different techniques to effectively involve and coordinate public and stakeholder groups;
- iv. An OPC leadership board with clear project governance and committed resources is needed to steer the work over the long term;
- v. Any final action plan needs to identify the projects that can be realistically delivered and needs to include a timetable, cost and prioritisation based on carbon reduction in addition to wider social, economic and environmental benefits;
- vi. Public behaviour change is the biggest challenge in delivering the OPC Strategy and a section should be dedicated stating that the public has an essential role in this. A behaviour change plan needs to be well resourced, and continually in collaboration with partners, over the next 9 years, reviewed and evaluated by people with expertise.

10. According to the Cabinet report presented in May 2021, a positive outcome of the consultation process is that it has confirmed the key themes in the One Planet

Cardiff strategy including leadership, governance, partnership and programme priorities.

11. Alongside this consultation the Council also completed a detailed carbon baselining and impact assessment. This key milestone has enabled an understanding of the current carbon position, both of Council operations and also of the wider City. Both these pieces of work have helped inform and shape the final 2021 One Planet Cardiff Strategy report, its recommendations and action plan.

Issues identified in the Cabinet Report

12. The **Scale of the Challenge**, highlighted at **points 20-23**, include detail of the carbon emissions analysis which has been undertaken to develop a 2019/20 baseline from which the Council can assess the impacts of actions taken to meet our Carbon Neutral ambition. It essentially identifies the level of emissions that need to be removed. These emissions have been categorised as follows:

- i. **Scope 1 GHG Emissions (Direct):** GHG emissions arising from the operation of buildings and vehicles owned by a reporting organisation (excluding electricity)
- ii. **Scope 2 GHG Emissions (Energy Indirect):** GHG emissions arising from the generation or purchased electricity and district heating used in a reporting organisation's buildings/sites.
- iii. **Scope 3 GHG Emissions (Other Indirect):** GHG emissions arising from wider operations of a reporting organisation, including procurement, business travel, grey fleet travel, water, waste, and leased assets.

13. So far, according to the Cabinet report at **point 25**, the Council has managed to reduce total Carbon Emissions from its operations covering buildings, machinery, street lighting and transport from 23,958 t/CO₂e to 12,800 t/CO₂e since 2016/17- an average overall reduction per year over 3 years of 17% per year Scope 1 and 2 Emissions.

14. **Point 29** identifies the Cross-cutting Themes from the **Consultation Outcomes** - Economy and Green Jobs, Education and Governance, Leadership and Resource.

15. **Point 30** sets out the **OPC 7 Key Themes: Energy**

- Built Environment and Housing Quality
- Green Infrastructure
- Transport
- Waste Management
- Food
- Water

16. **Points 32-34** provides detail of how the Council have developed a **Carbon Impact Evaluation Tool** to assist in to prioritising projects considering both the Carbon and Social Impacts against a set of assessment indicators, comparing both the annual carbon savings and lifetime carbon savings.

17. This tool has identified the following key projects as directly benefitting the Council's footprint and as **point 37** states in the Cabinet report, will reduce the Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by nearly 60% 14,840 (tonnes CO₂e):

- i. Cardiff Heat Network (Phases 1 & 2 only);
- ii. Council Fleet Transition to EV (all implementation phases);
- iii. Strategic Estates Retrofit, Schools Estate Retrofit; and
- iv. Street lighting upgrade to LED/

18. The next steps for identifying future interventions to address the remaining 43% Scope 1 and 2 emissions are explored through **points 39 – 41** including:

- i. **Ensure Near zero carbon new-build alongside estate relinquishment programme;**
- ii. **Maximise direct renewable energy production;**
- iii. **Business mileage initiatives; and**
- iv. **Behaviour change**

19. **Scope 3 Reductions**, highlighted at **point 43**, state that the initial assessment indicates priority spend categories for reducing the Council's carbon footprint are expected to include **Waste Management, Passenger Transport Services, Buildings Construction Projects, Information and Communication Technology and General Building Services.**

20. At **points 44- 45** the report suggests that **Procurement opportunities** are significant in addressing Scope 3 emissions, including:

- i. **Root and branch review** of what we buy, identifying the high carbon areas, alternatives and quick wins;
- ii. **Training for specifiers** - Smarter specification and Circular Economy thinking;
- iii. **Encourage and favour lower carbon supplies** in tender evaluations; and
- iv. **Public sector collaboration and market engagement** to signal changed requirements from suppliers

21. Further to this, and though not as significant in terms of its contribution to emissions as procurement, **point 46** identifies that action is needed to reduce our **staff commuting impacts**, addressing the following:

- i. **Hybrid working policy.**
- ii. **Transport Strategy**
- iii. **EV Salary Sacrifice scheme**

22. **Points 51 – 56** of the Cabinet report provide an overview of the Council's work and that planned to address the **Council and City Wide Behaviour Change**. According to the report, the Council has engaged with the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation (CAST) to support the development of a toolkit and monitoring instruments to enable the Council to embed carbon-neutral thinking across the Council and the City through a behaviour change and engagement programme. CAST have already identified a list of key behavioural changes which have an evidential basis to demonstrate the largest carbon reduction impacts that individuals can have. These are summarised as follows:

- a. Living Car Free;
- b. Shifting to EVs;
- c. Flying Less especially long haul;
- d. Using Renewable Energy;
- e. Shifting to Public Transport;
- f. Retrofitting Buildings;
- g. Shifting to a plant based diet;
- h. Installation of heat pumps;

- i. Using Energy efficient cooking equipment; and
- j. Using renewable based heating.

23. Using the proposed Action Plan and Carbon, Impact Evaluation Tool, the Council will be able to assess, prioritise and monitor projects that will have the most significant impact on residual emissions. According to the report, at **point 59**, the Council will monitor the impact of our actions by calculating annually;

- i. The Council's Carbon Emissions using Welsh Government methodology for calculating emissions covering Scope 1, 2 and 3;
- ii. The City's Carbon Emissions using BEIS data;
- iii. The Social Imp.ct of proposed projects using our Carbon Impact Evaluation Tool;

24. A summary of the actions for OPC are provided at **point 61** and **Table 3**, including the calculated or estimated likely carbon savings from the projects. The **full Action Plan** is then presented at **Appendix 1** to the Cabinet report

25. **Points 63 – 69** provide detail of the **Governance and Partnerships** for OPC including a Climate Emergency Board, a Steering Group and additional posts that will be funded.

26. An overview of the **property implications** is provided at **Points 86 – 95** stressing how property is intrinsically linked in the OPC strategy through all streams, not just the Built Environment. The report highlights that property relinquishment has and will continue to slow down, resulting in carbon reduction through this method also decreasing over time. In addition to this, repair and refurbishment of the council estate will need to be aligned with OPC and meet the carbon reduction objectives and behavioural change will be a significant priority, applying what has been learnt from during the Covid pandemic. Offsetting measures will also be explored. According to the report to Cabinet, Carbon output and energy efficiency will become a key consideration in the decision process for the acquisition or disposal of property.

Proposed Recommendations to Cabinet

27. The report to Cabinet contains the following recommendations:

- i. Approve the 2021 One Planet Cardiff Strategy included in Appendix 1.
- ii. Approve the 2021 One Planet Cardiff Action plan which sets out the current actions to be undertaken over a short to long term range to address the residual carbon emissions aimed at achieving a carbon neutral target by 2030.
- iii. Approve the undertaking of a staff survey and resident's survey to assist in the development of a Behaviour Change Action Plan for the Council and the City and for this Action Plan to be brought back to Cabinet for approval and a date to be confirmed.

Previous Scrutiny

28. This Committee undertook initial scrutiny of the draft strategy at their meeting in December 2020. As well as hearing from the Leader, Cabinet Members and Officers from the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate, the Committee also considered written submissions from stakeholder groups on the draft Strategy. Each of the stakeholder groups were also offered the opportunity attend the meeting to answer Member questions on the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy and the submission that they had provided. The stakeholder groups who agreed to take part in the meeting were:

- Cardiff University;
- Cardiff Youth Council Cardiff;
- Dwr Cymru;
- Labour for a Green New Deal (LGND);
- Natural Resources Wales;
- Size of Wales;
- Sustrans;
- Wales & Wests Utilities;
- Wales Co-operative Centre;
- Welsh Government Energy Services.

29. The Chair's letter from this meeting is attached at **Appendix B** and contains a series of feedback comments as well as recommendations. These were structured into the following themes:

- Strategy Feedback
- Partnership and Governance
- Behavioural Change
- Covid Resilience
- Planning and Cardiff's Local Development Plan
- Local Sustainable Low-Carbon Food Supply
- Water - Usage and Drainage and its link to Climate Change
- Education and Engagement
- Trees
- Resources
- Transport
- Prioritisation
- Future Energy Solutions
- Procurement
- Regulation and Policy

30. The Committee also asked that their letter and the witness submissions be added to the other documents as a part of the wider consultation exercise for One Planet Cardiff.

31. In the response from Cllr Michael, Cabinet Member – Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment, it stated that the Scrutiny Committee's examination of the work, including the very informative input from third party commentators, formed a significant part of the overall public consultation exercise for the strategy. A full analysis was planned to take account of all points captured by this and all other work streams of the consultation process which would inform the final strategy.

32. At their Committee meeting on 11 May 2021, Members received a progress update on the development of the 'One Planet Cardiff' Strategy. Following their Scrutiny the following which they again provided a series of feedback comments around the following themes:

- Cost of Retrofit on Social Housing
- Wildlife Corridors
- Tree Planting
- Charging Points
- Public Consultation
- Electric Taxis
- City Car Club

33. A full copy of this letter and the response received from the Leader, Cllr Michael and Cllr Wild is attached at **Appendix C**.

Way Forward

34. The Leader, Councillor Michael Michael, Cabinet Member – Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment, Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning and Transport and Andrew Gregory, Director of Planning, Transport & Environment have been invited to make a statement and answer Member's questions. These will be supported by further representatives from the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate.

Legal Implications

35. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make 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 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

36. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information in this report, its appendices 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 in time for its meeting on 14 October 2021; and
- iii) Decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services

29 September 2021