
ONE PLANET CARDIFF

Reason for the Report

1. To provide the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the content of the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy that was received by Cabinet on the 15 October 2020, and to consider the views of a range of stakeholders on the recently published document. A copy of the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.

Background

2. On the 15 October 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 for approval in Spring 2021.
3. Notwithstanding the depth of the Covid-19 crisis, Climate Change remains the defining global challenge facing the current 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 impacting the Cardiff area and its population. The actions that are taken in the coming decade will be crucial, and define the shape and wellbeing of our society and our planet for generations to come.
4. 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 Draft One Planet Cardiff strategy is to identify the fundamental interdependency of these issues

and, in doing so, to determine 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.

5. The Council has recognised the scale of the challenge and declared a Climate Emergency. The Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy has been prepared as a strategic response to this declaration. It contains a vision that:
 - Sets out Council's 10 year ambition to be Carbon Neutral in its own activities;
 - Calls on the whole city, all citizens, young and old, schools, key partners, employers and stakeholders to positively work with the Council 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 United Kingdom green cities; and,
 - Defines the immediate programmes and opportunities that we urgently need to address.
6. 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 our longer term response to the climate emergency.
7. 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 our response, cannot be mutually exclusive. 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 Draft 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.

8. The Council plans to consult widely on the draft strategy to help prioritise the actions taken going forward, 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 activities, generating an evidence base and more detailed project feasibility work to prioritise and measure the impact of our actions.
9. This consultation analysis process will 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.

Background Policy

10. 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 United Kingdom Government's 2019 policy for Net-Zero Greenhouse Gases in the UK by 2050.
11. 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 by no means alone, so far over 250 other councils from across the United Kingdom have also motioned a declaration, alongside the Welsh and United Kingdom Government.

12. 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, it is felt that a consolidated approach to tackle climate change could bring opportunities, making the city a healthier, safer and more competitive place.
13. The Council has recently developed an ambitious, Climate Change aligned, 10 year Transport Strategy that it is hoped will drive sustainable change across all transport modes in the coming years. In addition, the emerging Local Development Plan will provide a basis to drive positive change across a wide complementary agenda of low energy housing and development, biodiversity, sustainable and high quality accessible new place based communities.
14. 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 same rate as Cardiff, then three planets would be needed to support us. This is not sustainable for us, or equitable for others with whom we share the planet. Whilst this is acknowledged, the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy and supporting Cabinet report state that the answer is '*not simply to consume less but rather to operate better, enabling activity that is smarter, more energy efficient and environmentally positive*'.
15. The October Cabinet report explained that there is a need '*to build a fitting legacy for future generations and so the aspiration of the strategy is to become a One Planet City, living within our 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 United Kingdom*'.

Progress to Date

16. The Cabinet report states that Council has a good starting position for this agenda, which puts Cardiff among the best United Kingdom cities for green and smart development. The examples provided in the report were:

- Achieving a 49% reduction in carbon emissions from our estate in the last five years;
- Installing energy efficiency measures in almost 10,000 homes since 2013;
- Installing over 2MW of renewable energy generation on the Council's estate;
- Installing over 20 on-street electric vehicle charging points in the city; converting 90 council fleet vehicles to electric; and putting in place Planning Guidance that encourages EV infrastructure in all major new development;
- Helping to deliver the first-of-a-kind '*Greener Grangetown*' sustainable drainage scheme;
- Contracting to build 2,000 affordable homes in the city, all of which will exceed national energy standards; and,
- Approving an ambitious Transport White Paper to facilitate a significant and sustainable shift in how people move around the city;
- A 9MW solar farm at Lamby Way has been completed.

17. The Cabinet report also explained that the Council also has '*even more ambitious projects already approved and in progress, including*':

- 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.

18. The Cabinet report goes on to explain that even more needs to be done, quickly and in collaboration with others to tackle the Climate Emergency. It confirms that crucially, the Council cannot do this alone and that strong partnership action will be essential to deliver change at the city-wide scale.

Areas of Focus

19. The Cabinet report explains that the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy '*identifies a very broad ranging programme which could position Cardiff as a United Kingdom 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’.

20. The 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 is being considered for the next phase of work. The key themes are:

- **Energy:** This includes how energy is used, sourced, distributed and generated. The 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 its 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 Cardiff’s 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 people move around the city and the infrastructure required to minimise the impact of vehicle emissions and air quality. The plan aims 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 reduce its own carbon footprint. It needs to engage citizens in this activity, helping them to understand and lower the impact of the city’s waste, encouraging reuse, repurposing, recycling and smarter purchasing choices. It 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 proposals are aimed at supporting smarter, more localised and more socially equitable food systems that can also boost the local food economy.
- **Water:** How we source, use and manage water, along with how we protect ourselves against drought and flooding is crucial to our aim of building climate resilience. The strategy outlines a series of current and future responses to this challenge.

21. The Cabinet report went on to comment on the following series of cross - cutting areas where further action was required:

- **Leading City Economy & Development:** To focus on growing a sustainable local economy. This includes ensuring that we have the right skills to achieve and maintain a successful carbon neutral Cardiff with new jobs and security created in the post Covid landscape.
- **City-wide Commitment is Key:** That the Council can't do this on its own, and that it needs support from engaged citizens, communities, organisations, businesses and academia.
- **Youth Engagement is Key:** The city's youth are especially important in this context and the Council needs to engage with them and harness their enthusiasm for change, making sure that this informs and steers a much-improved legacy for them. This will align with wider UNICEF led 'child friendly city' initiatives. This process will require a full engagement across schools to really capture the enthusiasm and energy of young people behind this agenda.
- **Finance:** Funding is crucial. Significant investment and funding will be needed to create a carbon neutral Cardiff by 2030 and this will be in a context of post Covid recovery. The Council needs to make carefully considered decisions to ensure that it invests to save, brings carbon into our cost equations, and explores all sources of support and grant funding, recognising that doing nothing could 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. The Council needs to carefully consider how it can use leadership and convening powers to the best effect, influencing its own actions and those of our partners. It will be essential that the Council fully embeds the One Planet approach into its policies, plans, and working practices as well as its key initiatives and projects. The aim is to create a truly 'One Planet Council' with a commitment at all levels of the organisation and across all services.
- **Engagement & Behaviour Change:** The Council needs to get the right messages out to stakeholders, ensuring that they are making well-informed, climate responsive choices.
- **Procurement:** The Council's spending activities can have a huge carbon impact across all operational areas. More focussed oversight is needed to ensure that the Council 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:** This 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. The One Planet Cardiff Strategy will be implemented alongside other major policy work, including the review of the Local Development Plan, and the roll-out of the Transport White Paper. It is important to ensure that each of these is aligned and mutually supportive in the context of the Climate Emergency.

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

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

A Fairer, Greener, More Prosperous City

24. The diverse range of projects in the Strategy, especially in the context of the Covid emergency, highlight a series of clear opportunities to support a Green Recovery. The projects listed below are those that require focus in the short-term, and the Council will develop business cases and implementation plans for these during the consultation process to enable an early response. 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:

- **Fully Engaging Cardiff in moving to zero carbon supporting the Green Economy** – How can we ask Cardiff Residents and Businesses to proactively change their behaviour, and how can we harness the vital input and enthusiasm of our younger generations whose futures are in our sight.
- **Mapping** – Mapping out the route to a 'One Planet Council' in terms of policies, governance, resources, service delivery and funding across the organisation at all levels will be a key priority.
- **Largescale Housing & Development Retrofit** – Targeting the upgrade of around 2,000 houses per year. 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 ideas and funding proposals on this to present to prospective delivery partners who could assist in realising this ambition, possibly at a regional or national scale.

- **Resilient Development** – How can the Council ensure that new buildings don't add to Cardiff's Carbon problems? 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 look for every opportunity to align the Local Development Plan with the Council's response to climate change. The Council will also lead by example in our own and our partners' construction activities.

- **Low Cost Efficient Energy** – How far can Cardiff go to support and instigate a step change in local renewable generation, possibly including a Tidal Lagoon? 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 there is a full understanding of 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 United Kingdom's low carbon transition.

- **Low Energy Active Transport** – How can Cardiff speed up the delivery of the transport white paper vision and retain the best of the Covid lockdown travel behaviours change in the city? The 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. There is also an opportunity to support the early roll-out of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles in Council fleet and across the city, and charging infrastructure. The Council has a number of potential projects relating to EV infrastructure, localised hydrogen fuel production, and supporting wider access to Electric Car Clubs. The Council will assess and promote the partnership and funding structures that will be needed to deliver the best of these.

- **Greening the City** – How can the Council support and instigate a step change in the level of green infrastructure on the city- planting a new City Forest?
Increased tree coverage; smarter maintenance and planting regimes; and the phasing out of harmful pesticides will form important features of a future greener, lower carbon Cardiff. Ideas for a City Tree Farm concept and biodiversity friendly land management could help to deliver this and could 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** – What actions are needed to support a more sustainable, localised and circular food economy in the city – creating a new Urban Farm. The Covid lockdown highlighted the imbalance in access to healthy, local, and affordable food. We already have 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. We are currently analysing how our 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** – How can the Council use its purchasing activities to stimulate circular economies, lower carbon impacts and to provide better support for sustainable products and services? The Council's global 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 instigate "circular economy" training for specifiers so that 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.

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

Consultation

26. The Council has started to conduct a consultation on the proposed actions in the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy, and will be seeking views to help shape and prioritise a full action plan for approval early next year. A launch event to raise the profile of this consultation has taken place, and marked the start of an ongoing conversation on the next ten years of action. A consultation programme, addressing the public, local businesses and organisations, and crucially, the city's youth and future generations has been developed. This scrutiny meeting is in itself a part of the wider consultation process.

Accelerating the Response

27. The Council will be putting in place some immediate measures to underline the urgency of the issues, in doing this it will:
- Organise an internal One Planet Cardiff Steering Group, led by Cabinet Members and attended by Senior Officials from areas across the Council;
 - Begin an appraisal of the implications of the One Planet agenda for the Council's internal governance and procurement processes to ensure that carbon and climate impacts are embedded appropriately in Council procedures;
 - Put in place measures to fully engage with younger generations in the city, allowing them to have a stronger voice in our efforts to tackle the climate emergency;
 - Initiate effective outline business case development, defining the resources and governance required, with key partners for the key programmes. 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 and modelling capacity 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.
28. These parallel processes will all contribute to the production of a final One Planet Cardiff Strategy and Action Plan that 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

29. **Part 1 of the Meeting:** The Leader and Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment have been invited to attend the meeting. They will be supported by officers from the Planning, Transport & Environment Directorate. The Cabinet Members and officers will provide the opening presentation for the scrutiny, and be available to answer any questions that Committee Members may have.
30. **Part 2 of the Meeting:** A number of stakeholder groups have been invited to provide a written submission based on the content of the Draft One Planet Strategy. During the meeting, each of the stakeholder groups will have a 20 minute window to answer Member questions on the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy and the submission that they have provided. The stakeholder groups who have agreed to take part in the meeting are:
- 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.

31. Other stakeholder groups who will not be taking part in the meeting have also provided written submissions on the Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy. These will be made available to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Legal 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 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

33. 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

34. 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

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25th November 2020