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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Sharon Hughes  
(Tel: 01443 864281 Email: [hughesj@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:hughesj@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 7th October 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 13th October, 2020 at 5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days.,

This meeting will be recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

**Christina Harrhy**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## AGENDA

Pages

- 1 To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 Declarations of Interest.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- |   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| 3 | Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held on 17th September 2020.  | 1 - 8  |
| 4 | Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.  |        |
| 5 | Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.   | 9 - 20 |
| 6 | To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. COVID-19 Business Rental Holiday (Tredomen Campus) – 9th September 2020;</li><li>2. Cardiff Capital Region Housing Investment Fund - Viability Gap Fund Sites – 9th September 2020;</li><li>3. Caerphilly Homes Innovative Development Proposals - Llanfabon Drive, Trethomas; The Crescent, Trecenydd and Oakdale Comprehensive School – 9th September 2020;</li><li>4. Leaseholder Charges – 30th September 2020;</li><li>5. COVID-19 Economic Recovery Framework – 30th September 2020.</li></ol> |        |

*\*If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Sharon Hughes on 01443 864281, by 10.00am on Monday, 12th October 2020.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- |   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| 7 | Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy (A Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan For Caerphilly County Borough Council). | 21 - 80  |
| 8 | Homelessness Update.   | 81 - 90  |
| 9 | Valleys Task Force - Activity in Caerphilly County Borough.  | 91 - 114 |

## **Circulation:**

**Councillors** J. Bevan, D. Cushing, C. Elsbury, Mrs C. Forehead (Vice Chair), R.W. Gough, L. Harding, A.G. Higgs, G. Kirby, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs G.D. Oliver, B. Owen, Mrs D. Price, Mrs M.E. Sargent, A. Whitcombe (Chair), W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski

And Appropriate Officers

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## **HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 17TH  
SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 5.30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor A. Whitcombe - Chair  
Councillor Mrs C. Forehead - Vice-Chair

**Councillors:**

L. Harding, G. Kirby, P. Leonard, D. Price, Mrs M.E. Sargent, W. Williams

**Cabinet Members:**

S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise), Mrs L. Phipps  
(Cabinet Member for Housing and Property)

**Together with:**

Mark S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities), S. Couzens (Chief Housing Officer), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), P. Smythe (Housing Technical Manager), M. Betts (Tenant and Community Involvement Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, D. Cushing, C. Elsbury, R.W. Gough, A. Higgs, G. Oliver, B. Owen and B. Zaplatynski.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

### **3. MINUTES – 28TH JANUARY 2020**

By way of Forms voting (and in noting there were 6 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny

Committee meeting held on 28th January 2020 (minute nos. 1 - 9) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

**5. HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Cath Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager) presented the report, which outlined details of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period September 2020 to November 2020 and included all reports that were identified at the Scrutiny Leadership meeting on 20th August 2020.

Members noted the reports scheduled for discussion at the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and were advised that in relation to those information items circulated separately to the main agenda, it had been requested that two additional budget reports be listed for 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Revenue Budget 2020-21 for Communities Directorate, and Revenue Grants Report for 2020-21).

The Committee were also advised that arrangements were being made to hold a special joint meeting of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee in December 2020 to consider the outcome of the review held by the Task and Finish Group on Car Parking. Members will be advised in due course of the date for this meeting.

Members noted the update from the Scrutiny Manager, and by way of Forms voting (and in noting there were 8 for with 0 against and 0 abstentions) unanimously agreed that subject to the inclusion of the above information items, the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

**6. CABINET REPORTS**

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

**7. REGENERATION & PLANNING SERVICE #RESILIENT COMMUNITIES, SUSTAINABLE PLACES - AN OVERVIEW (PRESENTATION)**

Rhian Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning) delivered a presentation to the Scrutiny Committee, which gave an overview of the areas under the remit of the Regeneration and Planning Service, details of current and future projects being progressed, emerging issues and challenges being faced by each area and the community and economic response to the Covid-19 crisis. It was noted that the presentation had been prepared in response to a request from the Scrutiny Committee for further information on the Regeneration aspects of

the Service.

Mrs Kyte explained that the Regeneration and Planning Service comprises three areas: the Planning Service, the Regeneration Service, and the Support Services Team (which provides administrative support to both service areas). The Regeneration and Planning Service currently employs in the region of 101 FTE personnel with annual budgets of £2,246,374 revenue and £187k capital together with additional multi-million external grant funding projects.

The presentation highlighted the work of the teams under the Regeneration Service, including team structure, their main responsibilities, and detailed information on the extensive range of services delivered by each team. These comprise the Business Enterprise & Renewal Team (BERT), the Community Regeneration Team and the Visitor Economy Team. Mrs Kyte also gave an overview of the Planning Service, which is fundamentally important in terms of facilitating the regeneration process and the delivery of a sustainable recovery as the country emerges from the COVID-19 crisis and faces the challenges and opportunities presented by Brexit.

The Scrutiny Committee were provided with an overview of the major Regeneration projects being administered through the Valleys Task Force. National and regionally significant projects of note include work with Cadw to raise Caerphilly Castle to a Tier 1 attraction and facilitate investment opportunities (£5.13m) to make it a world class heritage attraction, work with National Resources Wales to re-open Cwmcaern Forest Drive and enhance visitor experience with new attractions (£2.8m), and the development of a new Visitor Centre at Penallta Country Park (£1m). Work of national and regional significance is also being carried out across Caerphilly and Ystrad Mynach by way of the respective Masterplans and the Caerphilly Place Making Plan, as well as the A465 Corridor through the work of the Draft Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area Masterplan.

Mrs Kyte highlighted projects of regional significance being carried out in Caerphilly town centre including the redevelopment of Pentrebanne Street and plans for a new hotel development at Park Lane. As a result of developments in relation to Covid-19, the funding available for these schemes has now been extended to regeneration improvements across Blackwood, Risca, Bargoed, and Ystrad Mynach and further investment across the county borough. A Civic Crowdfunding proposal under the Valleys Task Force initiative has been approved by Cabinet which will raise money for local important initiatives. The Council has also been successful in gaining Foundational Economy Challenge Funding for three schemes, two of which have been impacted by Covid-19 but which it is hoped can be taken forward in the future.

Members were advised of the Cardiff Capital Region Investment Priorities, which include Infrastructure priorities focusing on targeted co-investment and pooling of resources to deliver maximum impact through the delivery of new physical and digital infrastructure projects, Innovation Priorities to look at proposals demonstrating unique intellectual property, market leadership and competitive strength, and Challenge priorities to stimulate the adoption of new products and solutions in South East Wales.

Mrs Kyte provided a detailed overview of the major Regeneration projects being undertaken around these Investment Priorities at national, regional and local level. Projects relating to the Infrastructure Priority include the unlocking of marginally viable brownfield sites for housing through the Housing Investment Fund and development of the Caerphilly Transport Hub as part of the Metro Plus system, the development and expansion of park and ride facilities, station upgrades across the county borough, and improvements to coach parking infrastructure. Members were also given an overview of projects around key Economic Priorities including the Gateway to Employment scheme delivering training, skills and

apprenticeship opportunities, the development of new industrial units at Ty Du Nelson and The Lawns Rhymney, and enhancement works to the industrial and tourism portfolio as a result of Brexit funding. In addition, Mrs Kyte also highlighted projects to be taken forward under the Caerphilly Place Making Plan, including a new transport hub, new leisure quarter, expanded retail quarter, expansion of Caerphilly Business quarter, a Strategic Site Mixed Use Scheme at Ness Tar and work around a connections corridor/integrated hub at Lansbury Park.

Members were provided with a summary of the key projects being undertaken by Community Regeneration, including the implementation of an all-age apprenticeship programme that meets the future skills requirement of the public sector and industry, development of the Coalition Board – Lansbury Park Service Mapping to inform future service delivery on the estate, development of an integrated community hub at Lansbury Park and Rhymney with ABHB and other partner organisations, development of the Communities for Work and Communities Work Plus programme to meet the targets of sustainable employment, and the continuing aim to reduce the impact of poverty by supporting people into better employment prospects thereby improving health and well-being.

Across Visitor Economy, a Transformation Project will be taken forward for tourism attractions to establish and maintain a set of priorities to make these venues more viable and sustainable in the long-term.

The emerging issues and challenges across the Regeneration Service were highlighted to the Scrutiny Committee. The Business Enterprise and Renewal Team have a very small team delivering a wide agenda with low capacity, and as a result are reliant on other service areas to deliver funding projects. There are issues around maintaining upkeep of past schemes and resolving revenue on more recent projects. There is a need to develop a targeted maintenance programme for industrial/office and retail portfolio with less funding, as well as preparation by the Team to maximise the opportunities that City Deal funding and other post Brexit funding opportunities will bring.

Issues and challenges faced by the Community Regeneration Team include a lack of security and sustainability in grant funded programmes, particularly EU-funded programmes as a consequence of Brexit. The Team continue to capitalise on the work of CCR & the RSP and continue to develop and enhance the engagement and support provisions currently provided by the Legacy programme, with a particular focus on Community Hubs. The Team are looking to establish stronger interdepartmental links with the BERT team and Procurement while also raising the awareness of the role of the Community Regeneration team across the regeneration agenda.

Across Visitor Economy, the Team have identified a need to improve market research and market attractions more widely, as well as diversifying the service offer and its delivery to maximise income opportunities and increase its position in the workforce. The Team are also looking to facilitate joint working, cross-marketing and economies of scale across its tourism venues to unify its portfolio and give a greater appeal.

Mrs Kyte referred to the Covid-19 crisis and the enormity of the community and economic work undertaken by Regeneration staff during this time. As tourism venues have been closed during the outbreak, many of the Regeneration team have been redeployed as part of the Council's community response to assist with the Buddy Scheme, Foodbank deliveries and Track and Trace. Members were advised of the numerous referrals made to Supporting People, Housing and SOLAS and the thousands of adults and children supported during the crisis. The Regeneration Team facilitated an impressive economic response to the crisis, which involved the establishment of an Emergency Business Support Team by the BERT Team and Finance colleagues. This distributed £34m in NNDR grants, supported an average



of 30 business enquiries a day, distributed 66 applications for the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund, has offered over £188,727.97 Capital and £67,132.60 Revenue grants to date from the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund and handled over 60 applications for the local Retail Safety Grant. Furthermore, 119 applications were received for the Business Start Grant with £210,000 allocated to CCBC to distribute, 43 business rent deferral requests were approved for CCBC's property holdings, approximately 8,000 contacts per week were made through Covid Business Newsletter, support was given for the private sector-led Caerphilly Business Club launch, a Redundancy Response Team was established, supplier relief was offered, and an Economic Recovery Framework was prepared.

In closing, Mrs Kyte outlined details of Regeneration Service's Roadmap to Tourism Recovery 2020. There are 3 phases to the Strategy to be delivered over 2 years, namely **Restart** (the reintroduce services, maximise visitors within current and emerging guidelines and minimise disruption - 0-3 months), **Reset** (drive demand, increase the level of activities being undertaken, strengthen the supply chain across the portfolio - 3-12 months) and **Reinvent**: transform the service to deliver better value, collaboration and partnership (12-24 months).

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise commended the astonishing work undertaken by the Regeneration Service and the dedication shown by its staff in carrying out work across the community for the benefit of the county borough. He acknowledged the limitations and uncertainty faced by the Community Regeneration team as a result of year-on-year funding, referred to the benefits of Caerphilly being recognised as a key hub by Welsh Government, and asked Members to recognise the importance of investment in the county borough at every opportunity. He also highlighted the level of work administered by the Regeneration Service on a relatively small budget and congratulated the team on their efforts.

The Chair and Members echoed the sentiments of the Cabinet Member and congratulated Mrs Kyte and her staff for their efforts and the work carried out during the Covid-19 crisis.

During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member referred to the maintenance of previous projects and highlighted landscaping schemes in his local area that had fallen into disrepair. Mrs Kyte highlighted the difficulty in securing revenue costs for the upkeep of these schemes and explained that where possible, existing budgets are explored and utilised for the purpose of maintenance. However, it has been recognised that there is a need to ensure that maintenance budgets can meet the ongoing costs of any schemes being designed and implemented, as historically this was not always a consideration. It was also explained that some projects were implemented by external organisations who have not always upheld the maintenance of these schemes, and that the Council is acutely aware that future maintenance should be a key consideration of any schemes being designed to ensure they are affordable in the longer term. It was also explained that work is carried out with volunteer groups to assist with long-term maintenance work but this can be very resource-intensive and is not always feasible as staffing resources diminish.

In response to a Member's query, clarification was provided on the work being carried out by National Resources Wales on the Council's behalf to reopen Cwmcarn Forest Drive. Further information was also given on the Caerphilly Placemaking Plan, with it explained that this is the implementation plan for the Caerphilly Masterplan approved in 2018. The Plan is currently being developed and will be shared with Members in due course. Clarification was also sought on Brexit funding mentioned in the presentation and it was explained that this is additional funding allocated from Welsh Government to invest in projects that could kickstart the local economy. The Council has invested this funding in a number of schemes, including construction projects employing local people, industrial estate schemes, and work at Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Blackwood Miners Institute, together with a number of other minor

schemes. Mrs Kyte offered to share a complete list of these projects with Members following the meeting.

Following discussion, the Scrutiny Committee thanked Mrs Kyte for the very informative presentation and noted its contents.

## **8. WHQS & POST-2020 ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Cabinet Member for Homes and Places presented the report, which provided Members with a progress update on performance of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Team to date and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the completion of the WHQS programme by the Council's internal deadline of June 2020.

The report provided information on the performance of the internal and external main WHQS Programme prior to the Government lockdown on 23rd March 2020, which demonstrated that full compliance was achievable prior to the statutory deadline of December 2020.

It was noted that Caerphilly CBC are one of the four remaining Local Authorities that were due to complete by December 2020, although the Authority were in a more advanced position to complete the programme early compared to other Local Authorities. Although the report stated that Welsh Government had not issued a revised completion date, the Cabinet Member explained that confirmation had since been received from the WG Minister for Housing and Local Government that the WHQS deadline will be extended by 12 months to December 2021. Officers are satisfied that the programme can be delivered in advance of this revised deadline.

Details of the current performance and financial outturn to date were also included in the report, and the many achievements that have been made as part of the wider commitments and benefits delivered by the WHQS programme have been reported in previous update Reports. The report also provided an overview of the Post 2020 Asset Management Strategy (PAMS) proposals and impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic, which was due to commence following the successful completion of the WHQS programme.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and a query was received on the Council's communication with tenants in regards to delayed works and the reassurances being given. Officers explained that there are a number of elements of work requiring completion, with 323 properties remaining in its final stage of work left to complete which is predominantly in-house contractor work. The WHQS are now contacting every tenant with outstanding works by way of questionnaire and home visit.

It was explained that although the majority of tenants are keen to have the work completed, this is proving to be a balancing act in terms of protecting those tenants who may be elderly or vulnerable, have recently been shielding or are generally apprehensive in regards to the pandemic. Tenant Liaison Officers are on hand to reassure and assist tenants as needed in this regard. It was also explained that the work method has now completely changed, as only one element of work can now be carried out at any one time in view of social distancing measures and other safety precautions in place to protect both tenants and employees during this time. Subsequently the work is taking three times as long to complete compared to pre-Covid practices but it was emphasised to the Committee that safety is paramount when completing these works.

Following discussion on the item, the Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

## **9. LEASEHOLDER CHARGES**

The Cabinet Member for Homes and Places presented the report, which set out Caerphilly Homes' proposal to increase the leaseholder management fee currently charged to reflect the actual costs incurred for providing the service. These costs are currently subsidised by tenants via the Housing Revenue Account. The report also proposed to introduce charging for specific services that are recoverable under the terms set out in the various leases that are in place. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider the recommendations in the report ahead of its presentation to Cabinet on 30th September 2020.

Currently the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) bears the burden of unrecovered costs incurred from providing services to leaseholders. However, Caerphilly Homes should neither subsidise the services received by leaseholders nor seek to make a surplus income from the levied charges. Therefore, it is important that Caerphilly Homes adopts a more robust and transparent charging policy in order to demonstrate fairness and value for money.

It was explained that Officers recognise the financial impact the proposals contained within this report will have on leaseholders and have therefore included the mechanisms in place to assist leaseholders in meeting the various costs incurred and proposals for introducing a leasehold property buy back policy.

Members were asked to note an amendment in the report at paragraph 5.6, in that the first increased payment would not be requested until September 2022 (and not September 2021).

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and in response to a Member's query on obtaining copies of leasehold agreements, it was explained that that copies could be provided upon request to Caerphilly Homes. Members were also assured that the lease clearly sets out details of leaseholder responsibilities for contributing towards costs.

Clarification was sought on the statutory process for informing leaseholders of planned works. Members were advised that leaseholders are contacted to inform them of any planned works and they can suggest suitable contractors that may be included in the tender process; however, any nominated contractor must still meet the criteria for the tender process. The Scrutiny Committee were also advised of the dispute process whereby leaseholders can query the costs involved in works, but the Council have the right to proceed as stated in the lease. Leaseholders can question the standard of work carried out and any substandard works will be rectified. There are plans to introduce a survey once works are completed in order to ascertain the views of leaseholders

Following discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Forms voting (and in noting there were 8 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

- (i) the proposed increase in leaseholder management fees and the introduction of recharges for providing specific services be approved;
- (ii) a phased increase of the leaseholder management fees as outlined in section 5.6, option 2 of the attached report to become effective from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, be approved;

- (iii) a Caerphilly Homes leasehold property 'buy back' policy be established and implemented in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property.

The meeting closed at 6.33 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2020, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR



## **HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER, 2020**

**SUBJECT: HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE  
SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period October 2020 to November 2020.
- 5.2 The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the

council website. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

- 5.3 The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

## 5.2 **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

## 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

## 7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Government Wales Measure 2011 and subsequent Statutory Guidance include requirements to publicise the work of scrutiny committees. The operation of scrutiny committee forward work programmes was agreed following decisions by Council in October 2013 and October 2015.

### 7.2 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

This section shows how the report content (project, proposal, information or decision) contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives, which are:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being  
The objectives are high level themes and each have several outcomes that sit underneath them, (36 in total) so it may benefit the author to look at the outcomes

within the plan to understand the cross-cutting nature of the Council's priorities with regard to any impact the report may have on the Corporate Plan.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals and is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by ensuring the scrutiny function is effective when reviewing services and policies and ensure it considers the wellbeing goals.

8.2 The Forward Work Programmes contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016 by ensuring there is an effective scrutiny function and that council policies are scrutinised against the following goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer [jacquem@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:jacquem@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Dave Street, Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing  
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director of Communities  
Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer, Communities  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,  
Legal Services  
Councillor Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Regeneration  
Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Christine Forehead, Vice Chair of Housing and Regeneration  
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme  
Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme  
Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart



<b>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan (to include ELV's)			Rhian Kyte, Head of planning and regeneration  Alan Dallimore
Valleys Taskforce Initiative			Rhian Kyte, Head of planning and regeneration
Homelessness	To provide members with an update on the Homelessness situation In Caerphilly	To update members on the homelessness situation in Caerphilly and how this has been impacted by the Covid pandemic. The report will provide some comparative data and the actions taken during the pandemic in response to increase demand and changing regulations issued by WG	Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021			
Meeting Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses

<b>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: Date to be Confirmed</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Caerphilly Homes – Building Together Update			Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer
Fochriw Flats	To seek members views on proposals to demolish a block of flats in Fochriw and provide a new shop to replace the existing premises on the ground floor of the block.	To advise members of the lack of demand and historical issues associated with this block of flats, which also contains commercial premises to the ground floor, which is the only shop in the community. To seek support to proceed with the provision of a new shop in the community which will then facilitate the demolition of the block.	Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer

<b>Housing &amp; Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021</b>			
<b>Meeting Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (INFORMATION REPORTS)</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring – Period 3 2020-21			Lesley Allen, Principal Accountant WHQS  Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
Revenue Budget 2020/21 Communities Directorate	To provide information to Members on the revenue budget for 2020/2021 for the Communities Directorate, including Regeneration & Planning Division, Infrastructure Division, Public Protection Division and Community & Leisure Services Division.	The report summarises the budget for these services for the financial year 2020/2021.	Michael Eedy, Finance Manager, Environmental Finance
Revenue Grants 2020/21		The report provides details of the 2020/21 revenue grant funding for Communities Directorate. The report excludes grant funded schemes where CCBC merely act as banker for Partnership schemes.	Michael Eedy, Finance Manager, Environmental Finance
Private Sector Housing – Proposed Empty Homes Team to Deliver Empty Homes Programme Including the Valleys Taskforce Initiative			Shaun Couzens

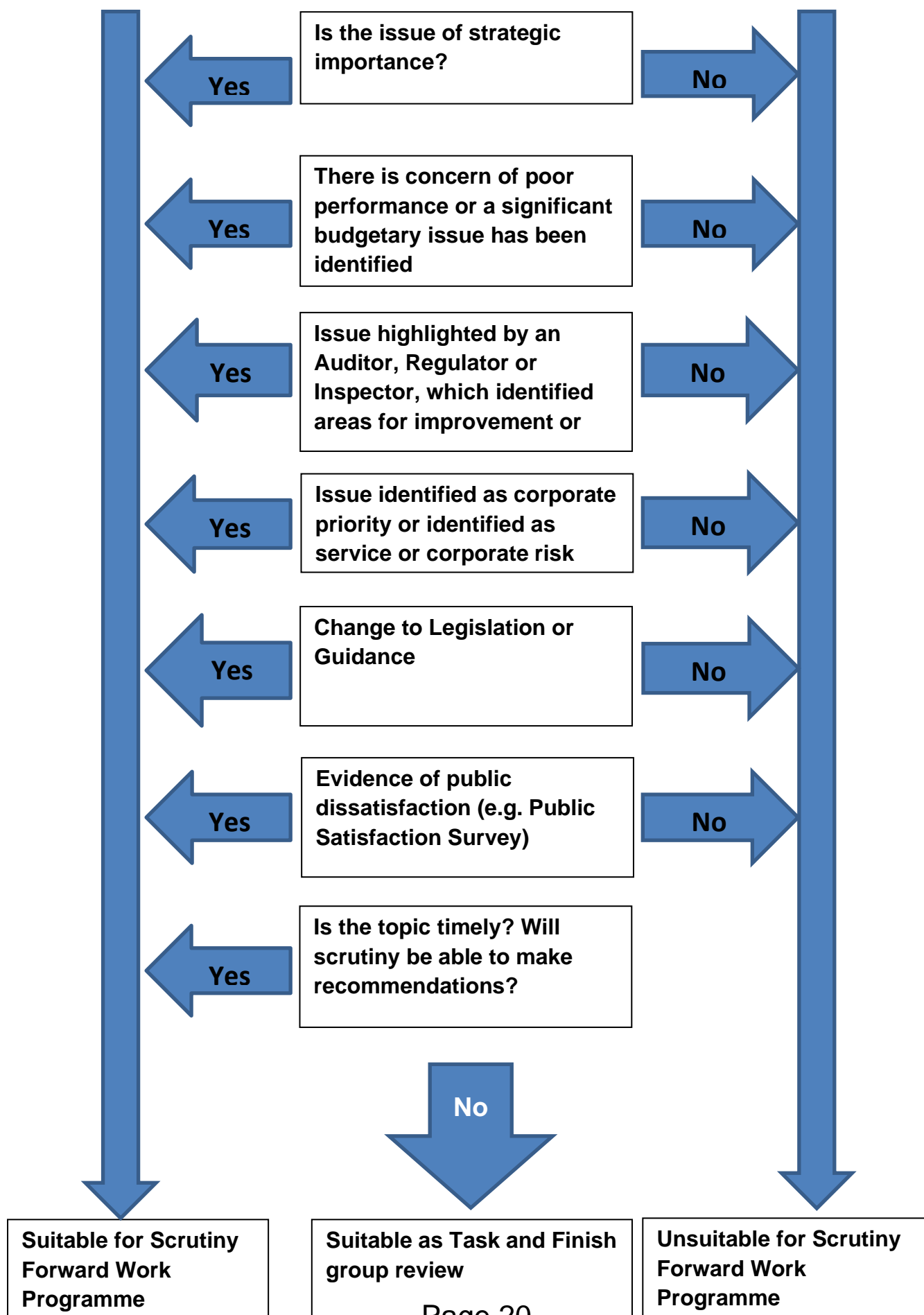
Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021			
Meeting Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2020 (INFORMATION REPORTS)			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme April 2020 to April 2021			
Meeting Date: Date to be Confirmed			
Subject	Purpose	Key Issues	Witnesses
Caerphilly Homes – Building Together Update			Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer
Fochriw Flats	To seek members views on proposals to demolish a block of flats in Fochriw and provide a new shop to replace the existing premises on the ground floor of the block.	To advise members of the lack of demand and historical issues associated with this block of flats, which also contains commercial premises to the ground floor, which is the only shop in the community. To seek support to proceed with the provision of a new shop in the community which will then facilitate the demolition of the block.	Shaun Couzens – Chief Housing Officer

## APPENDIX 2

Cabinet Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
14/10/2020 10:30	Agile/Flexible Working	To propose a flexible working model for the council	Edmunds, Richard (Ed);	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J;
14/10/2020 10:30	Proposal for amending the Council's approach to handling cash	To put in place the necessary mechanisms to enable cash to be collected in the short term as well as making a number of proposals for changing the Council's approach to handling cash over the medium to long term	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
14/10/2020 10:30	Annual Equalities Report 2018/19	To seek Cabinet approval for the Statutory Annual report 2018/19	Cullinane, Anwen;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
14/10/2020 10:30	Cashless Catering	To update Members on the current position with regards to the Councils Cashless catering solution in schools and to seek approval of funding to expand the provision.	Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
28/10/2020 10:30	(16) Community Asset Transfer Policy	Strategic Plan - Development of a policy and options to deliver a framework for Community Asset Transfer	Peters, Kathryn;Broadhur	Cllr. Phipps, Lisa;
28/10/2020 10:30	Safer Recruitment Procedure	For Cabinet to consider the safer recruitment procedure and the DBS Policy that clearly outlines the Council's commitment to safe recruitment and DBS practice and officer accountability to ensure this. The DBS policy relating to Schools also shows commitment to ensuring robust DBS practice within schools	Donovan, Lynne;	Cllr. Gordon, Colin J
28/10/2020 10:30	Freedom of the Borough - Royal British Legion	To seek Council approval to bestow the Freedom on the Borough to the Royal British Legion	Forbes-Thompson, Cath	Cllr. Marsden, Philippa;
28/10/2020 10:30	Pavement Licences	To review and update the council's approach to the issuing of pavement licences for placing items and trading on the highway.	Williams, Mark S;	Cllr. Ridgewell, John;

## Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation







## **HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER 2020**

**SUBJECT:               REDUCE, PRODUCE, OFFSET, BUY (A DECARBONISATION  
STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR CAERPHILLY COUNTY  
BOROUGH COUNCIL)**

**REPORT BY:           INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES**

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### **1.       PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1     To update the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken since 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019, when the Committee were presented with a report setting out the Council's intention to develop a carbon reduction plan that would concentrate on tackling the decarbonisation agenda in order that the Council can achieve its goal of becoming net carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2     Since June 2019, officers have produced a draft Decarbonisation Strategy as the main tool to achieve its decarbonisation objectives. This strategy is supported by a detailed Action Plan which gives more granular detail on what actions the Council can take in the short, medium and long term to achieve this goal. It also presents an Energy Prospectus which outlines potential commercial projects that will also help towards our goals. This scrutiny report sets out the proposed timeline and milestones towards the adoption/approval of a Council focused Decarbonisation Strategy.
- 1.3     The report therefore introduces committee Members to the suite of documents outlined above namely the Decarbonisation Strategy, the Decarbonisation Action Plan and the Energy Prospectus.

### **2.       SUMMARY**

- 2.1     At the Housing and Regeneration scrutiny committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 officers presented a report to Members outlining the progress made in respect of energy conservation and carbon reduction predominantly through the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy 2009-2019. It also highlighted the need for a new overarching plan to assist the Council to meet it's "Green energy" ambitions whilst also aligning the authority with Welsh Government's and the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) aspirations for decarbonisation. This report went on to Cabinet for approval.
- 2.2     Since this date, officers have undertaken consultation with a number of stakeholders to develop a draft Decarbonisation Strategy to drive the Council's decarbonisation agenda and ensure that the Council meets its key ambition of becoming net carbon neutral by the year 2030 and the Council has declared a climate emergency.
- 2.3     This strategy has been finalised in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, the true economic and societal costs for the county borough are unknown. However, as we

move from the immediate emergency response to considering our options for economic recovery, this energy strategy has the potential to play a significant role in helping Caerphilly county borough recover and rebuild sustainably.

- 2.4 This report introduces the draft Decarbonisation Strategy to Scrutiny Members along with two supporting documents – the Action Plan and the Energy Prospectus. It seeks the views of Members on their contents.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **3.1 That Scrutiny committee**

i) Provides its views on the draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents prior to consideration by Cabinet.

ii) Acknowledges the milestones for adoption of this document by the Council.

iii) Acknowledge the wide and diverse range of activities that the Council will need to implement to achieve the Decarbonisation objectives.

iv) Recognise that the actions, targets and contents contained within the supporting Action Plan and Energy Prospectus are fluid and will respond to external pressures and opportunities as they occur. In particular, it will be necessary to react to changing legislation from Welsh Government and Central Government.

v) Acknowledges that business cases associated with Energy Prospectus projects will be reviewed by the CCBC Regeneration Project Board with recommendations being made to Cabinet where required.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure timely progress towards development and adoption of the Council's Decarbonisation Strategy.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Council needs to build on the progress made through the successful implementation of the Carbon Reduction Strategy over the last decade. The Carbon Reduction Strategy concentrated on Council owned non-domestic buildings and street lighting and looked to reduce energy consumption and associated carbon emissions. It achieved a 45% reduction in the levels of carbon used in these targeted areas.

- 5.2 Running in parallel with this, other initiatives have been introduced to reduce our footprint and levels of emissions. For example, within Housing external wall insulation has been provided to our non-traditional stock along with the boiler replacement programme and we have reached our WHQS goal for energy efficiency. This has helped to assist in reducing carbon being produced and has helped set the base line moving forward. The impact of Covid 19 has slowed down progress on this particular agenda but post Covid is a perfect opportunity to instigate change for the good.

- 5.3 In order to continue that good work the Council now needs to take a wider approach to carbon/energy management across the Authority, including waste, transport and other areas. Although the Council has worked hard to reduce its current carbon footprint, we do still impact negatively on our environment and it is imperative that we acknowledge this and act upon it.

- 5.4 This report updates Members on the work towards producing a CCBC Decarbonisation Strategy; which will introduce a wider approach to reducing carbon emissions and investing in efficiency measures across the local authority portfolio.
- 5.5 Taking this wider approach will assist the Council in fulfilling its Green energy potential as well as meeting the current obligations as set out by Welsh Government and Westminster Government. Importantly it will help future-proof the local authority going forward as it will react and respond to new legislation and measures introduced by these Governments.
- 5.6 The requirement for the Authority to continue to be proactive stems from a suite of internal and external drivers and influences. Continuing energy cost increases are a prime external driver; whilst the need to develop a replacement Carbon Reduction Strategy and the opportunity to take a commercial approach to some of our assets are internal ones. Importantly, we brand ourselves as a “Green” council and we know there is still much to do to maximise our full potential in terms of Green energy credentials.
- 5.7 There is also a changing legislative landscape and a change in focus particularly by Welsh Government. The launch of Welsh Government’s Prosperity for All: Low Carbon Wales in March 2019 outlines the following vision:
- “In 2050, Wales will be among the best places in the world to live, learn, work and do business. Our businesses, public services, third sector and government will have worked together to achieve the goals that we set in the ground-breaking Well-being of Future Generations Act and the target to reduce emissions by at least 80% against the 1990 baseline”.*
- 5.8 Welsh Government advocates a low carbon pathway that requires decarbonisation across a number of sectors, such as power, buildings and transport. This means that the Council needs to ensure that long lived infrastructure for these sectors support low carbon options and avoid locking in high carbon infrastructure and behaviour. It will mean investing in infrastructure in the low carbon economy as soon as possible.
- 5.9 Regionally there is also pressure to accelerate decarbonisation. The draft Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy has just been published. The overall objective of the strategy is to develop a strategic pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region’s ambitions for decarbonising it’s energy system. The vision for Cardiff Capital Region is:
- “To create conditions for a transition to a carbon neutral economy and society in the CCR, using low carbon energy as an enabler of economic regeneration, growing our regional income whilst maintaining guardianship of our environment through a laser-focus on clean growth.”*
- 5.10 A report was considered by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and Cabinet on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 advocating the production of a wider focused Decarbonisation Strategy for the Council. This Strategy focuses on reducing the Council’s **own** carbon footprint and sets out the overarching objective of being a net carbon neutral authority by 2030. There are a number of benefits associated with the Council working towards a net carbon neutral agenda, namely:
- It will help towards tackling the climate emergency by reducing the amount of carbon going into the atmosphere.
  - It has social benefits – by making homes more energy efficient it will reduce bills and help tackle fuel poverty.
  - It will bring the Council direct financial benefits by reducing our energy bills and our carbon tax.
  - It will help us comply with legislation which is likely to become more stringent over time.
  - It will help future proof the Council and protect us from sharp price increase in fuel in a volatile market.

- Comply with Welsh Government requirements.

- 5.11 Like a number of strategic documents that the Council produces, the Strategy is accompanied by a more detailed Action Plan that sets out in more granular detail the steps to be taken to meet the main objectives set out in the Decarbonisation Strategy.
- 5.12 In producing the Decarbonisation Strategy, officers have consulted with a range of key stakeholders, both within the organisation and with those interested parties within the wider county borough. A series of workshops was held following the scrutiny report on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The final documentation has been moulded to reflect the views expressed at these events.
- 5.13 It should be noted that the Council is already making solid progress on a number of goals within the Decarbonisation Strategy. A number of working groups are actively engaged in progressing activities centred on exciting subject matter such as: encouraging the use of Electric Vehicles, introducing carbon neutral construction techniques, green energy production and agile working.
- 5.14 However the range and extent of projects and activities outlined for delivery in the Action Plan are extensive, wide ranging and require cross departmental and inter-agency collaboration. In order to ensure delivery, it is recommended that a dedicated resource be identified to co-ordinate and oversee this work. A number of senior officers are already engaged with driving forward the Decarbonisation agenda. In order to focus and co-ordinate activity an over-arching Decarbonisation Strategy Group consisting of senior officers from a number of departments will be established. Furthermore, the introduction of a Decarbonisation Officer post would ensure the necessary focus and would also safeguard the plan going forward, making sure that it responds to external influences such as new WG/central government legislation.
- 5.15 As outlined above, this Strategy focuses on interventions that the Council itself can undertake to radically change its own impact on the environment. However, it needs to be clearly outlined that the Council does not currently have the level of resources required to affect change to the scale identified within the Strategy and its supplementary documents. The Council requires “buy in” from Welsh Government in particular to be able to drive forward the proposals within it. A number of the proposals set out within the Decarbonisation Action Plan require extensive financial support from other public sector agencies or require delivery entirely from other bodies or the private sector. To that end, the Decarbonisation Action Plan should be viewed as an aspirational document with the necessary weight and gravitas that will set the foundations for the Council to seek funding and resources externally.
- 5.16 The decarbonisation agenda covers such a broad spectrum that it is difficult to understand and quantify what the overall impact of our Strategy will have at this stage. In order to measure and monitor the impact over its lifetime, it will first be necessary to establish the authority’s carbon baseline across the wide array of activities. It will be necessary to identify emissions values via data capture for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as prescribed by Welsh Government and also identify key carbon contributors to the baseline.
- 5.17 This strategy has been finalised in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, there is uncertainty around its long-term implications, including how the measures put in place to tackle the pandemic may also impact on our lives. The true economic and societal costs of the pandemic for the county borough are not fully clear.

As we move from the immediate emergency response to considering our options for economic recovery, this decarbonisation strategy has the potential to play a significant role in helping Caerphilly county borough recover and rebuild sustainably.

- 5.18 The Council propose the following path for the adoption of the Decarbonisation Strategy:

Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

- 5.19 Due to the wide ranging scope of the Decarbonisation Strategy it is appropriate to present it to both the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny committee and also the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee. The report will then be updated to include the scrutiny committee's comments prior to consideration for adoption by in the late Autumn.
- 5.20 Following its adoption it is intended to undertake a range of stakeholder engagement events to announce the strategy and gain the necessary 'buy in' from a range of stakeholders and agencies. Post Covid-19 it is unclear how this exercise will be conducted but it is likely that it will be focused on the use of digital platforms.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Over the last decade, the Council has worked hard to reduce carbon emissions. However, we need to increase our pace and focus on reducing our carbon footprint; moving us towards being a carbon neutral Council by our target date of 2030. The onslaught of Covid-19 has given this fresh impetus as the Council looks to embrace the change enforced upon us to positive effect.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 7.1 A number of assumptions have been made in this report. The first is that Welsh Government and Westminster will tighten their approach towards decarbonisation and the use of clean energy. The production of WG's Prosperity for All: Low Carbon Wales in March 2019 is a clear indication of their direction of travel. It is also safe to assume that that legislation on carbon reduction will increase over the next 10 years as Central Government look to address the current levels of carbon production.
- 7.2 Energy prices continue to increase and it is predicted that this rise will continue. Hence it makes economic sense to invest now in reducing energy consumption and consider opportunities for green energy production.
- 7.3 Fuel poverty exists within the county borough and is particularly focused on areas of deprivation often centred around traditional council housing estates. Clean energy production that tenants can benefit from will help further.
- 7.4 Covid-19 has had a massive impact on people's working, commuting and living habits. An opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes to help deliver our decarbonisation goals.
- 7.5 Delivering the actions outlined in the plan cannot be the sole responsibility of the Council. National and Regional collective action is required to deliver these changes.

## **8. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 8.1 The following Council policies are relevant to the development of an Energy Strategy:
- CCBC Carbon Reduction Strategy 2009-2019
  - CCBC Sustainable Development Strategy
  - A Foundation for Success 2018-2023
  - Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021

### **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

- 8.2 Carbon reduction and renewable energy generation work supports the following Corporate Well-being Objectives, identified within the CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-2023:

**Objective 2 - Enabling employment.** The green economy is likely to be one of the fastest growing sectors in the coming years. Development of a Carbon Strategy will incorporate projects which will have the potential to generate significant new jobs. There is also the potential to offer energy at a reduced rate for business to encourage inward investment and jobs.

**Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being.** Making existing houses more energy efficient or retrofitting renewable energy technology has the potential to reduce fuel bills and could move some residents out of fuel poverty. The Strategy will consider the opportunities to increase the sustainability of new building through the Planning process.

**Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment.** The inclusion of sustainable transport and in particular electric vehicles, in the proposed Strategy will have the potential to contribute significantly to this objective.

## **9. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 9.1 The development of Carbon reduction and renewable energy projects contribute to several of the Well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, including:
- A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales
  - A healthier Wales
  - A more equal Wales
  - A Wales of cohesive communities
  - A globally responsible Wales
- 9.2 Carbon reduction and renewable energy projects are consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act.
- 9.3 The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:
- Long Term – taking action to improve our energy efficiency and to generate clean energy will enable progress towards a low carbon society that uses resources efficiently it will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and will reduce the contribution that we make to climate change.
  - Prevention – Providing opportunities for the use of ultra-low emission vehicles to help mitigate climate change and reduce air pollution and the resulting health issues.
  - Integration – The proposal contributes to the Corporate Well-being Objectives identified within the CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-2023 as set out in section 8.2.
  - Collaboration – The proposal will require a collaborative approach with PSB Partners, and others.
  - Involvement – Local residents, staff and visitors all have an important role to play in developing and delivering the Strategy and will be involved at all stages of the work.

## **10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Decarbonisation Strategy will actually have a positive effect on those targeted categories. For instance, making homes more energy efficient will reduce fuel bills and is a key tool in reducing fuel poverty. In addition, improving access to efficient, integrated transport will enable residents to access employment and will help to tackle inequalities.
- 10.2 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified, therefore a full EIA has not been carried out.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 As identified above, there will be a requirement for upfront investment to implement the necessary change. The Council, through its own internal budget management will strive to instigate change where it can and it will look to secure financial support from a range of external sources to ensure delivery. It should be noted that many of the actions can be considered as invest to save proposals that will bring a return over time, allowing the Council not only to meet its decarbonisation targets but also to become more efficient and economical, particularly with its energy consumption.
- 11.2 The authority will need to consider an allocation of capital from its capital reserves to initiate some of the projects identified within the suite of documents as payback on energy projects is often medium to long term.
- 11.3 Projects highlighted in the Energy Prospectus will require a similar approach. Further interrogation to establish which are feasible and viable options for the Council to pursue are required at a cost. The Council is looking at a number of ways of financing this initial work. Once projects have been prioritised they will require business plans including more detailed design and the analysis of financial plans. Again the Council will look at a number of financing options including using its own monies and grant aid. While the Council will look at funding the construction/implementation of these projects, it is aiming to deliver a number of projects that will pay for themselves over time. It must however be acknowledged that the end of the feed in tariff rate means that some renewable energy payback periods will be considerable.
- 11.4 Business Cases including detailed costings and funding requirements will be prepared for specific projects moving forward and will be subject to further reports. These business cases/plans will be reviewed by the Regeneration Project Board with recommendations being made to Cabinet where required.

## **12. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 A number of senior officers are already engaged with driving forward the Decarbonisation agenda. In order to focus and co-ordinate activity an over-arching Decarbonisation Strategy Group consisting of senior officers from a number of departments will be established.
- 12.2 It is recognised that a dedicated Decarbonisation Officer post would help co-ordinate and focus the activity of the wider group and help deliver change more effectively. Financing this post is currently being investigated.

## **13. CONSULTATIONS**

- 13.1 This report reflects the responses received from consultees.

## **14. STATUTORY POWER**

- 14.1 Local Government Measure 2009.  
Local Government Acts.

Author: Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager/Paul Rossiter, Energy and Water Officer/ Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer.

Consultees:

Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise  
Cllr Lisa Phipps, Cabinet Member for Housing and Property  
Cllr Andrew Whitcombe, Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Christine Forehead, Vice Chair of Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Tudor Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability Committee  
Christina Harrhy – Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams – Interim Corporate Director Communities  
Stephen Harris – Head of Business Improvement Services & Sec 151 Officer  
Rhian Kyte – Head of Regeneration and Planning  
Marcus Lloyd – Head of Infrastructure  
Sean Couzens – Chief Housing Officer  
Liz Lucas – Head of Customer and Digital Services  
Ian Evans – Procurement and Information Manager  
Chris Adams – Highways Engineering Group Manager  
Lisa James – Principal Planner  
Steve Martin – Energy Officer, Housing  
Jane Roberts Waite – Strategic Co-ordination Manager, Housing  
Phil Griffiths – Green Spaces manager  
Julian Bosley – Sustainable Energy Officer, RDP Team  
Tim Broadhurst – Estates Manager, Property Services  
Mark Williams – Interim Head of Property  
Rob Tranter – Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Anwen Cullinane – Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language  
Lynne Donovan – Human Resources Service Manager

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Decarbonisation Strategy  
Appendix 2 – Draft Decarbonisation Action Plan  
Appendix 3 – Draft Energy Prospectus



# Decarbonisation Strategy:

REDUCE - PRODUCE -  
OFFSET - BUY

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)







# 1. Delivering Net Zero

## Foreword

As Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, I am pleased to introduce the Decarbonisation Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough Council, which was agreed by Cabinet on 25th November 2020.

On the 4th June 2019 the Council formally declared a climate emergency as a Notice of Motion, with full support from all political parties. As a result of this, Caerphilly County Borough Council has committed to being net carbon neutral by 2030.

In response, the Decarbonisation Strategy - 'Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy' has been produced. This Strategy focuses on reducing the Council's own carbon footprint and sets out the overarching objective of being a net carbon neutral authority by 2030.

The Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan which details the actions the Council can take and an Energy Prospectus outlining potential commercial projects both of which will help us achieve our ambitious target. These are living, breathing documents that will react and change over time to reflect external influences and Government policy.



**CABINET MEMBER FOR  
ECONOMY AND ENTERPRISE**  
**Cllr. Sean Morgan**

Caerphilly County Borough Council

The Council has an excellent track record of implementing initiatives that benefit the environment and the Decarbonisation Strategy - Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy builds upon this. The suite of documents focus on four broad categories:-

### **REDUCE**

**Reducing the amount of energy we use**

### **PRODUCE**

**Generating our own 'green' electricity and heat**

### **OFFSET**

**Offsetting any carbon emissions**

### **BUY**

**Everything we purchase has embedded carbon associated with it and this will need to be considered in the procurement process**

As a Council, we are leading by example. In addition to tackling the climate emergency there are financial and social benefits to be gained from working towards becoming net carbon neutral and it is hoped and anticipated that our actions will stimulate our residents and other stakeholders to follow our lead.

## 2. Introduction - Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy

**2.1** Caerphilly County Borough Council (Caerphilly CBC) has an excellent track record of implementing initiatives that benefit the environment. The authority has reduced carbon emissions by investing in technologies that reduce consumption and we have worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of carbon reduction with our staff, pupils and residents across the county borough.

**2.2** However it is acknowledged there is still much more to do at a time when the climate continues to warm and sea levels continue to rise. Changes to climate will have a significant impact on the well-being of both current and future generations, with extreme weather events caused by climate change putting increasing pressure on ecosystems, infrastructure, the built environment and our landscape. Reducing emissions from our activities will improve our well-being and demonstrate Caerphilly CBCs contribution to the global effort on climate change.

**2.3** Decarbonisation is the right thing to do. The Council can also help stimulate green initiatives across Caerphilly county borough by cutting emissions and moving towards a low carbon economy there are enormous opportunities to create a vibrant and socially low carbon economy.



### The Effects Of Global Warming

**2.4** There is consensus supported by overwhelming statistical evidence that the world is facing challenging times as scientific research continues to underline and reinforce the dangers of global warming.

**2.5** A key document in the World's understanding on global warming was published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in 2018 titled "Global Warming of 1.5°C". The report draws comparisons between pre industrial emissions levels, our present day emissions levels and the impact on the world should temperatures rise by 1.5°C, and up to 2°C.

**2.6** The overriding warning from the IPCC is that any rise in temperature should be avoided, however an increase by 2°C would result in far harsher environmental impacts than if the temperature increase can be kept to 1.5°C or lower.

**2.7** The IPCC acknowledge that:

- Many land and ocean ecosystems have already been changed.
- Future climate related risks depend on the rate, peak and duration of warming.
- Adaptation and mitigation is already helping but future risks will be reduced by upscaling and accelerating such activities.





Adaptation  
and mitigation  
are already  
helping





**£4.1M**  
to upgrade stock  
to LED lighting

**£2M**  
into energy  
efficiency

**1.5°C**  
rise likely to be  
reached between  
2030 and 2052 at  
current rates  
of emission

reduce  
emissions by  
**45%**

**2.8** Lower risks are predicted at 1.5°C than at 2°C, namely:

- There will be variations to climate across the world with some seeing hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions and drought and precipitation deficits experienced in some regions. Increases in mean temperatures will be experienced in most land and ocean regions.
- Land impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems will be lower below 1.5°C and for oceans there will be reduced acidity and oxygen levels.
- There will be climate related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.
- At the lower temperature adaptation needs will be lower, therefore less adaptation to natural and managed ecosystems.

**2.9** Modelled pathway scenarios that limit temperature rise to 1.5°C rely on deep reductions in emissions of Methane and Carbon Dioxide. Cooling aerosols, non CO2 emissions such as Nitrous Oxide and Methane from agriculture and from the waste sector also need to be reduced. If deep reductions are met global CO2 emissions will decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach Net Zero by 2050. Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C require rapid and far reaching transitions in energy, land and infrastructure. Energy use must lower through enhanced energy efficiency and faster electrification of energy end use.

**2.10** Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) including afforestation, land restoration and soil carbon sequestration must play a major role. A 1°C rise in temperature has arisen since pre industrial levels, with the 1.5°C rise likely to be reached between 2030 and 2052 at current rates of emission.

**2.11** The world needs to act now and that means Caerphilly CBC needs to act and play its part.

**2.12** This strategy acknowledges the focus of the Cardiff Capital Region and it's ambition that the region generates the equivalent of approximately 50% of its total energy consumption in 2035 from regional renewable sources. The Council is keen to work towards regional decarbonisation goals and to help to meet this target by identifying opportunities for green energy production.

### **Covid-19**

**2.13** This strategy has been finalised in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a profound effect on the lives of millions of people around the world, bringing unprecedented challenges for our economy, our society and our communities. There is uncertainty around its long-term implications, including how the measures put in place to tackle the pandemic may also impact on our lives.

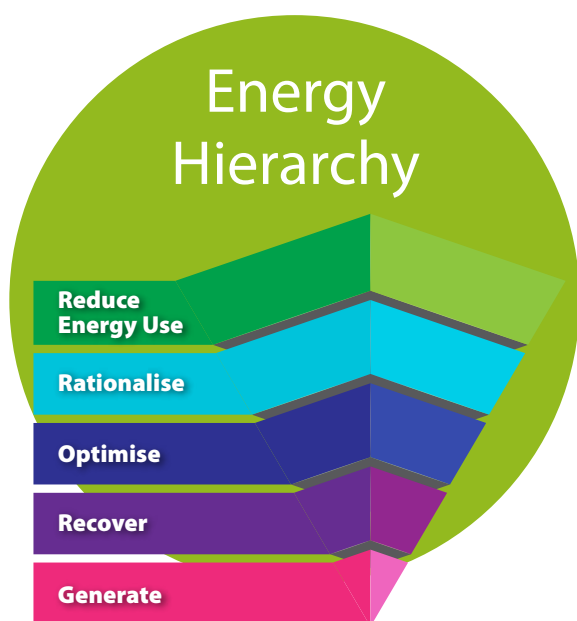
**2.14** Covid-19 has made a massive impact on people's working, commuting and living habits and it is conceivable that some aspects of society will be permanently altered and this will undoubtedly impact on decarbonisation. Opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes, for example through agile working, increased active travel and reduction in travel by car. We must recognise that our approach to the economic recovery that will follow provides us with a unique opportunity to sustainably rebuild our economy and make greener investments and climate positive decisions that set us on a pathway to achieve our climate target.

**2.15** During the preparation of the Decarbonisation Plan careful consideration has been given to the potential impacts of Covid-19 including how it could influence the Action Plan and its implementation and we are mindful that the documents need to be kept under review and updated when, and how, our emergence from the COVID-19 crisis becomes clearer.

## 3. Achievements To Date

**3.1** Over the last 10 years the authority has followed the principles of an energy hierarchy, and will continue to do so.

**3.2** The general principle of an energy hierarchy is outlined as:



**3.3** Adhering to this hierarchy over the last 10 years has helped the authority to: reduce its carbon emissions through good housekeeping techniques; make good investment in technologies; ensure efficient use of assets such as buildings; and embrace renewable technologies. This has shaped some of the authority's achievements to date.

**3.4** Caerphilly CBC has a good record of implementing projects that benefit the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In 2009 the authority launched its Carbon Reduction Strategy which focussed on reducing carbon emissions from its buildings and street lighting assets. Its target was to reduce emissions by 45% of those recorded in the 2008 baseline year and it actually achieved a commendable 42% reduction.

**3.5** The Carbon Reduction Strategy focussed on 4 key areas which are still very relevant:

- Good Housekeeping;
- Invest To Save;
- Asset Management; and
- Renewable Energy Technologies.

**3.6** The authority has introduced and executed numerous initiatives in working towards the 45% emission reduction target, not all of which can be outlined here. However a sample of what has been achieved is précised below:

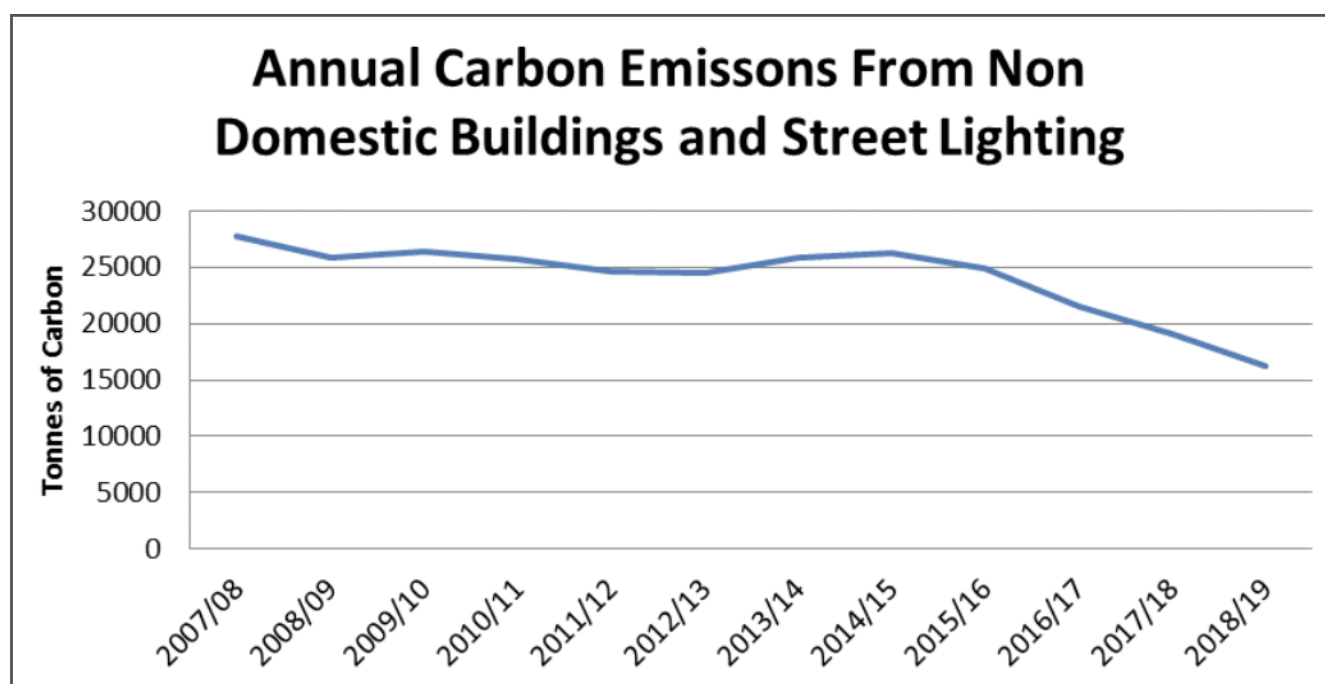
- The authority has invested over £2million into energy efficient technologies in its own non domestic buildings though its Invest to Save scheme called LAEF and have saved 35,000 tonnes of carbon and has reduced it's energy bills at the same time.
- The Council's Street Lighting service is investing £4.1million to upgrade its lamp-heads to LED lighting. This is expected to save approximately 1,900 tonnes of carbon each year at current carbon conversion rates and again will reduce our energy bills.
- There have been various Housing and WHQS initiatives aimed at reducing fuel consumption in homes including Arbed; CESP and Cy Cymru.
- ICT Services has introduced measures to reduce energy consumption in IT equipment.
- Caerphilly Solar Schools project was developed in 2009 which resulted in a number of schools having solar panels installed. 45 schools benefitted from small scale PV schemes with a further 8 schools having larger arrays installed.



- Wind Turbines. A partnership project between CCBC, led by Economic Development, and Partnership for Renewable successfully installed two 2MW wind turbines on Oakdale Business Park. Both the Council and local community benefit from income derived from this project.
- In September 2018 the Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Cabinet and a number of actions are being implemented, including the introduction of charging points throughout the authority.
- Greenhill Primary school was completed in May 2011 and was awarded BREEAM outstanding, with high scores in the pollution category and energy. The school has a rain water harvesting system, small wind turbines and an extensive PV array.
- Islwyn High Comprehensive school was completed in April 2016 and was awarded BREEAM Excellent. The school has a large PV array. During high PV generation periods the school is a net exporter of electricity to the grid.

- The authority signed a Sustainable Development Charter which, committed the authority to make sustainable development our central guiding principle.
- The authority has declared a climate emergency.

**3.7** The following graph gives an indication of the reduction in the Council's emissions specifically from its non-domestic buildings and street lighting, through the direction of the Carbon Reduction Strategy.



## 4. Notice Of Motion Declaring A Climate Emergency

**4.1** On the 4th June 2019 Caerphilly County Borough Council formally declared a climate emergency as a Notice of Motion which was fully endorsed by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee and received full Council support from all political parties.

**4.2** Caerphilly CBC has already engaged with local residents, key stakeholders and internal officers, through a series of workshops to establish what is needed to produce an effective decarbonisation strategy and to achieve the 2030 target.



Cycle Path, Maesycwmmmer

**As a result  
of this Caerphilly CBC  
has committed to:**

- Becoming net carbon neutral by 2030
- Develop a clear decarbonisation strategy to allow us to hit the 2030 target

## 5. Vision Statement

**5.1** By 2030 Caerphilly CBC will be Net Carbon Neutral:- The local authority will dramatically REDUCE consumption levels, PRODUCE its own green clean electricity, OFFSET carbon emissions and look to limit its carbon impact through the goods and services that the authority BUYS.

### Objectives

**5.2** Over the next 10 years:

**5.3** Caerphilly CBC will have quantified its Carbon Footprint and worked towards negating that value. The Council will do its utmost to identify and implement some easy carbon wins where they are available and all departments will work collaboratively to make the harder carbon savings become a reality. Along the way the authority will continue to liaise with our community and key stakeholders to ensure it delivers on all key carbon reduction targets.

**5.4** By becoming net carbon neutral by 2030, the Authority will help to create a more robust county borough by stimulating jobs in the “Low Carbon” Sector. This will not only make our environment greener and more stable, but will help local residents into work and out of poverty, making communities more resilient to change.

**5.5** Caerphilly CBC will explore all opportunities for reducing carbon emissions. It will greatly reduce its carbon emission rate by improving control on what the authority buys, on goods, works and services. In 18/19 Caerphilly CBC spent £65 million just on construction. There are enormous opportunities to refine how the authority builds so that it improves energy efficiency through product selection and energy generation.

**5.6** Caerphilly CBC will focus on constructing buildings without fossil fuelled heating systems and existing buildings will be improved so that they embrace energy efficiency initiatives and utilise renewable energy sources where possible.

**5.7** Caerphilly CBC will look to minimise waste as much as possible and explore opportunities around these waste streams which will include procurement, treatment & disposal.

**5.8** Caerphilly CBC will greatly reduce the volume of miles travelled and those miles that are covered will be done so from more sustainable modes of transport.

**5.9** Caerphilly CBC will continue to improve its carbon reduction by exploring afforestation, creation of new wetlands, development and changes in land use to maximise carbon capture through sequestration. If technological advancements allow, consideration will be given to physical Carbon Capture Storage options as well as biological storage.

**5.10** Caerphilly CBC will act as a leader in technology where possible to stimulate carbon reduction.

**5.11** The Authority’s Decarbonisation Strategy seeks to implement these objectives over the next 10 year period.



## 6. A New Approach

**6.1** Some UK areas have taken a narrow approach to decarbonisation. Welsh Government is following a more wide reaching route and is expected to ask Welsh Public Sector organisations to become carbon neutral across all of their activities. Welsh Government will expect organisations to measure themselves against Scope 1, 2 and 3 emission criteria (which are explained in more detail later in this strategy). This approach requests organisations to factor in all emissions, from direct emissions resulting from combustion of fossil fuels in cars and boilers, to indirect emissions resulting from processes such as the production of electricity at power plants and finally emissions generated from our daily activities.

**6.2** These upstream and downstream activities that produce carbon emissions are significant contributors to Caerphilly CBC's overall emission baseline level. The authority purchases goods, works and services from a wide catchment area with many goods purchased being carbon intensive in their production and haulage and this needs to be investigated to see how this can be changed. The authority will also need to consider the emissions resulting from its disposals. This is an approach that is not widely accepted within public bodies across the UK and will require a major shift in public sector thinking and a rate of change that will be significant.

**6.3** At present, the Council does not have in place all of the central guidance necessary to help in the full development of a Decarbonisation Strategy and the authority has tried to anticipate the approach that Welsh Government guidance will take on this subject, however the authority acknowledges that it may need to modify its plan as Welsh Government policy advice changes.

### Welsh Government Mandate

**6.4** When Caerphilly CBC made its pledge to be net carbon neutral, it lobbied Welsh Government to provide the necessary support and resources to enable itself and other Welsh local authorities to effectively reduce carbon emissions.

**6.5** Welsh Government has acknowledged this and is working collaboratively with local authorities, providing support and guidance. It recognises the scale of the task of attaining the 2030 target and are committed to achieving this goal.

**6.6** In March 2019, the Welsh Government published Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales, which includes some key policies:

- To replace the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme (CRC), with another reporting mechanism for reporting carbon emissions on gas and electricity consumption.
- To support the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality.

**6.7** Welsh Government will need to report its progress on attaining its net zero carbon 2030 targets and will therefore require authorities to report to them. In order to measure impact, we need to better understand our current carbon footprint, our baseline. There are currently no mandatory targets or reporting mechanisms, however this is expected to change. The Council will be evolving its own reporting protocol based on UK Government guidance.



## Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy

**6.8** Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) recognises that there needs to be a regional focus on the decarbonisation agenda. The draft Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy has been developed with support from regional stakeholders, including local authorities. The overall objective being to develop a pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region's ambitions for decarbonising its energy system.

**6.9** An Energy Vision Scenario has been modelled to set out a potential decarbonisation route that will put the region on track to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050.

### The CCR vision is:

**6.10** To create the conditions for a transition to a carbon neutral economy and society in the CCR, using low carbon energy as an enabler of economic regeneration, growing our regional income whilst maintaining guardianship of our environment through a laser-focus on clean growth.

**6.11** The strategy includes five priorities for achieving its vision:-

- Energy Efficiency and Heat
- Electricity and Flexibility
- Decarbonise Transport
- Grow Business and Jobs
- Coordination, planning, regional support and ownership of the plan

**6.12** Caerphilly CBC has acknowledged and responded to the Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy in developing its own objectives and key intervention areas. The Council is responding to the need to deliver decarbonisation, encouraging the use of green technology, enhancing collaboration, sparking innovation and stimulating market activity in this field.



## 7. Establishing An Emissions Baseline

**7.1** To establish the baseline for our net zero target the authority will:

- Collect and analyse energy and CO2 emissions data;
- Identify and assess intervention options and impact on emissions projections;
- Define a route-map and action plan to meet the 2030 target.



### Green House Gasses (GHG)

**7.2** The main GHG in terms of the quantity of emissions and the overall warming impact for the Welsh Public Sector is carbon dioxide. However there are other GHG such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). These additional gases are often expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is the equivalent amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that would produce the same amount of global warming over a 100 year timescale.

**7.3** Caerphilly will focus on Carbon Dioxide emissions in the early stages of the Decarbonisation Strategy but will look to include other GHG at a later point in the plan's development.



## **Baseline Carbon Assessment**

**7.4** Measuring the carbon emissions associated with a large authority is not a simple task. Some information will be readily available and in the correct format, such as carbon emissions from electricity and gas consumption on non domestic buildings. However other information will be much harder to collect.

**7.5** This will be a key actions of this Decarbonisation Strategy - to establish a comprehensive carbon value where there are currently large gaps in available data.

**7.6** Where information is unavailable or partly available carbon emissions will need to be estimated. Inevitably there will be uncertainty around some data but as the Decarbonisation Strategy progresses the data sets will improve over time, and it is anticipated that the Welsh Net Zero Reporting Guide will further assist in this.

## **Greenhouse Gas Protocol**

**7.7** Key to understanding how net zero targets are set and monitored is the Green House Gas Protocol. This outlines what emissions should be monitored. Emission sources are divided into three scopes. Guidance to date from Welsh Government is that public sector organisations would be expected to follow this same protocol. However, the Council will also consider UK Government reporting protocol and guidance.

## **Scope 1 – Direct Emissions straight to atmosphere**

**7.8** These are direct emissions from operations that are owned or controlled by Caerphilly CBC. Our Scope 1 emissions must be included in the Decarbonisation Strategy. These include emissions from our non domestic building boilers, our fleet vehicles, bottled gas use, and diesel for generators on our main campus at Tredomen.

**7.9** Direct emissions also include fugitive emissions such as gases that could leak undetected from an air conditioning system. Tracking fugitive emissions across Caerphilly CBC will be resource intensive and would provide little early gains for this reason this will not be the top priority in the early stages of the Decarbonisation Strategy but will be included at a later stage.

**7.10** Direct emissions (excluding fugitive ones) should be relatively straight forward to quantify in the majority of areas as part of the baseline assessment. There will be some data gaps however such as distances travelled from home to work by employees in their own vehicles.

## **Scope 2 - Indirect Emissions associated with consumption of purchased electricity or cooling**

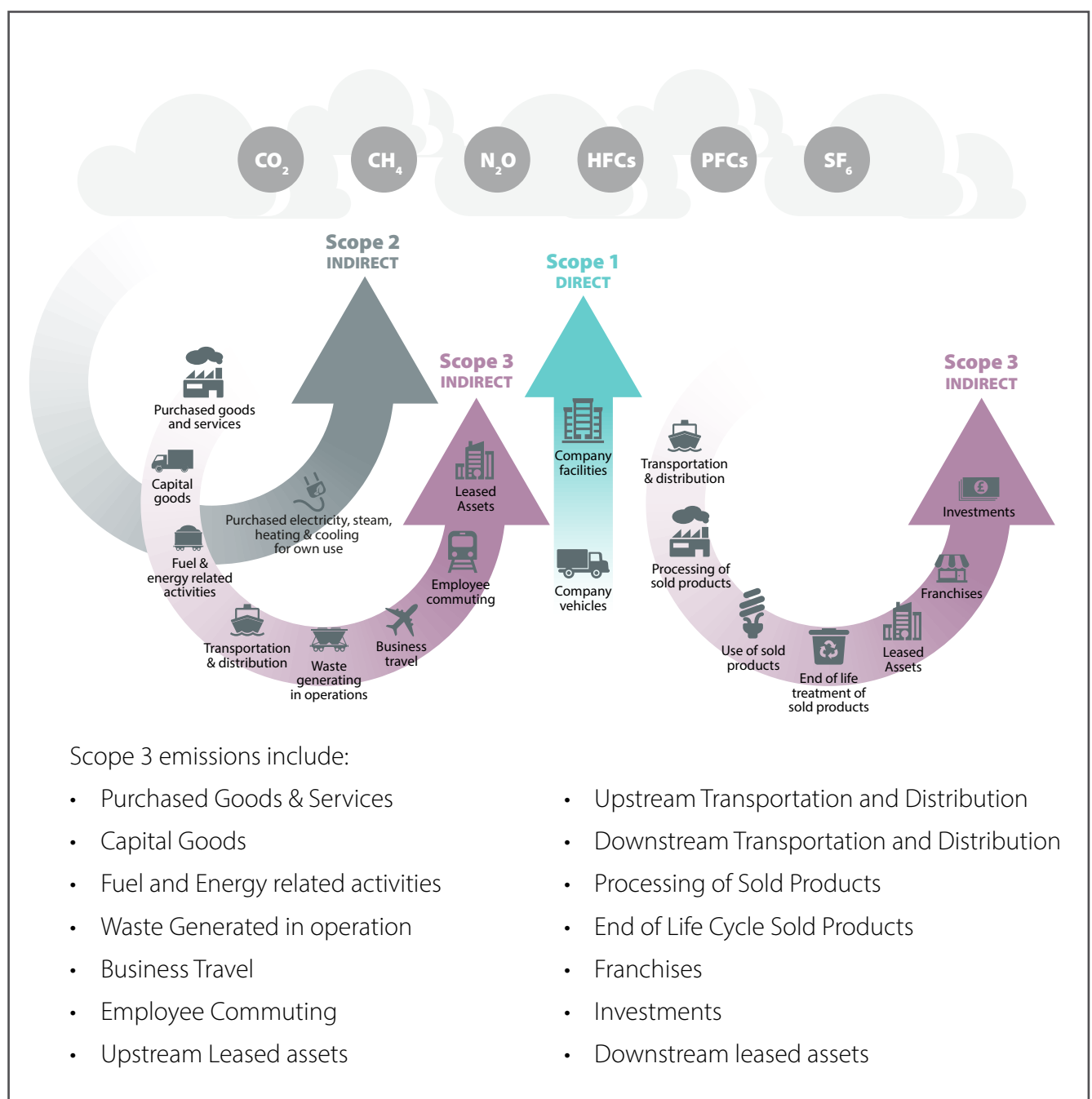
**7.11** These are emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity consumed by Caerphilly CBC. Our Scope 2 emissions will be included in the Decarbonisation Strategy even though all of the electricity consumed on council owned non domestic buildings is already from a renewable energy source. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) advises that organisations report their carbon emissions from electricity derived from renewable sources against the national carbon emission factors at the time of reporting. This will include all non domestic buildings and some housing properties.

**7.12** In the majority of areas, it is anticipated that indirect emissions should be relatively straight forward to establish as part of the baseline assessment but will be time consuming.

## Scope 3 – Indirect emissions that are a consequence of Caerphilly CBC actions

**7.13** It is Scope 3 emissions where Caerphilly CBC and Welsh Governments aspirations differ to the majority of the UK where public sector organisations focus purely on Scope 1&2 emissions. It is these Scope 3 emissions that will require the most effort due to data and information gaps.

**7.14** Scope 3 emissions will cover nearly all Caerphilly CBC activities and purchases. They include both upstream and downstream emissions. The following diagram summarises the activities of Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions. (It is worth noting that there are a higher volume of actions to be found within Scope 3).





**7.15** Caerphilly CBC will now work to establish its carbon emission baseline as one of the early actions of the Decarbonisation Strategy. It is acknowledged that some data sets are not readily available so the baseline will be established using estimated data and where available accurate data. Over time the accuracy of the estimated data will improve.

**7.16** As the baseline is being developed, carbon reduction projects will be delivered at the same time ensuring there is continual improvement in emission reductions.



# 8. Decarbonisation Strategy:

## REDUCE - PRODUCE - OFFSET - BUY

**8.1** The Decarbonisation Strategy and associated Action Plan and Energy Prospectus will focus on four broad categories of Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy which align with those being used by the Welsh Government and have emerged through our workshops and stakeholder consultation events.

### REDUCE

**8.2** Reducing energy use is the first step in the energy hierarchy. There are many ways in which the authority can further reduce its impact on the environment and specifically reduce the volume of carbon emissions it emits. Some primary target areas are outlined below.

#### Existing Corporate Buildings

**8.3** Good housekeeping principles will bring carbon reductions in each of the Council run buildings. The authority has a proven track record of delivering energy and carbon improvement projects by investing to save. The authority was a founding member (2004) of the National Salix scheme, which provides interest free loans to building managers for technology that reduces carbon emissions. Caerphilly CBC is the leading Welsh Authority when it comes to tonnes of carbon saved and figures highly in the UK league tables. To date, the authority has invested over £2million in property focused projects in this way. This approach has already helped the authority reduce its carbon footprint in direct relation to carbon emissions from buildings utilising gas and electricity.

**8.4** Having buildings that are partially occupied is not efficient and the closure of under occupied corporate buildings will result in significant savings. The authority's "Asset Management Strategy- Property & Land 2019" will help to consolidate corporate property assets and sets out the following objective: "To have the

appropriate land and property, in the right place, operating in the right way, to facilitate safe and effective delivery of the Council's services".

**8.5** The authority is developing an Agile Working plan as part of the emerging Workforce Plan. This will reduce the need for staff to travel unnecessarily and should provide the opportunity for the Council to reduce its current requirement for office space.

#### Corporate New Build

**8.6** The authority's 21st Century Schools programme has already delivered some of the most sustainable and energy efficient schools in Wales, such as the recently completed Islwyn High School at Oakdale. This programme of new build will continue with the same green ethos and will be an important contributor to meeting our net zero target.

#### Housing - Existing Stock

**8.7** Reducing energy consumption has been the key objective of the Council when considering its own housing stock. Over a third of the Council's stock has now benefitted from external wall insulation. A large proportion has also benefitted from the introduction of more efficient condensing boilers and loft insulation. This work has been supplemented by the introduction of double glazing on the Council's housing stock. Further opportunities will be explored to further reduce energy consumption and to establish properties as mini power stations, producing their own heat and power.

#### Housing - New Build Programme

**8.8** The Council is committed to delivering new council housing, either by building ourselves or in partnership with Registered Social Landlords. Innovative housing techniques such as modular build and passivhaus will be considered by the

authority on its “new build stock”, helping to reduce fuel consumption by its tenants and in doing so helping to contribute positively towards addressing fuel poverty.

## **Street Lighting**

**8.9** Caerphilly CBC has approximately 27,500 street lighting units. Since 2009 the Council has introduced a number of energy saving measures, the primary ones being inter-urban road part-night lighting and the replacement of conventional lamps with low-energy alternatives and dimming.

## **Travel and Transport**

**8.10** The authority approved an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan in 2019 setting out its vision to “Introduce an electric vehicle infrastructure across Caerphilly county borough, to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits and opportunities that the electric vehicle agenda will provide, and for electric vehicles to be a fundamental part of our fleet”.

**8.11** Work is underway to dramatically improve the charging infrastructure throughout the county borough to encourage residents to go electric with their vehicles.

**8.12** The authority is also reviewing its whole internal fleet of vehicles to identify carbon and emissions savings where it can. This work will include reviewing and reducing grey fleet mileage – the travel that employees undertake in their own vehicles on behalf of the council.

## **Resource Use/Waste Management**

**8.13** Prosiect Gwyrdd is a high profile waste management facility that generates electricity for sale to the grid with the Council playing a major role in its development. In addition, the authority

has local arrangements in place, such as food waste being disposed of at Bryn Quarry where it is converted into green energy via the Anaerobic Digester.

**8.14** Each Council service area will have examples where they can REDUCE consumption. Easy gains can be made through the reduction of plastic and paper use and other simple changes to service provision such as a reduction in the frequency of grass cutting on council owned land assets will all help. In addition, investigations on recovering waste heat and reducing and using food waste has good potential for further reductions.

## **PRODUCE**

**8.15** Generating our own “green” electricity and heat at the point of use will reduce carbon emissions and will bring the added benefit of offsetting grid demand and reducing system losses associated with grid supplied electricity.

## **Solar and Wind**

**8.16** The authority has already installed Photovoltaic (PV’s) panels on roofs of its buildings. In some instances these are small demonstration arrays on schools but the authority has also installed larger arrays to good effect and is currently investigating its collective non-domestic roof space for medium sized PV arrays.

**8.17** To make the radical carbon reductions that are needed, the authority is also in the process of reviewing our land assets, in collaboration with the Welsh Government Energy Service, with a view to establishing large scale renewable technology at several of its land holdings. This work include identifying potential opportunities for solar and on shore wind farms.



**8.18** The Council already has been instrumental in a partnership project between Caerphilly CBC and the Partnership for Renewables, where two wind turbines have been installed on council owned land on Oakdale Business Park. Each turbine has a generating capacity of 2 Megawatts, capable of powering 2,000 homes.

## Hydro Electric

**8.19** The authority has undertaken a review of its capacity to generate electricity from hydro. To date there is minimal opportunity to progress projects although Cwmcarn Forest may provide some opportunity to generate electricity for on site use at the visitor centre.

## Anaerobic Digester

**8.20** As outlined above, the Council has local arrangements in place at Bryn Quarry where Council collected food waste is converted into green energy via an Anaerobic Digester. Opportunities to take electricity directly from this site and utilise it at the Tredomen Campus is a real possibility. Anaerobic Digesters (AD) break down feeder fuels such as food waste and maize to generate a biogas which is used to generate electricity. By utilising a locally generated electricity supply it will reduce the transmission system losses (wasted electricity) and free up additional capacity on the local grid.



Solar Panel Installation

## OFFSET

**8.21** In order to achieve net zero carbon the authority will need to offset any carbon emissions. There are a number of ways that the Council can do this:

## Existing Woodland

**8.22** It is imperative that the Council effectively manages its current land holdings to ensure that its woodland remains healthy. The recent onslaught of disease such as ash dieback and Phytophthora ramorum makes it even more important that no more woodland is lost. A full inventory of council owned woodland is available and the Council works hard to maintain and improve its tree stock with the resources it has to its disposal.



Wind Turbine Installation

## Tree planting

**8.23** It is widely acknowledged that tree planting helps to lock in carbon emissions. Longer living trees such as yew, lime and chestnut will lock carbon in for very long timeframes, a process known as sequestration.

**8.24** Carbon Dioxide removal through afforestation will play a major role in Caerphilly CBC achieving its net zero target, and the quantity of new tree planting that the Council aspires to is anticipated to be significant. The authority will need to undertake a land review to identify suitable areas that can be planted. Welsh Government is looking to establish a new National Forest within Wales and this provides an opportunity whereby Caerphilly CBC can look beyond its physical boundaries to join national schemes to offset our local carbon emissions.

## Wetland Rewilding and sustainable drainage solutions

**8.25** Wetland creation and rewilding offer similar opportunities to tree planting for carbon sequestration, as do sustainable drainage solutions designed into new developments.

## Fossil Fuel Divestment

**8.26** In parallel to developing policies to reduce emissions in Wales, the authority will also recognise that the decisions it makes leads to increased emissions both in Wales and globally. Fossil fuel based companies have long been a source of investments for specialist fund managers. Over a relatively short time horizon however, a decision to divest from fossil fuel companies and consciously make investments in industries delivering sustainable products and services could be made particularly with investments made with local authority pensions fund. Taking such an approach gives an important indication of our intent to go green wherever possible.

## BUY

**8.27** The new way of thinking required for the authority to achieve its net zero carbon goal will also focus on how the authority purchases goods and services. Everything the authority purchases has embedded carbon associated with it and this will need to be considered in the procurement process.



Tree Planting



**8.28** In 18/19 £200million was spent across 161,000 transactions by Caerphilly CBC with £65 million on construction activities alone.

**8.29** Establishing the carbon implications for each purchase the authority undertakes will be extremely difficult and some carbon indicators are not readily available. However Welsh Government has stated from their estimates of the carbon emissions resulting from the purchase of goods, works and services, that procurement is one of the most significant categories of carbon emissions for the public sector.

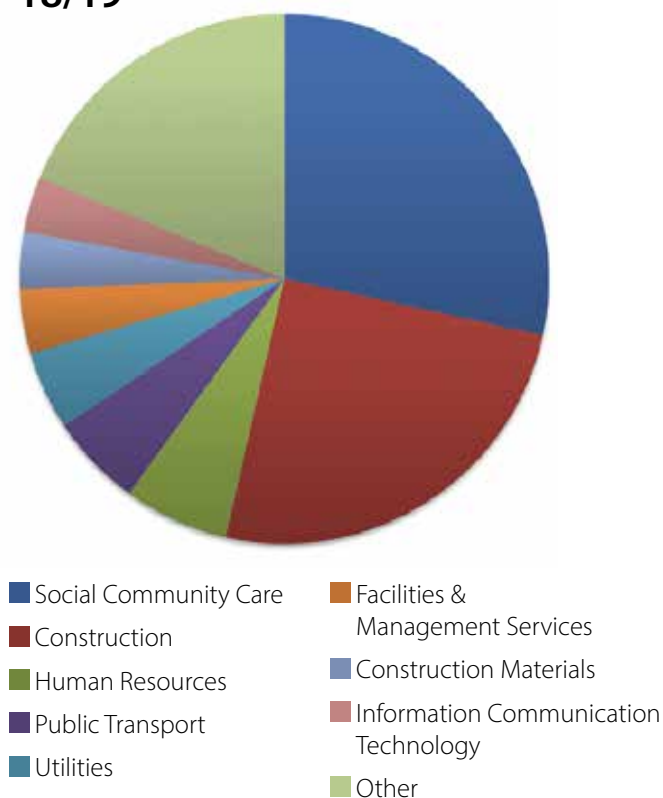
**8.30** In the short term, the authority should consider procuring/purchasing goods that generate the lowest level of carbon emission whilst operating. Likewise if the authority is about to secure the services of an external contractor, a significant factor should be their overall carbon footprint.

**8.31** As shown in the Graph 1 over half of Caerphilly CBC spend in 18/19 is on Social Community Care and Construction.

**8.32** Within Social Services there will be opportunities for travel mileage reductions, with better hi-tech ways of engaging with customers/clients. Other opportunities linked to Care provision functions such as energy saving measure on care homes will be explored.

**8.33** Construction currently accounts for 25% of Council spend. Materials used in construction such as steel and aggregates are carbon intensive to produce and manufacture. Substituting steel for timber products would not only reduce energy demand at source, a Scope 2 emission, it would also lock carbon in the timber for many years if incorporated into a building, through cladding, flooring, internal walling or possibly structural timbers.

**Graph 1 - Total Authority Spend 18/19**



## 9. Action Plan

**9.1** Implementing the objectives of the Decarbonisation Strategy will require a myriad of actions to be taken forward by a wide range of stakeholders. The Action Plan attached in appendix 1 sets out these actions in more detail and will help focus activity around target areas. Although the Council recognises the importance of data collection for benchmarking and reporting, the action plan will prioritise practical action over data collection as a means of driving forward change.

**9.2** In order to affect change, there will be a requirement to drill down deeper into the Action Plan and provide more granular detail on how each proposal within it will be delivered. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary to develop detailed action plans for each of the 4 main themes of Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy. These themed action plans will effectively hang together to form the main action plan and provide service areas with the action/steps required to achieve the goals and objectives set out in the main suite of documents.





## 10. Energy Prospectus

**10.1** The Energy Prospectus is a document that supports the Decarbonisation Strategy. It sets out the key areas in which we will focus that could result in major reductions in carbon emissions, highlighting key energy projects that the authority is investigating. The list of projects is not definitive and will change and develop over time.



Wind Turbine, Oakdale



# 11. Financing

**11.1** Local Authorities find themselves under enormous financial pressure and it will be difficult for Caerphilly CBC to identify resources to drive forward the changes necessary to achieve the goal of becoming net carbon neutral by 2030. A commitment is therefore expected from all council service areas to acknowledge this target and work towards it using their own existing core budget allocations. CCBC will also continue to be proactive in identifying external funding sources to implement change. Funding streams such as Salix have been used since 2004 to make radical changes in the county borough and it is expected that these funding sources will continue to be used to instigate positive change.

**11.2** The Council, through the energy prospectus, has identified initial key projects that will allow the council to not only reduce its carbon footprint but also take some commercial gain from implementation. The Council is rich with resources such as land and property; assets that can be exploited to derive a commercial profit which can then be fed back into other green projects. In order to develop the suite of projects identified in the prospectus the Council is willing to invest under an “invest to save” mandate.

**11.3** The Council also has a healthy relationship with a range of public sector bodies, government departments and external partner organisations. It is fully intended to use these existing strong relationships to deliver the changes set out in this decarbonisation strategy by ‘tapping into’ using these organisation resources where and when available.

**11.4** In terms of investment, achieving the decarbonisation strategy requires additional investment as opposed to “business as usual”. However, multiple economic assessments state that the return on this investment is far greater than leaving things as business as usual, for example in terms of jobs created, value added to the local economy and commercial return on investment.



## 12. Governance And Reporting

**12.1** The Decarbonisation Strategy is a living, breathing document that will react to external changes and influences. It is important that the plan has ownership to drive it forward and to adapt to take advantage of these external influences.

**12.2** The Council has an established Regeneration Energy Project Group who will be responsible for ensuring the plan's proposals and objectives are delivered. They will be tasked with liaising with each Departmental head to ensure that every opportunity is taken to meet the net carbon zero target by 2030.

**12.3** Representatives from the Regeneration Energy Project Group will monitor and report on progress on the Decarbonisation Strategy,

along with its supporting documents (the action plan and energy prospectus) to the Council's Regeneration Project Board twice a year. This Board consists of senior council officers and Members from each of the main political groups represented within the authority and is well placed to oversee delivery.

**12.4** While the Regeneration Project Board plays a role in overseeing the development & implementation of this plan, further reporting from the Regeneration Project Board to the relevant committee(s) & cabinet will also take place on a regular basis.







Contact:

Allan Dallimore,  
Regeneration Manager,  
Caerphilly County Borough Council.  
[dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
01443 866441

**[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)**



## Action Plan

REF	PROJECT	ACTION	DELIVERY BY	TIMESCALES
	Establish the authority carbon baseline.	Identify emissions values via data capture for Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions as prescribed by Welsh Government.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/ Medium
		Identify key carbon contributors to the baseline, each directorate to take on responsibility	Corporate Responsibility	Short
	Communications/awareness/staff engagement	Each directorate to take on responsibility of weaving decarbonisation into the way they operate, initially through staff awareness/engagement.	Corporate Responsibility	Short
	Educate staff and residents on their responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint.	Promote understanding of the benefits of energy efficiency, including cost savings and improved comfort and health. e.g. the update of smart meters in the home.	Corporate Responsibility	Short
	All Council Strategic Policy Documents to have decarbonisation at their heart.	Decarbonisation to be included as a fundamental element of all strategic policy documents prepared by the Council.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
Page 57	Reduce plastic use as a Council.	Promotional campaign to make staff aware of their responsibilities to reduce plastic consumption.	Corporate Responsibility	Short
	Build relationships with academic institutions and innovative and pioneering businesses in this field.	Build on the region's strong reputation for research and innovation through engagement with Higher Education institutes and blue-chip companies including developing digital and smart solutions to energy transitions as well as seeking solutions to future proofing ongoing developments.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
		Promote research into battery and hydrogen technologies.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
	Develop skilled workforce in this sector.	Develop training programmes with our educational partners to provide skill set to gain employment in work sector that can positively influence the decarbonisation agenda.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
	Encourage employment opportunities in this sector.	Encourage local employment for new Council and private sector projects.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
		Support a 'just transition' for workers by supporting those in 'traditional' high carbon industries to retrain	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium
	Low Carbon design training	Investment in training and knowledge gain for our staff, from engineers to architects and procurement into low carbon and natural material use within the design and construction of new and renovation of existing buildings.	Corporate Responsibility	Short/Medium



## REDUCE

REF	PROJECT	ACTION	DELIVERY BY	TIMESCALES
	<b>EXISTING NON DOMESTIC BUILDINGS</b>			
R1	Consider designing existing buildings to net carbon neutral standards and carbon neutral for operational activities.	Implement all available opportunities for carbon reduction within portfolio of existing building stock. Property Services to lead but each Directorate to examine its own property assets register to identify opportunities.	Property Services	Short/Medium/Long
R2	Convert all lighting to LED format.	Expand existing programme of lighting upgrade to take in all CCBC owned properties	Property Services	Short/Medium
R3	Consider improving building insulation levels on existing buildings.	Identify buildings that could have insulation levels increase.	Property Services	Short/Medium/Long
R4	Consider improving energy efficiency through other technologies e.g. heat pumps, CHP units on existing buildings.	Identify opportunities for technology that can improve energy efficiency.	Property Services	Short/Medium/Long
R5	Consider alternative heating formats to gas boilers on new build opportunities, major refurbishments and when existing boilers fail.	Review opportunity to replace gas boilers when appropriate to move away from gas supply.	Corporate Approach/Property Services	Short/Medium/Long
R6	Provide energy efficiency training to key building staff.	Provide training on Building energy management systems and good housekeeping techniques.	Property Services	Short
R7	Develop a water conservation plan.	Look at opportunities to reduce water consumption through reduced flows, demand and design.	Property Services	Short/Medium/Long
R8	Continue to rationalise our non domestic property portfolio.	Post Covid 19, examine opportunities to reduce our office accommodation requirements which will reduce carbon emissions from gas and electricity plus other activities.	Property Services	Short/Medium
	<b>EXISTING HOUSING STOCK</b>			
R9	Deliver fabric improvements to reduce energy consumption and deliver cost savings, considering a whole house retrofit approach where possible in existing CCBC owned Council housing stock.	Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the completion of the boiler replacement programme to introduce energy efficient condensing boilers to all our stock.	Housing	Short/Medium
R10		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the completion of the external wall insulation programme on non-traditional build properties.	Housing	Short
R11		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the continued implementation of the external/internal wall insulation programme on traditional build dwellings.	Housing	Short/Medium

R12		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the UPVc window replacement programme that will introduce high spec energy efficient glazing.	Housing	Short/Medium
R13		Survey all CCBC owned homes to establish their energy rating and to identify least energy efficient stock. Identify an Energy Budget to act as match and support to national energy efficiency schemes and programmes to target these properties.	Housing	Short
R14	Introduce pilot projects to investigate hybrid heating systems on existing stock.	Complete hybrid gas and air source pilot on 20 flats at Martins Field, Newbridge.	Housing	Short
<b>NEW DEVELOPMENT – HOUSING</b>				
R15	Promote and encourage carbon friendly construction methods and a reduction in energy consumption in all new housing development.	Provide a policy framework within the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) that presumes in favour of such constructions where appropriately located.	Planning & Regeneration	Medium
R16	Reduce energy consumption in new “Caerphilly Homes “properties.	Introduce new build specifications that aim to minimise heat loss, introduce efficient internal heating systems and reduce overall levels of carbon.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium/ Long
R17		Investigate utilising new battery technology to store energy within domestic properties.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R18	Introduce carbon friendly construction methods in “Caerphilly Homes” new build programme.	Secure partnership arrangement with local steel frame off- site modular build company to build new homes in Caerphilly County borough.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R19		Investigate and develop other off- site modular construction methods (e.g. Timber frame) for use within the Caerphilly Homes new build programme. Linking timber homes back to Welsh suppliers providing employment, shorten supply chains and reduce carbon along the Home Grown Homes.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R20		Take a fabric first approach to Caerphilly Homes new developments to achieve an EPC band B rating on all new build properties. Concentrate on energy efficient glazing and insulation to make properties airtight.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R21		Move away from traditional fossil fuel heating systems on Caerphilly Homes new builds.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R22		Introduce eco- friendly materials to specification of new build properties.	Caerphilly Homes	Short/Medium
R23	Ensure Council led programmes produce energy efficient houses (EPC rating A/B).	Introduce specific conditions to the Plot Shop self-build Programme to ensure delivery of energy efficient new housing on the identified Council owned land sites.	Planning & Regeneration/Housing	Short/Medium
R24	Work with and support RSL's to deliver eco- friendly housing in the county borough.	Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with zoned RSL's to work collaboratively and share knowledge and resources to work towards delivering more energy efficient housing.	Housing	Short/Medium
R25		Support RSL's to secure the necessary Social Housing Grant and Innovative Housing Grant to take eco –friendly schemes forward.	Housing	Short/Medium

R26		Use the capital value of CCBC owned land to offset the prohibitive costs of developing low carbon/net carbon zero/eco friendly schemes.	Housing/Property Services	Short/Medium
R27	Work collectively with zoned RSL's to Introduce more modular off site construction techniques to reduce carbon used in construction.	Ensure a strong pipeline of development to make a locally based modular factory commercially viable.	Housing	Medium
R28	Develop Smart Homes.	Introduce the necessary smart infrastructure within dwellings to future proof them so they can take full advantage of emerging SMART technologies.	Housing	Short/Medium
<b>NEW DEVELOPMENT – NON DOMESTIC</b>				
R29	Update Building Regulations Part L.	Lobby to review central Building Control legislation so that it introduces more stringent controls on new builds and conversions to ensure improved energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
R30	Promote and encourage carbon friendly construction methods and a reduction in energy consumption in all new development.	Provide a policy framework within the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP that presumes in favour of such constructions where appropriately located.	Planning & Regeneration	Medium
<b>TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT</b>				
R31	Reduce the number of vehicles and mileage driven by our fleet	Undertake review of fleet vehicles across the whole authority. Set targets and timescales for reductions	Policy Team/ Fleet Management	Short/Medium
R32	Reduce 'grey fleet' work mileage made by staff.	Review Grey Fleet mileage claims. Develop and implement robust travel hierarchy, policies and actions to reduce emissions.	Corporate Responsibility Transformation Team	Short
R33	Reduce the use of petrol and diesel vehicles through the implementation of the Electric Vehicle Strategy.	Implement Electric Vehicle strategy, including introducing electric vehicles and charging infrastructure across the authority	Policy	Short/Medium
R34	Reduce travel to work (commuting miles)	Review commuting patterns, produce recommendations including roll out of agile working, capitalising on changing behavioural patterns as a result of the Covid-19 crisis	Policy	Medium
R35	Promote modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP and Local Transport Plan will identify policies to make public transport more attractive and accessible.	Transport/ Planning & Regeneration	Medium
R36		Introduce a network of active travel routes throughout the county borough that will encourage CCBC staff and residents to walk and cycle more.	Transport	Short/Medium
R37		Enhance crossing facilities and improve walking and cycling routes	Transport	Short/Medium
R38		Trial implementation of pedestrian and cycle zones at schools	Transport	Short



R39		Continue with school educational programme of road and bike safety to encourage walking and cycling.	Transport	Short
R40		Promote walking buses to school.	Transport/Education	Short
R41		Introduce additional park and ride spaces at key locations on rail routes to encourage use of public transport.	Transport	Medium/Long
R42		Lobby Welsh Government and Transport for Wales for additional Valleys Metro nodes to improve connectivity and accessibility.	Transport/ Planning & Regeneration	Medium
R43	Introduce electric public transport vehicles to the local authority transport network.	Work with Stagecoach to introduce fleet of electric service buses to Caerphilly.	Transport	Short
R44	Develop electric vehicle friendly new transport interchange in the heart of Caerphilly town centre.	Work with transport for Wales and Welsh Government to realise this objective within the Caerphilly Place-making plan.	Corporate approach	Medium/Long
	<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>			
R45	Make street lighting more energy efficient.	Complete programme of street light replacement to LED lanterns by December 2020.	Engineering	Short
R46		Continue with programme of part light lighting in the county borough.	Engineering	Short/Medium
R47	Maximise use of recycled materials on Council funded projects and programmes.	Examine resurfacing programme to introduce higher levels of recycled aggregates (up to 50%) to surface course.	Engineering	Short/Medium
R48		Use natural materials where suitable and recycled products where possible such as bollards, bins, benches and curbs on street-scene projects.	Engineering	Short/Medium
	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>			
R49	Investigate opportunities for reducing waste within the local authority.	Less waste to landfill will result in less green- house gas emissions.	Corporate approach/Communications	Short
R50	Life Cycle Waste analysis	Design waste out of purchases with priority given to the purchase of goods that last longer, are reconfigurable or are repairable even if more expensive.	Waste Management	Short/Medium
R51	Packaging Review	Review how consumables and foods/drinks are made available. Priority to be given to re-useable and fillable options and phasing out of all single use containers (even if recyclable).	Waste Management	Short/Medium
R52	Repair First, Recycle Last	Support, encourage and invest in a repair and care team to extend the life cycle of office furniture etc.	Waste Management	Short/medium
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
R53	Maximise the use of intelligent IT systems to reduce our carbon emissions	Paperless office working practices to be introduced throughout the Council.	Corporate approach	Short/Medium
R54		Make conference calling the norm through appropriate IT facilities for everyone.	Corporate approach/IT	Short/Medium

R55	Encourage Community Councils to use their Community Infrastructure Levy funding to address decarbonisation at a local level.	Highlight opportunities and provide support and assistance to Community/Town Councils to encourage funding of renewable and low carbon energy schemes.	Planning & Regeneration	Short
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## PRODUCE

REF	PROJECT	ACTION	DELIVERY BY	TIMESCALES
	<b>GREEN ENERGY PRODUCTION</b>			
P1	Identify the potential for Solar power generation on non domestic building stock.	Review all roof space and prioritise for PV installation. (Look to maximise roof space for renewable energy generation).	Property Services	Short
P2	Review properties where there is Solar Thermal potential.	Review roof space for solar thermal panels, prioritising at leisure centres.	Property Services	Short
P3	Maximise green energy production on Caerphilly Homes new build domestic properties.	Investigate and where possible introduce photovoltaics, ground source and air source energy and heating to new homes stock.	Housing	Medium
P4	Investigate opportunities to turn existing CCBC owned homes into “mini power stations”.	Investigate and where possible retrofit photovoltaics, ground source and air source energy and heating to existing stock. Work with WGES to establish opportunities.	Housing	Medium/Long
P5	Review Council owned land to identify opportunities for solar farms and wind turbines.	Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) to produce viability assessment reports for reviewed Council owned land.	Policy / Property Services/Planning & Regeneration / Transformation /Welsh Government Energy Service	Short
P6	Produce green energy for CCBC consumption on Council owned land.	Develop Council owned land for solar farms and wind turbines, identifying and implementing priority projects from WGES viability assessment reports.	Corporate approach	Medium
P7		Take a commercial interest in private sector solar farm developments within and outside of the county borough where opportunity presents itself.	Corporate approach	Short
P8	Produce green on shore wind energy.	Take a commercial interest in private sector on-shore wind developments within and outside of the county borough where opportunity presents itself.	Corporate approach	Short
P9	Maximise the opportunities to link locally generated electricity to Council offices.	Tredomen Campus - Implement proposals to partner with local anaerobic digester to take energy to main Council campus.	Property Services	Short
P10	Look at opportunities to invest in large scale renewable energy	Explore opportunities to invest in large scale renewable energy opportunities, including offshore opportunities.	Corporate approach	Short/Medium/Long

	generation outside of the county borough.			
P11		Assess candidate sites for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP to establish opportunities for renewable energy production.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
P12	Undertake Renewable Energy Assessment of the county borough as part of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP.	Carbon Trust will carry out Renewable Energy Assessment in partnership with CCBC – this will provide an existing and future energy demand baseline, inform spatial energy policies for inclusion in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP, identify renewable energy targets for the county borough and identify any actions that could assist in the delivery of opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy generation.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
P13		Map renewable energy potential against proposed development, particularly strategic sites within the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
P14		Establish joint renewable energy projects with adjoining authorities.	Planning & Regeneration	Medium/Long
P15	Maximise the potential of generating electricity from landfill sites.	Maximise electricity production at Trehir and investigate whether other landfill sites could generate electricity.	Policy	Medium
P16	Investigate opportunities to produce hydro-electricity.	Work with NRW and WGES to establish potential sites for feasibility studies to be undertaken.	Corporate approach	Medium
P17	Support repowering of existing renewable energy assets.	Adopt supportive planning policy within the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP relating to repowering existing assets at the end of their current planning consent period.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
	<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
P18	Investigate opportunities for heat production from ground source water.	Navigation Colliery – support the University of South Wales ground water heating pilot scheme.	Planning & Regeneration	Medium
P19	Work with Argoed Community Council to develop green energy eco-park at Markham Colliery.	CCBC to facilitate the project group and assist to investigate opportunities for the site.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
P20	Support energy systems that are developed for the benefit of the community.	Support appropriate renewable and low carbon energy projects which are developed by the community or benefit the host community.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium

## OFFSET

REF	PROJECT	ACTION	DELIVERY BY	TIMESCALES
	<b>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE</b>			
O1	Adopt a Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Work in partnership with relevant agencies to develop a comprehensive, county borough wide Green Infrastructure Strategy.	Parks/Countryside/ Planning	Short/Medium
O2		Emphasis on maintaining, improving and enhancing existing green infrastructure in addition to new	Parks/Countryside/ Planning	Short/Medium
	<b>FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT</b>			
O3	Examine opportunities to decarbonise the authority's investments.	Establish which companies and organisations the authority invests with.	Corporate approach	Short
O4		Develop policies to reduce investment with fossil fuel based and high emissions businesses.	Corporate approach	Short
	<b>SEQUESTRATION</b>			
O5	Encourage afforestation in the county borough.	Review land holding across the authority to identify opportunities for tree planting.	Property / Countryside/ Parks	Medium
O6		Develop and implement tree planting programme. Opportunities exist to develop tree planting schemes on land within the recognised Council owned and run country parks.	Countryside/ Parks	Short
O7		Identify land in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Replacement LDP for a "Caerphilly Forest".	Countryside/Planning	Medium/Long
O8		Work with partners and landowners to promote and support tree planting schemes.		Medium
O9	Work with Transport for Wales to identify sites for replacement tree planting.	Identify land via the WGES Land Asset Review that will help to replace trees lost on Valleys Metro schemes.	Corporate approach	Short
O10		Collaborate with NRW to promote tree planting on NRW owned land - for example at Cwmcarn Forest.	Planning & Regeneration/ Countryside	Short/Medium/ Long
O11		Develop small community woodland projects to add to the existing climate change woodlands already planted by the Council in partnership with local groups.	Countryside/Policy	Medium/Long
O12		Support existing community woodland managers and groups to expand and develop good principles of woodland management that include sustainably produced timber products		
O13		Introduce tree sponsorship - "Tree for Me" purchase scheme to residents and businesses of the county borough.	Communications	Medium
O14	Promote wetland habitats within the county borough.	Identify suitable CCBC owned land to pilot wetland habitat re-introduction and work with landowners to introduce more wetland landscapes.	Countryside	Medium

O15	Promote landscaping within new development.	Support appropriate new development with significant carbon focused landscaping as an integral part of design and layout.	Planning	Short/Medium
O16	Promote natural planting on SAB sustainable drainage applications.	Incorporate green drainage infrastructure on new schemes through the SAB application process.	Drainage/Planning	Short
O17	Use CCBC owned land to grow crops that absorb carbon dioxide.	Investigate the opportunity for CCBC owned land assets to be planted with crops that help reduce carbon in the atmosphere.	Property Services/Countryside	Medium
O18	Reduce intensity of grass cutting maintenance in parks and on highway verges.	Reduce the frequency of planned grass cutting regimes to encourage natural habitats to grow.	Parks/Highways	Short
O19	Promote more green space in urban environments.	Introduce pocket parks and green infrastructure to town centres. An example will be the implementation of the Caerphilly Place-making plan.	Parks/Countryside/ Planning & Regeneration	Medium
O20	Improve, maintain, enhance and support upland grassland as natural carbon stores	Upland landscapes are important stores of soil carbon across Wales and here in Caerphilly. They support wildlife, agricultural income and are rich parts of our heritage. Work with local common associations, agricultural partners and landowners to positively manage this resource to maximise carbon storage		
O21	Supporting Climate Smart Agriculture	Collaborate with research institutions and local landowners / farmers to support and foster knowledge transfer in agricultural production, reduce green house gas emissions and build climate resilience.		
O22		Work with landowners to explore carbon payments to create accessible and productive woodlands as carbon stores and a productive resource for construction and other uses.		
O23	Street Trees	Where practicable develop on street tree planting and management to provide shade, reduce run off and sequester carbon.		
O24	Re-wilding Pilot	Work with landowners and local authority land to reduce active management and revert to natural processes to store carbon and improve biodiversity. Carbon and ecological baselines to be taken prior and during process to appraise outcomes.		

## BUY

REF	PROJECT	ACTION	DELIVERY BY	TIMESCALES
	PROCUREMENT			
B1	Assist with quantifying the authority carbon baseline.	Map the procurement categories in Spike Cavell (central IT system which captures data on public sector spend) to the carbon emission factors proposed by Welsh Government and report to Welsh Government.	Procurement	Short/Medium

B2	Develop a carbon benefits toolkit	Introduce green clause to contractors acting for the Council or offering a service to the Council.	Property Services/ Procurement	Short
B3	Purchase 'locally' where possible.	Use local suppliers to reduce carbon footprint. Procurement of goods from local producers or co-operatives where possible		Short
B4	Prioritise the purchase carbon neutral/lower carbon products.	Identify where such opportunities exist and consider switching.		Short
B5	Monitor and manage purchases likely to have a significant impact on energy consumption.	Review purchase of major equipment e.g. Boiler or multiple purchase computer monitors, to ensure energy efficiency.	Procurement/Property services	Long
B6	Introduce recycled materials where possible.	Introduce recycled materials to reduce production of new products from non-renewable resources.	Corporate approach	Short
B7	Ensure an effective and efficient mechanism in measuring, recording and monitoring social value and community benefits utilising Theme's, Outcomes, Measures (TOMs) via a Social Value Measurement Framework.	Introduce innovative measures to promote local skills and employment to be built into contract - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc.	Procurement	Short/Medium
B8		Introduce innovative measures to enable healthier, safer and more resilient communities to be delivered on contracts - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc	Procurement	Short/Medium
B9		Create more opportunities for local micro, small and medium enterprises to respond to tenders for de-carbonisation work on contracts	Procurement	Short/Medium
B10		Introduce innovative measures to promote and support responsible business be built into contract - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc.	Procurement	Short/Medium
B11		Provide expert business advice to help voluntary community voluntary community social enterprise VCSEs and MSMEs achieve net zero carbon by 2030	Procurement	Short/Medium
B12		Introduce a requirement to make savings in CO2 emissions on la contract.	Procurement	Short/Medium
B13	Integrate life-cycle costs into procurement frameworks	Consider and evaluate the embedded carbon of products during their whole life cycle not just the upfront carbon.	Procurement	Short



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# Energy Prospectus

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Man gwyrdach

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# Introduction

Caerphilly CBC has a good record of implementing initiatives that benefit the environment. We have reduced carbon emissions by investing in technologies that reduce consumption and we have raised awareness of the importance of carbon reduction with our staff, pupils and residents across the county borough.

We acknowledge there is still much more to do at a time when the climate is continuing to warm and sea levels continue to rise. Changes to climate will have a significant impact on well-being on both current and future generations. Extreme weather events caused by climate change are putting pressure on ecosystems, infrastructure, built environment and our landscape. Reducing carbon emissions will improve our well-being and demonstrate Caerphilly CBC's contribution to the global effort on climate change.

We set out in this prospectus key areas in which we will focus that could result in major reductions in carbon emissions. The project list outlined is not definitive, some projects will be viable, some not and the range of projects will develop over time.

**Our overall aim is for Caerphilly CBC to become Net Carbon neutral by 2030.**



- The energy prospectus is aimed at highlighting key energy projects that the authority is investigating
- The prospectus supports the Decarbonisation Strategy which encompasses a wider area of consideration and sets out clear improvement objectives on buildings, transport, street lighting etc.

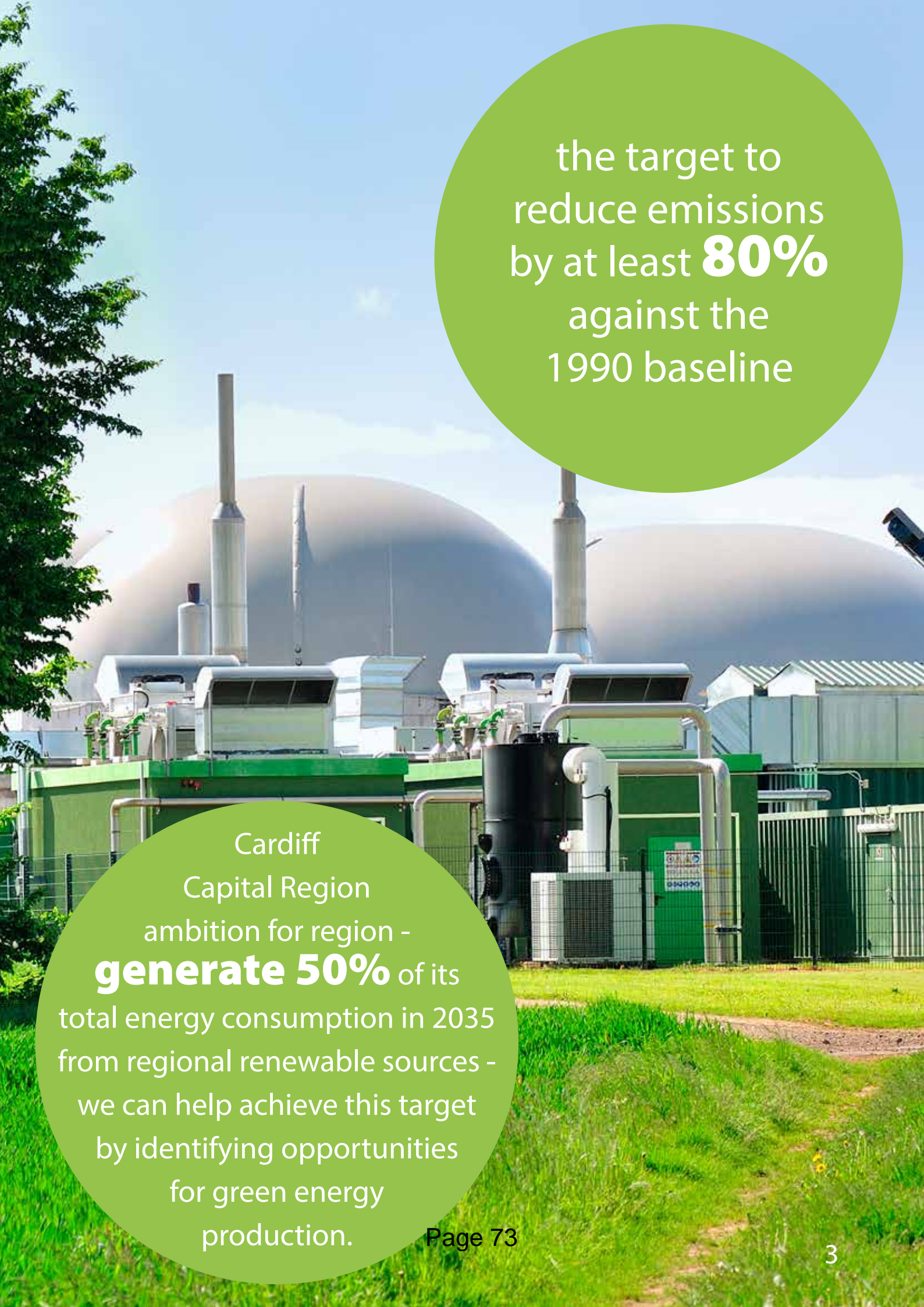
# Complementary Work

Caerphilly CBC has a good record of implementing projects that benefit the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In 2009 the authority launched its Carbon reduction strategy which focussed on 4 key areas which are still very much relevant and will complement the proposed projects in the prospectus.

- **Good Housekeeping.** This is implementing a common sense approach to energy conservation and focuses on doing the little things right, it included a switching off campaign to raise awareness on key areas of energy conservation and specific training to key members of staff such as caretakers, budget holders, Managers, school governors and pupils.
- **Invest To Save.** The authority has operated the Salix Invest to Save scheme since 2005. It operates as a revolving loan scheme where energy efficient technologies are introduced to save on carbon emissions by reducing energy consumption. Upgrading levels of insulation and converting to energy efficient lighting are key projects that deliver hard savings. We are one of the founder authorities on this UK wide scheme. We are the best performing Welsh authority in terms of carbon saved. We regularly place highly on a national level on key indicator.
- **Asset Management.** If a building closes, the electricity and gas savings can be significant depending on the size of the property. There have been a few building closures which contributed to the reduction and this will continue as agile working protocols become the 'norm'.
- **Renewable Technologies.** Multiple schemes have been introduced on our property assets, some were domestic sized installations on schools, but there were also medium sized installation between 25-50kWp on offices. This work will continue.







the target to  
reduce emissions  
by at least **80%**  
against the  
1990 baseline

Cardiff  
Capital Region  
ambition for region -  
**generate 50%** of its  
total energy consumption in 2035  
from regional renewable sources -  
we can help achieve this target  
by identifying opportunities  
for green energy  
production.

# Covid-19

This Prospectus has been finalised in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a profound effect on the lives of millions of people around the world, bringing unprecedented challenges for our economy, our society and our communities.

The pandemic is taking place against the backdrop of the ongoing climate emergency. Whilst the economic damage caused will undoubtedly result in a short-term reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, it is possible that emissions could rebound if climate positive solutions are not included as central elements in our economic stimulus packages.

Moving forward, we must recognise that our approach to the economic recovery that will follow provides us with a unique opportunity to sustainably rebuild our economy and make greener investments and climate positive decisions, helping us achieve our decarbonisation goals.

Whilst we do not know at this stage how and when we will emerge from the current restrictions, our strategy remains firmly relevant and has the potential to play a significant role in helping Caerphilly county borough to recover and rebuild sustainably, and to achieve far greater local benefits than could be achieved by returning to business as usual.





## Solar Power Generation

Timescale: Medium (24-60 months)

The authority, in conjunction with the Welsh Government Energy Service has undertaken a Land Asset Review for Renewables which establishes if available CCBC owned land would be suitable for renewable energy projects. The Council has now established that large scale PV could be explored at five sites within the county borough. Perhaps the most exciting prospect is the opportunity for the Council to develop a its own solar farm within the county borough.

Smaller PV installations remain an option on buildings within Council ownership including but not exclusive to properties on Tredomen campus, our schools and our leisure centres.. Maximum benefit is derived from aligning PV schemes to buildings that have extended operating hours to absorb the power being generated at all times.



## Anaerobic Digester

Timescale: Short (0-24 Months)

Anaerobic Digesters (AD) break down feeder fuels such as food waste and maize to generate a biogas. The gas is burnt to generate electricity. Bryn Quarry which is 2.1km away from the Ty Penallta estate has an Anaerobic digester. Initial discussions with the company that owns it, indicates a willingness to discuss the option of the authority buying their

electricity, which would be beneficial to both parties as it would increase their revenue stream whilst possibly reducing authority energy costs. This opportunity could feed the Tredomen estate/campus and possibly a wider catchment of properties. Additional added benefits could include the use of authority land to grow feeder crops for the Anaerobic Digester.



### FACT FILE:

- Processing food waste into biogas
- Digestate (fertiliser substitute to chemical fertilisers)
- CCBC's municipal food waste processed at the plant to provide a local energy cycle
- Private wire to a substation on the Tredomen Campus
- Unit rate lower than the national energy suppliers
- Annual electricity bill savings in the region of £100k per year
- Lifespan of 20 years



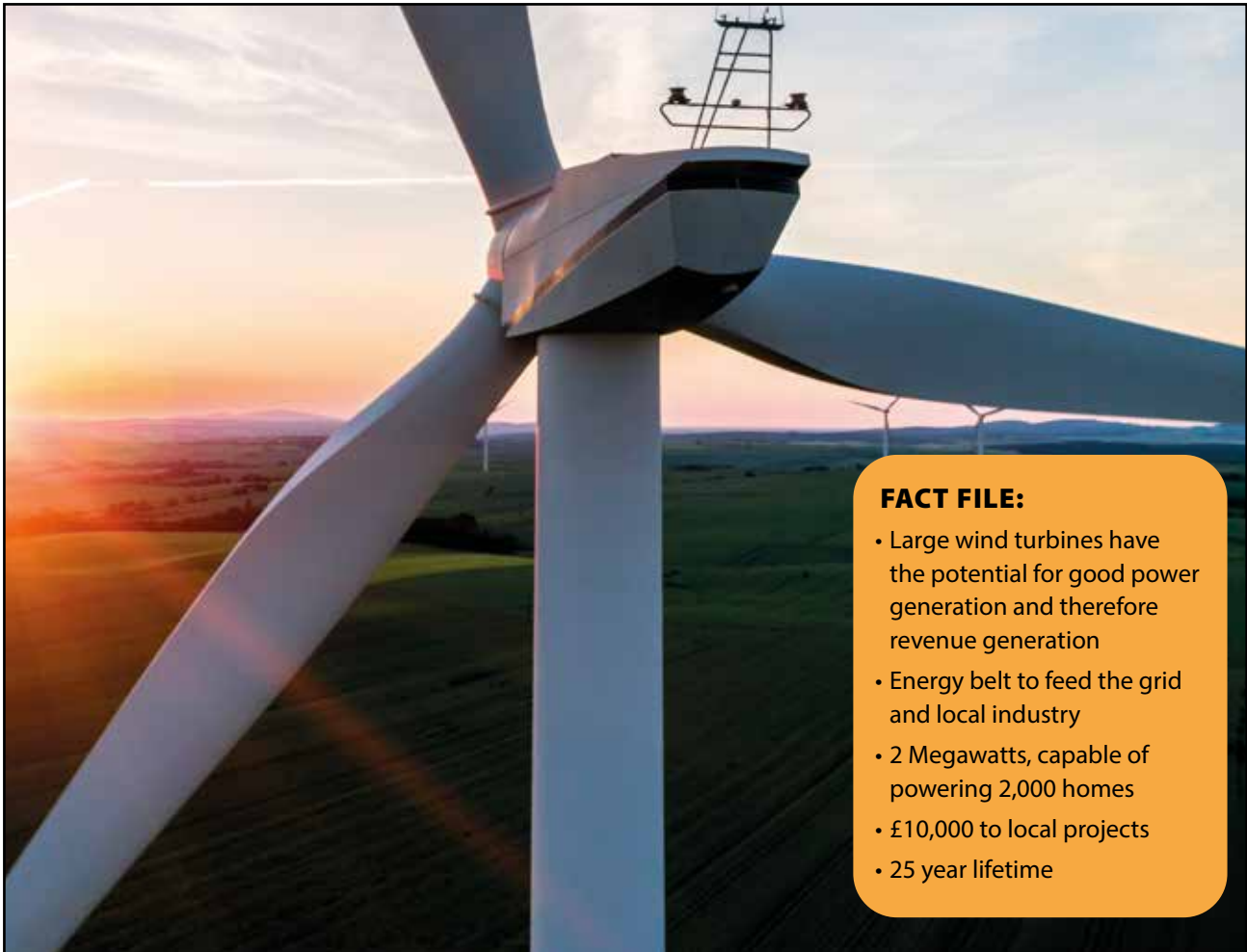
# Wind Turbines

Timescale: Medium/Long (24-60+ Months)

The Council already has a partnership project between CCBC and the Partnership for Renewables, where two wind turbines have been installed on council owned land on Oakdale Business Park. Each turbine has a generating capacity of 2 Megawatts, capable of powering 2,000 homes. As part of the project a Community Benefit scheme was established which provides £10,000 to local projects each year of the 25 year lifetime of the scheme.

The authority's recent land asset review does identify some opportunities although there are no obvious sites for Wind Turbine generation.

The Council is investigating opportunities to work collaboratively with private sector providers, particularly at the Heads of the Valleys - a corridor following the alignment of the road may provide suitable opportunity for an energy belt to feed the grid and local industry. Large wind turbines have the potential for good power generation and therefore revenue generation, they require a smaller footprint than solar farms and are easier to safeguard against vandalism. Western Power Distribution is aware of grid infrastructure constraints in the area and a dialogue continues on this matter.



## FACT FILE:

- Large wind turbines have the potential for good power generation and therefore revenue generation
- Energy belt to feed the grid and local industry
- 2 Megawatts, capable of powering 2,000 homes
- £10,000 to local projects
- 25 year lifetime

## Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan

Timescale: Short (0-24 Months)

As part of the work on the Electric Vehicle Action Plan, CCBC is leading on a feasibility study to determine the most suitable sites for electric vehicle charge points in the 5 Gwent local authorities, for all types of vehicles including cars, vans and bikes. It will also identify the grid connection availability and approximate costs, along with has the most appropriate type of charging unit and options for income generation. The study formed the basis of a bid for the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) funding. The aim is to develop a cost-effective regional approach for electric vehicle charge point infrastructure across Gwent.

Linked to this, work is being undertaken to install charge points at the Tredomen Campus for fleet vehicles and visitors. The Council is rolling out additional EV charging points across the authority.

CCBC is also leading on a strategic fleet review for each Gwent Local Authority and PSB Partner to break down current vehicle usage and quantify the benefits and any potential issues of introducing ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV's) into their fleet , the focus being on identifying opportunities for replacing existing fleet with more efficient ultralow emission vehicles.



**Metro**

### FACT FILE:

- Identify a cost-effective regional approach for electric vehicle charge point infrastructure across Gwent
- Install charge points at the Tredomen Campus for fleet vehicles and visitors
- Roll out additional EV charging points across the authority









**Cardiff  
Capital  
Region**

Contact:  
Allan Dallimore,  
Regeneration Manager,  
Caerphilly County Borough Council.  
[dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
01443 866441

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## HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER 2020

**SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide members with an update on the Homelessness situation within CCBC together with information on the actions and challenges faced during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following the lockdown arrangements implemented as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, WG also issued new guidance in relation to how local authorities should manage homelessness and support rough sleepers.
- 2.2 The Minister for Housing and Local Government issued a statement on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020, making it clear that no one should be without suitable accommodation and support during this pandemic, including rough sleepers.
- 2.3 This has resulted in approximately 196 homeless households being placed in emergency/temporary accommodation, including some out of borough placements. The majority of these placements (approximately 149) have been for single persons.
- 2.4 This report highlights the actions taken to mitigate the increase in homelessness, which includes use of the private rented sector, Housing Association premises, B&Bs and hotels and a review of our allocations policy to ensure we provide support through social housing.
- 2.5 The report also includes some of the challenges faced during the pandemic as many of the individuals concerned are vulnerable and have complex needs, e.g. substance misuse, alcohol dependency, poor mental health, which is in addition to the limited availability of suitable accommodation within the borough to meet demand.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are requested to note the report and endorse the actions taken.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The report provides a progress update on the Homelessness situation within Caerphilly



County Borough and is for information purposes only.

## **5. THE REPORT**

### **5.1 Homelessness Strategy**

- 5.1.1 The Gwent Regional Homelessness Strategy was approved by Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The strategy consisted of four priorities and ten objectives and were supported by an Action Plan which included regional and local tasks.

### **5.2 Actions to Date**

- 5.2.1 The following actions have been implemented or are ongoing:-
- 5.2.2 A Regional Steering Group has been established to oversee the delivery of the strategy.
- 5.2.3 Reporting mechanisms established through the Homelessness Networking Group.
- 5.2.4 Benchmarking of data across the region is ongoing.
- 5.2.5 Accessible housing being identified within the county borough to provide suitable accommodation for those with disabilities.
- 5.2.6 Reviewed financial assistance available including use of Homeless Prevention Grant, Discretionary Hardship Payments, Tenant Support Officers, Debt Relief Orders, Discretionary Assistance Fund etc.
- 5.2.7 Re-designation of a number of one bedroom properties from older persons to general needs.
- 5.2.8 Co-ordinated access into more emergency temporary accommodation to reduce incidents of rough sleeping.
- 5.2.9 Increased supply of good quality accommodation in the private rented sector, including our Caerphilly Keys project.
- 5.2.10 Utilised findings of Local Housing Market Assessment and the Common Housing Register to increase the supply of new affordable housing to address increased demand from single persons.
- 5.2.11 Ensured adequate support in place for homelessness clients including Supporting People floating support services.
- 5.2.12 Implementation of the National Prison Leaver Pathway guidance in partnership with Probation Services.
- 5.2.13 Provided additional support following the roll out of Universal Credit.
- 5.2.14 Provided debt and money management advice using internal resources as well as working in partnership with CAB.
- 5.2.15 Other actions which were to be progressed have been reviewed and re-prioritised based on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 5.3 Current Priorities Include:-

- 5.3.1 The requirement to comply with new homelessness guidance issued following the statement by the Housing and Local Government Minister on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 that no one should be without suitable accommodation and support during this pandemic, including rough sleepers.
- 5.3.2 The need to increase support to those threatened with homelessness to prevent a homeless situation from occurring.
- 5.3.3 Increase the provision of emergency temporary accommodation to meet increased demand on the service.
- 5.3.4 Maximise use of the private rented sector to assist in meeting demand.
- 5.3.5 Increase the level of remote support due to social distancing and potential risk of face to face visits.
- 5.3.6 Increase availability of social housing for homeless clients.
- 5.3.7 Access £10m grant funding provided by WG.
- 5.3.8 Submit bid to access additional £20m grant funding provided by WG. (Grant funding later increased by WG to £40m).

### 5.4 Current Position

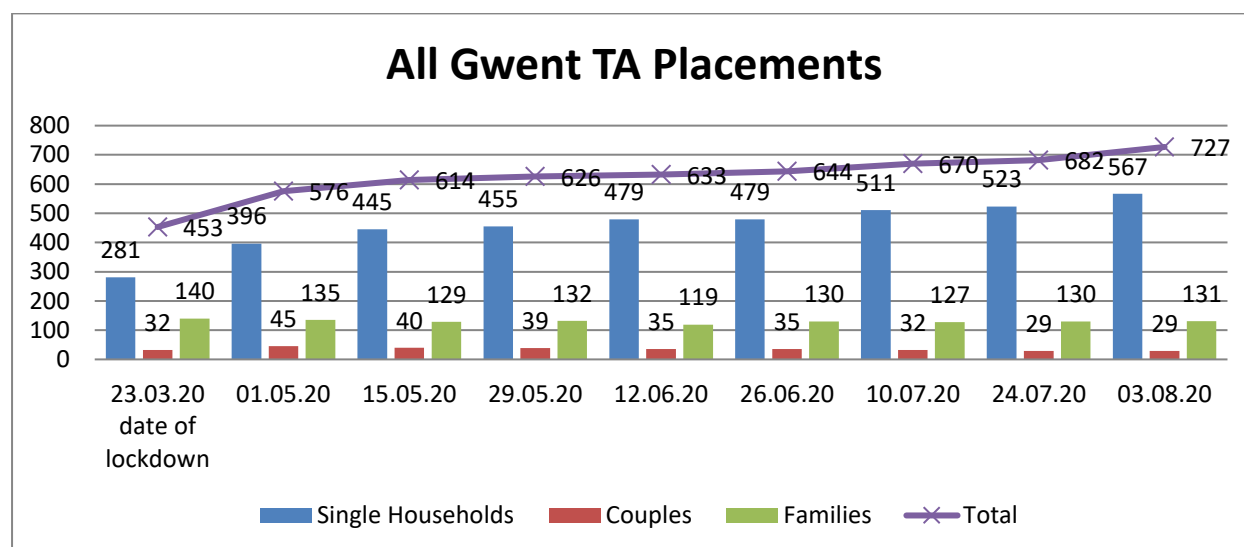
- 5.4.1 Staff have responded positively to the new regulations and guidance and reacted efficiently and effectively in dealing with the increased demand. The following table 1 provides a snapshot of the position on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 together with a breakdown of the household types that have been supported:-

Table 1

WHO12 Household Type	Under 40	40-49	50 and over	Total
Couple with dependent child(ren)	6	0	2	8
Single parent household with dependent children – male applicant	5	2	0	7
Single parent household with dependent children – female applicant	19	4	0	23
Single person household – male applicant	84	23	17	124
Single person household – female applicant	23	9	2	34
All other household groups	9	0	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>207</b>

5.4.2 Table 2 below shows how homelessness has increased regionally during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Table 2



5.4.3 Table 3 shows the number of households that have been provided with emergency Temporary accommodation by each of the regional authorities.

All TA data collected from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 by each Gwent LA:

LA	snapshot date	Single Households	Couples	Families	Total
Blaenau Gwent	23.03.20	20	1	3	24
Caerphilly	23.03.20	81	11	34	126
Monmouthshire	23.03.20	13	3	4	20
Newport	23.03.20	138	14	86	238
Torfaen	23.03.20	29	3	13	45
Blaenau Gwent	01.05.20	31	4	3	38
Caerphilly	01.05.20	115	12	34	161
Monmouthshire	01.05.20	27	2	4	33
Newport	01.05.20	182	20	78	280
Torfaen	01.05.20	41	7	16	64
Blaenau Gwent	15.05.20	33	3	2	38
Caerphilly	15.05.20	116	9	29	154
Monmouthshire	15.05.20	52	2	6	60
Newport	15.05.20	209	20	78	307
Torfaen	15.05.20	35	6	14	55
Blaenau Gwent	29.05.20	34	2	2	38
Caerphilly	29.05.20	120	8	29	157
Monmouthshire	29.05.20	45	2	8	55
Newport	29.05.20	213	21	78	312
Torfaen	29.05.20	43	6	15	64
Blaenau Gwent	12.06.20	32	3	2	37
Caerphilly	12.06.20	122	14	22	158
Monmouthshire	12.06.20	42	3	8	53
Newport	12.06.20	234	7	72	313
Torfaen	12.06.20	49	8	15	72



- 5.4.4 As can be seen by the information provided, there has been unprecedented demand on the homelessness services as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic both locally and regionally, with this becoming a national trend.
- 5.4.5 Whilst good success has been achieved in supporting those threatened with homelessness, thereby preventing a homelessness situation from occurring, the significant demand has resulted in the need to provide many with emergency temporary accommodation, which has included the use of B&Bs and hotels.
- 5.4.6 Table 4 below provides a breakdown of the type of accommodation provided together with the number of units available in each:-

Table 4

Caerphilly	Fully supported CCBC managed facility	13 units
Newbridge	Fully supported externally managed facility	10 units
Rhymney	Fully supported externally managed facility	12 units
Rhymney	B&B floating support externally managed	5 units
Tredomen	Fully supported externally managed facility	18 units
Caerphilly	Floating support externally managed facility	9 units
Caerphilly	B&B floating support externally managed facility	12 units
Caerphilly	B&B floating support externally managed facility	7 units
Crosskeys	B&B floating support externally managed facility	15 units
Crosskeys	Hotel floating support externally managed facility	18 units
Blackwood	Hotel floating support externally managed facility	7 units
Barry	Hotel floating support externally managed facility	10 units
Risca	HMO floating support externally managed facility	4 units

- 5.4.7 Members will note that many of these were brought into use for the first time during lockdown and due to other B&B and hotel establishments closing within CCBC. During “lockdown” the use of an out of county facility has also been required to meet demand.

## 5.5 Reasons for Increased Demand

- 5.5.1 The increased reliance on emergency temporary accommodation is the result of a combination of a number of factors:-
- 5.5.2 All rough sleepers were to be accommodated and others presented as they did not have access to suitable accommodation or were no longer provided with facilities by family or friends, e.g. sofa surfers.
- 5.5.3 All homeless persons were to be afforded priority regardless of circumstances and offered accommodation.
- 5.5.4 As properties were not being let, households placed within emergency temporary accommodation were not able to move on, thereby taking up such accommodation for longer and not creating vacancies for others to utilise.
- 5.5.5 Due to Covid-19 and guidance issued by WG no work took place to bring void Council/social rented properties back into use until June 2020.
- 5.5.6 As households were not permitted to move home and restrictions limited our ability to undertake repairs, no allocations of void properties were made for an extended period.

5.5.7 In May of this year it was announced that up to 4,000 low-risk prisoners nearing the automatic release date could be released early. This was part of a National plan to protect the NHS and to avoid thousands of prisoners becoming infected. The main concern being sharing cells and close proximity. There were plans for these prisoners to be subject to licence conditions and could have been recalled at any time. However, there was confirmation that no prisoners would be released with symptoms of Coronavirus.

5.5.8 This would have placed most Authorities under immense pressure, but Caerphilly already had a robust Pathways Plan in place with probation that had been developed over the past number of years. It immediately gave us the upper hand with this type of scenario. Whilst the actual placements have become more difficult due to availability, the development of the HMO's helped immensely and as the 'pathway' was already in place, the release within Caerphilly was relatively smooth.

## **5.6 Ongoing Actions to Address Increased Demand**

5.6.1 Officers have recognised that the current situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future and have been actively working on ways of improving accommodation options with the key focus initially on avoiding the use of B&Bs and hotels.

5.6.2 In addition WG made £10m available to local authorities to assist with the additional costs associated with homelessness as a result of Covid-19.

5.6.3 Caerphilly's claims against this funding have been made for the following:-

- Payment of bonds and rents in advance
- Furniture packs
- B&B, hotel and other temporary accommodation costs
- Additional support costs
- Additional security costs.

5.6.4 To address the increased demand the following actions have been taken:-

- Increased focus on homelessness prevention
- Increased promotion and use of the private rented sector including our Caerphilly Keys project
- Increased use of Houses of Multiple Occupation
- Agreed lease arrangements for RSL facilities
- Increased use of B&Bs and hotels.

5.6.5 WG also made available a further £40m funding to support homelessness in Wales which was subject to a bidding process. It has been confirmed that Caerphilly was successful with our bid for Revenue funding totalling approximately £300k with another £335k being 'indicatively' approved for Capital. A further bid of £300k for Capital is still being considered by WG.

5.6.6 The request for revenue funding was to increase the level of housing related support due to the increase in homeless placements, to increase security in certain establishments to support landlords and provide reassurance to communities and to establish a new "triage team" to assess, monitor and support those with complex needs.

5.6.7 The approved Capital funding will be used to purchase additional accommodation which

contributes towards addressing current demand and focuses on bringing empty homes back into use. The element of funding currently awaiting approval is for the provision of four self-contained units to be sited at our existing Maesyderwen scheme to prepare clients for moving on to more secure accommodation.

## **5.7 Social Housing**

5.7.1 Members will no doubt appreciate that we are operating in unprecedented times and new guidance on measures to safeguard against Covid-19 are being issued on a regular basis. This included advice issued in late June to allow some movement with the housing market including house viewings, allocations and sales. As a consequence, we have recommenced with the allocation of properties resulting in 110 new allocations since 1<sup>st</sup> August with a number of these previously being delayed due to Covid-19.

5.7.2 Operationally void properties have been prioritised to assist with homelessness and hospital discharges. As a consequence, 31 of the 110 allocations were offered to homeless placements. This would have been greater however a number of the properties had been pre-allocated prior to the Covid-19 lockdown. This work is ongoing and will enable those in temporary accommodation to move on, thereby creating a vacancy which can be used by others. This will subsequently assist by facilitating the move of placements from B&Bs and hotels into supported accommodation.

## **5.8 Challenges**

5.8.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide housing advice, assistance and, where necessary, accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Whilst this duty comes with challenges, homelessness is a national issue and one that needs to be accepted, addressed and supported across the county borough. Housing therefore requires the support of other stakeholders including Social Services, Health, Police, Probation, Prison Service, support providers, landlords, members and communities to address homelessness and its potential consequences.

5.8.2 Homelessness presentations can be made for a variety of reasons, e.g. relationship breakdown, loss of employment, eviction, abandonment, prison leavers and can include households as well as individuals.

5.8.3 Some homeless cases present with complex needs which are identified from their homeless application and interview process. This information is used to ensure suitable accommodation is provided to them and also to determine the level of support required. Each person has a key worker assigned to them to assist with identifying and addressing needs for every placement or referral we take. This person will stay with them throughout their housing journey to retain consistency and support levels

5.8.4 As members will be aware some homeless clients have substance mis-use problems including drugs and/or alcohol and may have mental health issues. Although specialist support is provided in such circumstances their behaviour can be unpredictable and has resulted in a small number of incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB). ASB is generally managed well by Housing or support providers acting on Housing's behalf, within the facility they are placed, but such behaviour can also take place outside the facility within the wider community, where Housing is not responsible.

5.8.5 The level of support provided will also be based on a risk assessment which is carried out prior to anyone being placed into temporary accommodation. The same support will therefore be provided whether the person is placed in shared accommodation or self-contained premises.

- 5.8.6 The Council will however take appropriate action if one of our placements has been found to cause unacceptable levels of ASB or if they have failed to comply with the terms of their placement/tenancy. Any action would need to be supported by evidence.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The report highlights the increased demand on the council's homelessness and Supporting People services as a consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic and the guidance issued by WG. This is a statutory service whereby we are required to provide housing advice, support and currently accommodation for all homeless households regardless of priority or intentionality.
- 6.2 Whilst Housing Services have a good supply of supported temporary accommodation within the county borough, this has been insufficient to meet such an unprecedented demand. This has been replicated nationally with authorities having to utilise B&B's and hotel accommodation as emergency facilities as well as acquiring additional facilities and using Houses of Multiple Occupation.
- 6.3 Staff and support teams have worked tirelessly to support these vulnerable clients during difficult times and although the service has performed well, due to the increase in presentations there is a requirement to increase the availability of accommodation. This includes emergency temporary accommodation and suitable move on accommodation. As the report indicates, this is currently being progressed via a number of initiatives and with the support of additional funding from Welsh Government.
- 6.4 The service being provided is to support some of our most vulnerable client groups and with the level of demand being experienced, the understanding and support of members and residents within our communities is appreciated at this difficult time.

## **7. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 7.1 The actions contained within this report are being progressed in line with the agreed Homelessness Strategy and Welsh Government guidance issued during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and to address the increasing number of homelessness presentations Caerphilly Homes are receiving.
- 7.2 Future presentations numbers are extremely difficult to predict particularly with the ongoing pandemic situation, uncertainty over future evictions in the private sector and the financial pressures being experienced by many households. However, it is clear that the situation is unlikely to improve in the short term and therefore the team will continue to strive to provide additional support, source new options for increasing accommodation and seek to access any additional funding that may be made available.

## **8. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 8.1 ***The Housing (Wales) Act 2014*** requires all Welsh local authorities to undertake a homelessness review and produce a four year homelessness strategy

- 8.2 Well-being Goals within the ***Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015:***
- A prosperous Wales\* P2: Improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the county borough*
- *A resilient Wales*
  - *A more equal Wales*
  - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
  - *A globally responsible Wales*
- 8.3 ***Improving Lives and Communities: Homes in Wales 2010*** which sets out the national context on meeting housing need, homelessness and housing related support services.
- 8.4 ***Caerphilly Homes Service Plan (2018-2023)*** Priority Objective 7.
- 8.5 ***Caerphilly CBC Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020:*** Objectives 1,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9.
- 8.6 ***Corporate Plan (CCBC, 2018-2023): Well-being Objective 3:*** “Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people’s well-being.”
- 8.7 ***The Caerphilly We Want (CCBC, 2018-2023) - Well-Being Plan: Positive Places -*** *Enabling our communities to be resilient and sustainable.*

## 9. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 9.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals as set out in Links to Strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that:

**Long Term** – supports the sustainability of cohesive communities for tenants and residents; providing a fair and transparent service for tenancy sustainment.

**Prevention** – supports tenants and assists in the prevention of eviction and homelessness. It supports the well-being of tenants and residents.

**Integration** – improved standards of housing and stable community environments.

**Collaboration** – joined up working arrangements within the organisation and with outside agencies to support tenancy sustainment.

**Involvement** – Engages tenants, residents and support agencies in relation to sustainment of tenancies.

## 10. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process does not need to be applied.

## 11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 As detailed throughout the report due to the increase in demand additional funding of £10m was initially made available to local authorities to assist with the increased costs associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 11.2 A further £20m was subsequently made available for local authorities to submit bids which Caerphilly Homes completed and submitted by the required deadline. Subsequently this funding was increased to £40m which covered revenue and capital costs.
- 11.3 Caerphilly Homes have received confirmation of our revenue bid for approximately £300k, a further £335k of capital funding has received indicative approval and a further bid of £300k is still being considered at the time of writing this report.

## **12. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 As detailed throughout the report the increased demand has had an impact on resources and additional support staff are being provided with the use of homelessness grant funding from WG and will be kept under review.

## **13. CONSULTATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

## **14. STATUTORY POWER.**

- 14.1 Housing (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Shaun Couzens, Chief Housing Officer  
[couzes@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:couzes@caerphilly.gov.uk) Tel: 01443 861406

Consultees: Cllr A Whitcombe - Chair Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr C Forehead - Vice Chair Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr L Phipps - Cabinet Member for Housing & Property  
David Street - Corporate Director Social Services & Housing  
Fiona Wilkins - Housing Services Manager  
Sadie O'Connor - Senior Housing Advice Officer  
Lee Clapham - Emergency Housing Manager  
Shelly Jones - Supporting People Manager

Appendices:





## **HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13TH OCTOBER 2020**

**SUBJECT: VALLEYS TASK FORCE – ACTIVITY IN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of activities being progressed within the County Borough as part of the Valleys Taskforce Initiative.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys (Valleys Taskforce) was set up by the Welsh Government in July 2016. The taskforce is in place until 2021 so is now in its final delivery phase. In 2019 the Taskforce agreed to focus on seven priority areas, each driven by a subgroup of relevant experts that are responsible for taking forward the work, the report provides an overview of activity in the county borough against the seven priority areas.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To note the content of the Report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To keep the Scrutiny Committee informed of Taskforce Initiatives which are being delivered by the Council and its Partners across the county borough.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys was set up by the Welsh Government in July 2016. The role of the Valleys Taskforce is to advise the Welsh Government on a new approach to investing in the future of the Valleys. An approach which they hoped would engage and empower local communities, build on their assets and restore a sense of hope and aspiration.

- 5.2 In 2017 the Taskforce undertook extensive engagement with people living and working in the Valleys through a series of workshops and on-line engagement. This led to the publication of *Our Valleys, Our Future*, the Taskforce's high-level plan. The plan was based around the following three priority areas:
- Good quality Jobs and the skills to do them
  - Better Public Services
  - My Local Community
- 5.3 The Taskforce is in place until 2021 so is now in its final delivery phase. In 2019 the Taskforce agreed to focus on seven priority areas, each driven by a subgroup of relevant experts that are responsible for taking forward the work as follows:
- Strategic hubs and maximising the economic impact of the A465
  - Foundational Economy
  - Entrepreneurship and business support
  - Housing
  - Valleys taskforce innovation fund
  - Transport
  - Valleys Regional Park.
- 5.4 A significant amount of VTF activity has been focussed on Caerphilly Town as it forms a major component of the Caerphilly/Ystrad Mynach Strategic Hub which has been prioritised for investment by Welsh Government, the Cardiff Capital Region and the Valleys Taskforce.
- 5.5 A Placemaking Plan for Caerphilly Town has been prepared in partnership with the Valleys Taskforce, Transport for Wales, Welsh Government and key stakeholders to target appropriate regional investment opportunities (Metro Plus, HQ building, Caerphilly Castle Leisure Quarter, Park Lane Hotel, Ness Tar Redevelopment etc) to achieve maximum impact and take forward the next phases of physical regeneration and place making.
- 5.6 The identified VTF Strategic Hubs will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups through (in part) the Regional Business Hub at Welsh Ice. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through the town centre first policy principle, delivery of new housing and public service provision, whilst increasing connectivity to jobs and services through the South Wales Metro.
- 5.7 A wide range of VTF activities is also taking place throughout the county borough under the seven VTF priority areas. This activity is varied and includes:
- the provision of new homes on public sector land;
  - the development of new business units in the Heads of the Valleys and Nelson;
  - targeted investment to the three Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways at Cwmcarn, Penallta Parc and Caerphilly Castle;
  - working closely with business and Welsh Ice to accelerate growth and
  - working closely with business to stimulate the foundational economy;
  - the pilot of the alumni in two schools in the county borough,
  - the preparation of a strategy for the Heads of the Valleys A465 Corridor, etc.
  - Bringing empty homes back into use.

A detailed overview is contained in Appendix 1.

## **Conclusion**

- 5.8 Welsh Government are fast approaching the end of the work programme which ends during this Assembly term and the Minister has indicated that the outputs of the Taskforce need to continue beyond this. Ministers therefore intend to embed the work of the Taskforce into the long-term plans for Welsh Government and future partnership working to enable it to continue when the Taskforce concludes.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

### **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

- 7.1 The report contributes towards or impacts predominantly on the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

Objective 3 - Addressing the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough.

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment.

Objective 5 – Creating a County Borough that supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 – Supporting citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

### **A Foundation for Success 2018-2023.**

- 7.2 The report recommendations contribute towards the following Regeneration Objectives to:

- Build a more resilient and diversified economy for the county borough;
- Support economic growth, innovation and enterprise;
- Create an environment that nurtures business;
- Enhance the competitiveness of the county borough;
- Boost business support;
- Enhance opportunities for physical improvement and investment through active place making; and

- Improve the delivery and diversity the housing stock across all tenures within the county borough to meet housing need and create strong cohesive communities.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 This work of the Valleys Taskforce contributes to the Well-being objectives as set out above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act and it is aimed at improving the economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the area.
- 8.2 As such it aligns with the following well-being goals:
- A Prosperous Wales – Providing more jobs and housing in the area will create more wealth for the local population.
  - A Resilient Wales – Providing additional and more diverse employment and housing opportunities will make the area more resilient to external economic factors.
  - A Healthier Wales – Providing a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities through the targeted intervention of investment at our Valleys Regional Park Discovery Gateways will afford residents with enhanced access to the countryside and to cultural activities for their improved health and well being
  - A Wales of Cohesive Communities – providing local employment and more diverse housing options will help to stabilise and develop local communities and prevent outmigration.
- 8.3 The report recommendations are consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:
- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs;
  - Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives;
  - Integration – Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies;
  - Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives;
  - Involvement – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no specific equalities implications associated with this report for any specific groups or individuals therefore a full equalities impact assessment has not been carried out.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 None

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

Author: Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise  
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive  
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities  
Stephen Harris, Head of Corporate Finance/Section 151 Officer  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services  
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning and Strategy, Finance  
Shaun Cozens, Chief Housing Officer  
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure  
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language  
Lynne Donovan, Human Resources Service Manager  
Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager  
Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair - Cllr Whitcombe and Cllr Forehead

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Valleys Taskforce Initiative Activities

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VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
<b>Strategic hubs and maximising the economic impact of the A465</b>			
To monitor the progress and consider future funding proposals for the seven Strategic Hubs.	The strategic hubs will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through housing delivery and public service provision, while increasing connectivity through the South Wales Metro	<p>A Placemaking Plan for Caerphilly Town has been prepared in partnership with VTF/WG and TFW and key stakeholders to target appropriate regional investment opportunities (Metro Plus, HQ building, Caerphilly Castle Leisure Quarter, Park Lane Hotel, Ness Tar Redevelopment etc) to achieve maximum impact and take forward the next phases of physical regeneration and place making.</p> <p>Our strategic hub at Caerphilly will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups through (in part) the Regional Business Hub at Welsh Ice. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through housing delivery and public service provision, while increasing connectivity through the South Wales Metro.</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary project teams have been set up to drive the Placemaking proposals forward in consultation with members and local stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.</p> <p>As part of the Targeted Regeneration Investment programme, two thematic intervention schemes (the Urban Centre Property Enhancement Fund and the Urban Centre Living Grant) are progressing well, with a good pipeline of projects in place. This will improve commercial properties in our Caerphilly town and</p>	Transport for Wales (TFW), Welsh Government (WG), Valleys Taskforce (VTF) Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Private Sector.

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>enable the conversion of vacant properties back into beneficial use. The Taskforce have enabled the TRI programme to be utilised in other Principal towns, specifically Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed, Risca and Blackwood.</p> <p>Alongside the work on developing the Strategic Hubs, Welsh Government officials have been working with local authorities, academia and the Cardiff City Deal to develop proposals for maximising the benefits of the A465 and developing the Heads of the Valleys into a growth corridor.</p> <p>The A465, or Heads of the Valleys road, is one of the key east-west strategic links in Wales. It forms part of the Trans-European Road Network and is an international gateway for the South Wales economy. The improvements being made to the road are critical to the social and economic regeneration of the Heads of the Valleys area which, when finished, will deliver a continuous dual carriageway from the M4 along the A465 to the midlands and beyond.</p> <p>Following on from the work undertaken by the University of South Wales the Taskforce has brought together key stakeholders to progress a strategy for the A465 corridor.</p>	
Provide advice and guidance to businesses in the	Increased resource efficiency and associated cost	Tech Valleys - WG are currently running a Pilot with Blaenau Gwent called the 'Tech Valleys Productivity Enhancement Programme' targeted at SME's. Key focus being the heads of the	Business Wales, Blaenau Gwent, Private Sector

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
Valleys taskforce area relating to the circular economy and innovation.	savings and new/protected jobs in businesses and the third sector	valley corridor and officers are working with WG to extend the pilot to the Upper Rhymney Valley. The programme is focussed on grounded manufacturing companies to help develop new technology, diversify customer base and develop new products, thus creating new productivity. Initially a company would have a 3-day free diagnostic of its business by one of WG's approved consultants, to identify potential new productions, improvements, processes, including investment in new technology. This would then lead to a small grant up to £25k, intervention rate of 30% De Minimis.	
Deliver a Heads of the Valleys economic strategy by Autumn 2020 identifying the range of national, strategic and local actions required to capitalise on the investment in the A465.	New supply chains will be developed and funding from infrastructure projects in the Valleys will be retained to create local quality jobs.	The Heads of the Valleys Masterplan has been prepared and been the subject of a wider public consultation exercise. It sets out the local actions required to capitalise on the investment in the A465 and will contribute to the wider economic strategy for the HOV area.	Welsh Government, Valleys Task Force, Public Service Board, Private Sector, Coleg y Cymoedd.
Work with Valleys Task Force to develop two new co-working hub pilots one of which would be in the Heads of the Valleys.	The co working hubs would be used by public, private and third sector employees to encourage new partnerships to	These flexible working spaces will be within walking or cycling distance of many people's homes, putting into practice the Town Centre First principle. 2 new hubs are currently being considered one in New Tredegar to serve the Heads of the Valleys and 1 in Ystrad Mynach.	Welsh Government, Valleys Taskforce, Public, private and third sector.

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
	develop between industry, Welsh Government, local government and others		
Relocate more public sector jobs into the Valleys, including at the seven strategic hub locations, where appropriate in line with Welsh Government's Location Strategy.	Public sector bodies and departments will relocate to parts of the South Wales Valleys, helping to support the local economy and provide a basis to develop job opportunities locally.	<p>A site for a new HQ development has been identified as part of the Metro Plus proposals for Caerphilly Town.</p> <p>A proposed new mixed-use development is proposed for Pentrebanne Street comprising co work and living space within the heart of the town.</p>	<p>Transport for Wales</p> <p>Welsh Government</p> <p>Valleys Taskforce</p> <p>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal</p> <p>Linc Cymru</p> <p>Private Sector.</p>
Make more publicly owned land and property available in the Valleys for development	Public land will be maximised to offer economic development opportunities	<p>The Corporate Asset Management Strategy (2019) sets out the linkages between the Council priorities and the Corporate Asset Management Objectives. The enduring objective of the Corporate Asset Management Strategy is <i>"To secure reliable asset performance in order to enable safe and effective delivery of the Council's priorities."</i></p> <p><b>A range of projects are in development on Publicly owned land across the county borough, including (but not exhaustive):</b></p>	<p>Public Service Board</p> <p>Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Welsh Government</p> <p>Registered Social Landlords, Private sector.</p>

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>The <b>Park Lane site</b> in Caerphilly is being promoted for a quality hotel. The Council have invested upwards of £800,000 making the site clean and attractive for development.</p> <p>CCBC have submitted a successful TRI application for a mixture of grant and loan to purchase No 25 Cardiff Rd. The Council now own the building and this acquisition will make the site larger, more attractive and facilitate better access arrangement to the main site.</p> <p>Joint Venture with WG to develop <b>Ty Du Nelson</b> for an ambitious mixed- use Masterplan, comprising residential provision of up to 200 dwellings, including approximately 50 affordable homes, the development of 3.8ha (approx. 6,300 m<sup>2</sup>) of B1 Employment units, plus associated enabling highways infrastructure. A scheme to construct the enabling primary highways infrastructure for the site has recently been completed by Welsh Government and the employment units will commence construction in September 2020.</p> <p>Working with WG to transfer <b>Oakdale Plateau</b> to WG ownership. Upon acquisition of the residual Plateau One land WG will provide the necessary infrastructure, estimated at up to £3 million, in order to bring the site forward for development.</p> <p>On site works are now underway at one of Caerphilly County Borough Council's exciting new business developments, <b>The Lawns Industrial</b> Estate in Rhymney, just 2 miles south of the <b>A465 Heads of The Valleys</b> road.</p>	



VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>The site, which currently hosts several existing units, will welcome three new buildings of fifteen individual units, consisting of eight 50 sq. m units, four 75 sq. m units and three 98 sq. m units. It is anticipated that the units will be available for occupation by the end of 2020.</p> <p>The Council are working with Pobl to redevelop the former <b>Civic Offices – Pontllanfraith</b> to provide much needed local homes for local people. The scheme is proposed to be an exemplar garden suburb development incorporating: sound placemaking features, including best practice for sustainable drainage systems, integrated well designed open space and formal children’s play, comprehensive landscaping, active travel and high quality housing within a parkland setting: All respecting the presence of the listed war memorial. The development at Pontllanfraith will provide up to 125 new homes of which 66% (<b>83 homes</b>) are proposed to be of an affordable tenure.</p> <p>The Council are also working with Pobl and United Welsh to redevelop the former <b>Windsor Colliery Site, Abertridwr</b> to provide much needed local homes for local people. This scheme will also incorporate sound placemaking features, including best practice for sustainable drainage systems, integrated well designed open space and formal children’s play, comprehensive landscaping, active travel and high-quality housing the scheme details are still at a relatively early stage in the design process.</p>	

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		<p>Caerphilly Homes are currently in the process of identifying publicly owned land for future housing development throughout the county borough and several sites are in the process of being assessed to determine their suitability.</p> <p>Working with Welsh Government Energy Service, an audit of CCBC owned land assets has been conducted in order to prioritise a number of sites that can produce green energy through on shore wind or solar.</p>	
<b>Foundational Economy</b>			
Roll-out, support and monitor the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund3.	Raise the foundational economy's profile in the Valleys and stimulate debate and learning on what works	<p>Caerphilly Council in partnership with Welsh Ice ran the 2019 Caerphilly Hackathon to develop proposals for submission for the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund. The Fund offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding of up to £100,000 to support the delivery of experimental projects.</li> <li>• Participation in a community of practice to strengthen existing networks and develop new networks.</li> <li>• Expert support through the developmental evaluation approach.</li> </ul> <p>The winning proposal at the Hackathon was <b>SWAPP</b>: An Online portal in the form of an app. SWAPP forms a skill sharing community where users can trade their time and skills through time banking as opposed to exchanging money to create a community cohesion helping businesses, unemployed and the</p>	Valleys Task Force, Welsh Ice, Private Sector.

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>elderly. This was one of four proposal successfully generated at the Hackathon which were submitted to the VTF for consideration three of which attracted £100,000.</p> <p>The Council's Head of Customer and Digital Services is chairing a Group at the request of Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport to review the challenge fund projects specific to procurement. Although the three projects are not included within the Group's remit, this will help the Council raise the foundational economy profile and stimulate debate and learning on the foundational economy agenda.</p>	
Spreading and scaling best practice by looking at social value within procurement. Using the methods of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to help to make quick progress	Strengthening of local supply chains	<p>The Council is committed to ensuring it achieves value for money from its third-party procurement expenditure, which is circa, £220 million per annum. It also recognises the value of using procurement to support its wider Cultural, Social, Economic and Environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long-term benefits to the community it serves and the people of Wales, whilst balancing the issues of value for money.</p> <p>The Council's Programme for Procurement is a living strategy, which is flexible, adaptable and alive to the changing environment; modular in nature so that it is easy to review and update annually in line with developments in the Procurement landscape. Our approach will be continuous improvement to bring about real change and to improve the lives of those who live and work within our borough.</p>	PSB partners, Private sector.

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>Where appropriate the Council includes social benefit clauses within our contract terms and conditions. Furthermore, we have adapted procurement procedures to encourage quotations to be requested from SMEs and local businesses.</p> <p>The Council, where appropriate are utilising TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures). This is framework for Social Value measurement and management aligned to the Well-being goals. The TOMs allows for the unlocking of Social Value through its integration into Procurement and ongoing contract management.</p> <p>Ongoing work with Public Service Boards to draw out best practice and learning.</p> <p>The Council are participating within Community Wealth Building through Progressive Procurement Project via the PSB Gwent Cluster. The Project is being funded by Welsh Government and is being led by The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). The Gwent Cluster includes Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen together with representatives of the anchor institutes.</p>	
<b>Entrepreneurship and business support</b>			
Develop and promote a thriving entrepreneurship culture in the	More effective, joined-up approaches to supporting	<b>ICE/Caerphilly Business Park</b> – Since opening in 2012 Welsh Ice has quickly flourished to become the largest community of co-working, start up and micro businesses in Wales, supporting over 300 businesses to develop and grow. It is currently home	Caerphilly Business Club, Big Ideas Wales, colleges and Universities; Welsh Government, Business in

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
Valleys by connecting stakeholder partners to deliver 'easy to access' support to those people thinking about entrepreneurship.	entrepreneurs and businesses. People and businesses acting on entrepreneurial ambition and opportunity.	<p>to over 350 entrepreneurs. Ice have a 10-year Business Plan where they wish to grow their family. This is a major opportunity for business development in Caerphilly town centre. The project has several components comprising flexible business accommodation and employment units (office and workshop space). This links seamlessly with Business Wales and Big Ideas Wales in promoting entrepreneurship and supporting new business creation in the Valleys alongside local authorities, schools, colleges and Universities</p> <p>Delivered pre-start support via <b>5 to 9 Clubs</b> via outreach satellites across other parts of the county Borough (Blackwood and New Tredegar) to stimulate ideas and encourage action leading to business starts. Promotion of flexible co-working space and 'wrap-around' business support from a range of sources and partners).</p> <p><b>Caerphilly Business Club</b> has been relaunched in 2020 with a new Board, new Members and a new impetus. The criteria for partners are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A charity within the Caerphilly local authority;</li> <li>• A business that provides a service and/or function for the Caerphilly Business Club e.g. Board Member, IT Supplier;</li> <li>• Employer representative organisation in Wales with members in Caerphilly e.g. FSB, IOD, CBI;</li> <li>• An organisation who partners with CBC to collaborate in events, seminars and other activities;</li> </ul>	Focus, Welsh ICE, Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Business Wales, Be The Spark, local partners, Wales Coop Centre, Superfast Broadband.



VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An organisation who provides support to enable CBC to function and serve the community.</li> </ul> <p>Delivered a series of Business Breakfast events in collaboration with partners to support entrepreneurs and link them up with appropriate business support and business partners.</p> <p>The Taskforce worked with Hefin David MS and Dawn Bowden MS Business Wales, Caerphilly Council and other partners to pilot Local Business Surgeries in Bargoed and Rhymney.</p> <p><b>CCBC Business Start-up Grant</b></p> <p>This is a flexible grant scheme delivered through a partnership with UK Steel Enterprise and Caerphilly County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to new starts-ups that are located, or are planning to locate, in Caerphilly County Borough.</p> <p>The Caerphilly Enterprise Fund can support new and established businesses and community enterprises throughout the County Borough. Sole traders, Partnerships, Limited Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Community Groups are all eligible to apply for grant assistance. It is aimed at small and medium sized enterprises with less than 250 employees. Start-ups can also apply.</p>	
Target valleys businesses from the foundational	Steady and accelerated business growth and scale-up	Ongoing work through Business Wales to provide practical business support and assistance to aid steady business growth for	Business Wales, Private Sector,

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
economy and those demonstrating high growth potential and offer them extra support	through increased sales, export opportunities, access to funding and hiring staff.	all businesses including social enterprises, through a combination of digital, workshops and advisory support.	
Provide advice and guidance to businesses in the Valleys taskforce area relating to the circular economy and innovation.	Increased resource efficiency and associated cost savings and new/protected jobs in businesses and the third sector	Tech Valleys - WG are currently running a Pilot with Blaenau Gwent called the 'Tech Valleys Productivity Enhancement Programme' targeted at SME's . Key focus being the heads of the valley corridor and officers are working with WG to extend the pilot to the Upper Rhymney Valley. The programme is focussed on grounded manufacturing companies to help develop new technology, diversify customer base and develop new products, thus creating new productivity. Initially a company would have a 3-day free diagnostic of its business by one of WG's approved consultants, to identify potential new productions, improvements, processes, including investment in new technology. This would then lead to a small grant up to £25k, intervention rate of 30% De Minimis.	Business Wales, Blaenau Gwent, Private Sector
Ahead of the start of Job Support Wales in April 2020, provide employability support to unemployed people within the Valleys taskforce areas	Jobseekers who are out-of-work for less than 24 months in the Valleys taskforce area will have enhanced access to employability support.	Over 575 individuals within the county borough have accessed employability and skills support through the Communities for Work and Communities for Work Plus programmes in the 2019/20 financial year, with over 300 securing employment so far.	

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
through the Access Programme.			
<b>Housing</b>			
Roll out phase one of the Rhondda Cynon Taff (RCT) Empty Homes Grant Scheme across the Valleys taskforce area	An increase in the number of empty homes being brought back into use across the Valleys which will increase the supply of affordable housing as well as decrease the likelihood of anti-social behaviour in those areas.	RCT have a team in place to deliver phase one of the Scheme across the Valleys taskforce areas which aims to bring empty owner-occupied homes back into use. Phase 2 is to be progressed and CCBC are yet to sign up to the Scheme but a decision on this is expected in the Summer of 2020.	
Develop and begin phase two of the RCT Empty Homes Grant. Criteria will include benefits for contribution to the decarbonisation	Benefits to the local economy, more empty homes back into use and an increase in energy efficient homes	CCBC are yet to sign up to the Scheme but a decision on this is expected in the Summer of 2020. Support from WG through the empty property team. Training for all relevant staff and councillors was due to be conducted but delayed due to Covid 19	RCT, Welsh Government, Valles Taskforce, Private Sector

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
agenda through use of energy efficiency measures, and access for Registered Social Landlords and local authority Councils to apply to bring social homes back in to use.			
<b>Valleys Taskforce Innovation Fund</b>			
Develop an alumni programme, which compliments existing schemes, that all secondary schools in the South Wales Valleys can access.	Young people to access local role models to raise aspirations, encourage entrepreneurship and to raise awareness of different careers and learning/career pathways.	<p>The taskforce has been considering how they can improve the outcomes for young people in our Valleys communities, increase their aspirations and promote entrepreneurship. They are working with a group of entrepreneurs, small businesses and secondary schools to develop a suite of schemes that help young people to tap into local role models and alumni from their areas – to open up career paths they may not be aware of or didn't know how to access. 2 secondary schools in Caerphilly are part of the initial cohort to develop the scheme and act as a test bed.</p> <p>Link up with Careers Wales school-based advisors who already facilitate visits and workshops involving both local and national businesses. These take place from Year 10 onwards and are well received.</p>	Careers Wales, Schools, Private Sector.

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
<b>Transport</b>			
A Transport subgroup to be established to set the direction for innovative transport solutions in the South Wales Valleys. Their work will build on the key issues raised during the Valleys taskforce and Transport for Wales public engagement events which were held across the region during September and October 2019.	Services to be better coordinated, improved quality, frequency and affordability of travel		
<b>Valleys Regional Park</b>			
Develop a new, positive narrative for tourism in the Valleys and identify	The Valleys enjoy a reputation for high-quality outdoor recreation with	Working with partners to develop our three regional significant Valleys Regional Park <b>Discovery Gateways</b> at Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn and Parc Penallta. The aim of the Valleys Regional Park	National Resources Wales, Cadw, Valleys Regional Park, Torfaen Council, the Canal and



VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
<p>projects to meet current and future tourism demand, focusing on the landscape, heritage and people</p>	<p>communities and businesses benefiting from a thriving visitor economy.</p> <p>The Valleys are recognised nationally and internationally for the quality and beauty of their unique, distinctive landscapes and heritage.</p> <p>Number of visitors to Valleys destinations and the visitor spend will increase.</p>	<p>is to unlock and maximise the potential of the natural and associated cultural heritage of the Valleys to generate social, economic and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The investment in the Discovery Gateways is crucial to ensuring these sites have the capacity to provide safe and welcoming spaces that can be enjoyed by the local community as well as visitors from further afield. To this end we are working in close collaboration with:</p> <p><b>Cadw</b> in respect of its £5m Caerphilly Castle Investment Programme – transforming the monument into a world class tier 1 heritage attraction. CCBC now meet regularly with Cadw and have agreed a partnership approach to delivering improvements to the castle and its surrounds. Collectively the partnership are looking at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressing a coach drop off point at the main entrance</li> <li>• Delivering the successful VRP Discovery Gateway bid projects</li> <li>• Ensuring the Caerphilly Placemaking plan fully exploits the opportunities for developing the visitor economy;</li> <li>• Developing a co-ordinated events agenda including the Big Chees, live gigs at the castle, Christmas market etc</li> </ul>	<p>River Trust, and the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust, Visit Wales, Welsh Government.</p>

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritising and implementing projects identified in the Arad masterplan within the castle’s footprint</li> </ul> <p><b>Natural Resource Wales</b> to position Cwmcarn Forest as one of the strongest outdoor visitor attractions in South East Wales. Recent investment will yield:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 (6 in place) New Luxury Accommodation Lodges;</li> <li>• A New ‘Adventure Play Hub’ facility;</li> <li>• 2 New Bike Trails (Blue graded and Cross County);</li> <li>• Landscape Enhancements &amp; Welcoming Signage to Main Car Park;</li> <li>• Re-opening of the “Scenic Drive” and associated amenities; and</li> <li>• Enhancements to Visitor Centre facilities &amp; environs.</li> </ul> <p>The Monmouthshire &amp; Brecon Canal Adventure Triangle project aims to develop outdoor recreation, tourism and leisure activity along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal in Torfaen and Caerphilly and connecting upland area of Mynydd Maen. Through investment in physical infrastructure and adjacent visitor hubs, the project will help develop the economic potential of the canal as a prime location to visit, live and work generating investment and employment for local communities.</p>	

VTF Action	Expected VTF outcome	CCBC Action	Partners
		<p>Valleys Regional Park to deliver a new visitor centre at Parc Penallta which will provide a much needed base for a programme of community focused activities supporting economic and social well-being.</p> <p>The Council's portfolio of attractions has also been the subject of recent investment, with enhancements to the Visitor Centre facilities &amp; environs at Caerphilly and enhancements to the bar at the Blackwood Miners' Institute.</p> <p>Continue to take forward key private sector-led tourism developments in the County Borough working closely with the private sector and Visit Wales.</p>	
Identify opportunities to attract new events to the Valleys – sporting events, such as mountain biking and orienteering, and develop existing events, such as the Steelhouse Festival, in Ebbw Vale.	<p>The number of visitors to Valleys destinations and visitor spend will increase.</p> <p>The profile of the Valleys as an area for sporting and cultural events will be raised</p>	<p>The Council has been running a varied and expanding events programme across different departments since its inception in 1996 as a tool to help meet its regeneration, leisure and tourism objectives.</p> <p>In light of Covid the 2020 events programme has been severely disrupted, however virtual events have been well received and these will continue until it is safe to arrange new events.</p>	Town & Community Councils, Private Sector, Cadw