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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Rebecca Barrett  
(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: [barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 21st October 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 27th 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy'.

**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 an/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 | Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 1st October 2020.                      | 1 - 8  |
| 4 | Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure. |        |
| 5 | Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.                        | 9 - 18 |

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 6 | Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy (A Decarbonisation Strategy And Action Plan For Caerphilly County Borough Council). | 19 - 74 |
| 7 | Civil Parking Enforcement - 2019/20 12 Month Update Report.  | 75 - 88 |

#### **Circulation:**

**Councillors** M.A. Adams, A. Collis, D.T. Davies (Chair), C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Gair, Mrs J. Stone, A. Hussey (Vice Chair), S. Kent, Mrs A. Leonard, B. Owen, D.W.R. Preece, J.E. Roberts, J. Scriven, A. Whitcombe and T.J. Williams

And Appropriate Officers

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## **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 1ST  
OCTOBER 2020 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair  
Councillor A. Hussey - Vice Chair

Councillors:

M.A. Adams, A. Collis (by telephone), C. Elsbury, M. Evans, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, S. Kent, B. Owen, D.W.R. Preece, J.E. Roberts, J. Scriven, A. Whitcombe, T.J. Williams

Cabinet Members:

S. Morgan (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise), N. George (Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection), J. Ridgewell (Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure)

Together with:

Mark S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), P. Griffiths (Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager), M. Headington (Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager), G. Mumford (Acting Senior Environmental Health Officer), T. Llewelyn (Senior Engineer), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Also present:

Councillor K. Etheridge, Councillor N. Dix, Mrs T. Norris (Local Resident)

### **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair welcomed Councillor B. Owen to his first meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee. Councillor G. Simmonds was also thanked for his contributions and service during his time on the Committee.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Leonard.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **3. MINUTES – 11TH FEBRUARY 2020**

By way of Forms voting (and in noting there were 9 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions), it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee held on 11th February 2020 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor B. Owen did not take part in the vote as he had not been present at the last meeting.

## **4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

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

## **5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) presented the report, which outlined details of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme (FWP) for the period October 2020 to December 2020.

Members noted the reports scheduled for discussion at the next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October and by way of Forms voting and 1 telephone vote (and in noting there were 11 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) unanimously agreed that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

## **6. CABINET REPORTS**

It was noted that none of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION - REVIEW DECISION TO SWITCH OFF STREET LIGHTS.**

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Etheridge and supported by Councillors A. Farina-Childs, N, Dix, C. Elsbury, R. Gough, C. Mann, T. Parry, G. Simmonds, J. Roberts and B. Owen. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation to Council, in accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor K. Etheridge presented his Notice of Motion which requested that the Council consider a review into the decision to adopt part-night lighting in 2018, which allowed for all street lights in the county borough (save for those at junctions and in major town centres) to be switched off between the hours of midnight and 5.30am.

Councillor Etheridge explained that the Notice of Motion had been submitted following representations made to him by residents. He outlined his reasons for requesting the review, expressing concerns that the decision has been based on historic consultation carried out in 2010 which received 1448 responses, which he considered to be disproportionate given the population of the county borough. Councillor Etheridge also believed that local communities and the public should be engaged in the review and that an updated Equalities Impact Assessment should be carried out, together with a risk assessment and safeguarding assessment for vulnerable people. In addition, he also stressed the importance of engagement with stakeholders and local communities and called for a survey in Newsline to seek views regarding any review.

In closing, Cllr Etheridge reiterated that the Notice of Motion was merely seeking a review of the policy and procedure in regards to street lighting and asked the Scrutiny Committee to consider recommending this review to full Council.

The Chair sought clarification from Councillor Etheridge as to why these concerns had not been raised when the report on "Future Lighting and Energy Saving Proposals" was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 30th October 2018. Councillor Etheridge explained that at the time it was felt important to trial the new policy for two years before deciding whether or not a review would be appropriate.

Councillor N. Dix was then invited to speak in support of the Notice of Motion and explained that after a period of two years a full review was now necessary to take into account the safety of residents' property and their personal well-being. He added that there was strong support from residents to review the effects of the decision on communities.

Mrs T. Norris (a local resident) was then invited to speak in support of the Notice of Motion. Mrs Norris questioned the consultation that took place prior to the decision to introduce part-night lighting and stated that the decision had been based on less than 1% of communities' views. Mrs Norris highlighted that the report presented to the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in 2018 had suggested that future consultation may be needed prior to implementing street lighting reductions. Mrs Norris stated that some workers had no choice but to travel at times when street lighting was switched off, such as emergency services staff, taxi drivers, social workers, hospitality workers and shift workers. Mrs Norris asked Members to consider the responsibility the Council had for any risks faced by these workers.

Mrs Norris highlighted a Wales Audit Office report into effective scrutiny and in particular the function of "enabling the 'voice' of local people and communities in decision and policy-making processes." Mrs Norris questioned the Equality Impact Assessment carried out and claimed that the information in this document, the consultation from 2010 and the study linked to the assessment for the street lighting reduction reports were all out-dated, and she queried the validity of only using data from 62 Local Authorities in the consultation given that there are 365 Local Authorities in England and Wales. Reference was also made to a Defra report published around the same time as the street lighting study which outlined the importance of public road lighting. In closing, Mrs Norris claimed that there was a lack of robust assessment of protected categories of groups in communities and also stated that in her opinion, the decision taken could undermine key council policies and objectives such as preventing domestic abuse, addressing poverty and supporting community safety.

Marcus Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure) was invited to respond to the Notice of Motion and the points raised by speakers. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the Council had not experienced significant levels of public concern since part-night lighting was introduced. It was explained that a significant number of the 227 complaints cited in the Notice of Motion could be disregarded as they bore no relevance to part-night lighting measures. There were only 96 complaints that related to the part-night lighting change, yet only two of these were

escalated to a formal Stage 1 Complaint, and none had been escalated to a Stage 2 Complaint. Members were reminded that a key driver for the initiative is carbon reduction, with the Council recently declaring a Climate Emergency to address climate-change concerns and that significant carbon savings from this policy in the region of 2836 tonnes will be achieved which contribute to the Authority's carbon-reducing targets. It was emphasised that the initiative was never intended or requested as a trial, and Members were reminded of the significant investment in the part-night lighting measures to date, with both the part-night lighting and LED conversion schemes nearing completion.

The Scrutiny Committee were also advised that street lighting is provided for the safe passage of pedestrians and traffic on the highway, but it is certainly not a function of street lighting to ensure property safety and security. It was confirmed that appropriate Equalities Impact Assessments and risk assessments have been undertaken and assurances were given that the approach undertaken is robust and Officers are constantly monitoring the effects of the new measures introduced. There has been no significant increase detected in crime or traffic collisions or cause for concern by Gwent Police. This has been confirmed in discussions with Gwent Police and via data from Welsh Government. In conclusion, Members were advised that in the Council's view, that there is no reason to change the current operation with regard to street lighting.

Discussion took place on the Notice of Motion and it was moved and seconded that the Scrutiny Committee reject the request to review the decision to switch off Street Lights and therefore not endorse or support the Notice of Motion.

A Member queried the level of engagement around the part-night lighting proposals compared to other consultations. Officers explained that response levels to Council consultations are low in general and the response to this consultation (which was made available through Newline and other channels) was at a similar level to other consultations despite the high level of publicity around the proposals. This has been reflected in the low level of complaints received since the implementation of the new measures. As an example, it was added that the consultation on the Sports and Active Recreation Strategy had received less responses despite having a higher profile.

A Member asked about the risk assessment and consultation undertaken prior to proposing part-night lighting and suggested that dimming the lights and having twilight lighting could be a better solution. Officers gave assurances on the risk analysis carried out for each area of the county borough along with an Equalities Impact Assessment, together with details of the other measures in place to ensure public safety and explained that the results of the consultation carried out in 2010 remained valid for the part-night lighting options subsequently proposed. The Scrutiny Committee were also advised that there would be no payback achievable from a 50% dimming of street lighting and that such a measure would ultimately cost the Council money and would not deliver the necessary carbon savings.

A Member asked if crime statistics since the implementation of the measures could be supplied for each ward and Officers confirmed that they are working with Gwent Police to collate this information. Officers also confirmed that they had received feedback from Gwent police in relation to the lower Sirhowy Valley, Blackwood and Lansbury Park areas of the County Borough and that the police feedback did not indicate any increase in crime associated with the part night lighting implementation. In response to a Member's query, it was confirmed that the savings made to date since the implementation of the part-night lighting measures will be in the region of £940k per annum in addition to the significant carbon savings achieved. A Member suggested the need for a periodic review of part-night lighting given the magnitude of the new measures, and Officers explained that any review would impact on the amount of carbon savings and reduce the level of financial savings. A Member enquired as to the cost of reverting to the previous lighting measures and it was confirmed

this would cost in the order of £300k and take around a year to implement. Ongoing additional energy costs of around £300k per annum would also have to be funded which would result in savings having to be made elsewhere. In addition, the Council would also lose carbon savings in the region of 700 tonnes a year.

Members also discussed issues including the number of complaints they had personally received from residents, and the ability for residents to leave their outside lights on should they wish. Officers responded to queries on the carbon footprint for electric charging points and the technical aspects of central management system lights. Clarification was also given on the number of lighting units converted to date, which confirmed that the part-night lighting and LED conversion programmes are on course to be completed by December 2020 and £3.7m has already been spent in this regard.

Mark S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director of Communities) asked the Committee to note the Council's legal position in regards to the Highways Act 1980 and in referring to case law, cited a personal injury claim brought against Cheshire Council where it was subsequently ruled that the local authority does not owe a duty to the public to light the highway. Mr Williams highlighted sections from the Highways Act to substantiate that there is no legal requirement for the Authority to provide street lighting and explained that the Act allows Highway Authorities to alter or remove lighting that is already in existence.

In closing, the Committee also heard from the Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise and Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure, who spoke on the Climate Emergency and the need to tackle climate change, referenced ongoing consultation processes and the low level of complaints received regarding the street lighting changes, and expressed the need for balanced perception when examining any changes in crime levels against the new measures.

Following discussion on its contents, and with it having been moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion not be supported, the Committee proceeded to the vote. By way of Forms voting and 1 telephone vote (and in noting there were 6 for, 6 against and 0 abstentions) and with the casting vote of the Chair, the vote was declared carried. It was therefore

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Notice of Motion not be supported.

Councillor T. Williams highlighted to the Committee that his Forms vote might not have registered and confirmed that he had voted not to support the Notice of Motion.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### **8. CAERPHILLY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure presented the report, which sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the adoption of a Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy appended to the report, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for approval.

The report outlined the need for a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county borough and the methodology used to prepare the strategy, and Members were advised of the importance of the document in view of changing legislation and a shift in the significance of green infrastructure. Each step in the process is outlined and concludes with a template for the preparation of a 5-year integrated action plan. The value of the Strategy lies in the data sets

that underpin it as these allow for more informed and targeted actions that will increase the value of and contribution that green space makes within the County borough. It was explained that the Strategy has not been developed in isolation and provides a good fit with other developing environmental strategies of neighbouring authorities and other public sector bodies, notably Natural Resources Wales (NRW). If approved, the Strategy would be used as the core Green Space development and management tool for CCBC.

During the course of the ensuing debate, a Member referred to a new school building being built and asked if they would be using mechanisms set out in the Strategy such as rain-water harvesting via Sustainable Drainage Systems and if the Strategy is linked to other regeneration strategies. Officers explained that it is standard practice to incorporate rain-water harvesting on new developments of this type, and also that the Strategy will not operate in isolation and will apply to urban areas and urban fringes where biodiversity is under threat. The Strategy will also work across all regeneration strategies, particularly in terms of topographical themes which includes regeneration. Members were also advised that the Strategy will blend and tie into the ethos for a greener environment and will encourage people to take a more proactive approach to environmental matters.

A query was received regarding biodiversity in regards to wildflower growth and cutting regimes on highways. Officers advised that at a strategic level, the Strategy identifies those roadside verges which are particularly important in terms of green corridors and connectivity and that the Council is in discussion with neighbouring authorities to discuss how landscaping continuity across county borough boundaries can be achieved. With regards to the management of individual verges, Members were advised that a full report on trial areas for a revised mowing regime will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet for consideration and approval prior to the 2021/22 grass cutting season.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendation be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Forms voting and 1 telephone vote (and in noting there were 11 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy as appended to the report be approved and used as the core guidance document for Green Space development and management within the county borough.

## **9. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - DOG CONTROL ON SPORTS PITCHES**

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Public Protection presented the report, which sought the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) (appended to the report) to include the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches, prior to presenting the outcome of a 10 week public consultation to Cabinet.

Public Spaces Protection Orders were introduced by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and can be used to regulate activities in particular public places to ensure enjoyment of public spaces from anti-social behaviour, and provide an opportunity to enhance the Council's enforcement ability to respond to public opinion regarding dog fouling. The existing PSPO excludes dogs from all enclosed children's play and multi-use games areas, requires dogs to be kept on leads in enclosed memorial gardens, requires dog owners to remove dog faeces in public places and have an appropriately receptacle for dealing with the waste, and requires dogs to be put on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer on any public land where the dog is considered to be out of control or causing harm or distress to prevent a nuisance.



In addition to the decision to proceed with the above proposals, Cabinet also resolved on 18th January 2017 that the proposal to exclude dogs from all council owned marked sports/playing pitches on a seasonal basis should be omitted at that stage of the process, and be reviewed after a period of 12 months or once the impact of the above provisions can be established. Originally it was proposed that the ban of dogs on sports pitches should only be seasonal, allowing dog walkers to use the pitches off season. However the eggs and worms that cause infections in humans can last for years in soil and therefore the seasonal ban would be ineffective.

At its meeting on 29th October 2019, the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee considered a report on this matter and recommended to Cabinet that a formal public consultation exercise be undertaken regarding the proposal to amend the Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 to include a provision to exclude dogs from marked sports/playing pitches; to apply the proposed exclusion on a year round basis; for the proposed amendment to include a requirement for dogs to be kept on leads in areas near to sports pitches; and signage be clearly displayed in relation to the PSPO around sports/playing pitches.

As the Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 was due to expire in October 2020, a six-week consultation has been undertaken with a view to extending it by one year. This will enable adequate time for a full and proper consultation to be carried out on this proposal to amend the Public Spaces Protection Order to include a provision to exclude dogs from marked sports/playing pitches when it becomes possible.

At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, Cabinet received a report presenting a review of the current position regarding dog fouling since implementation of the original Order including the results of an informal consultation undertaken with sports clubs across the county borough. 88% of those who responded agreeing that dogs should be prohibited from marked sports pitches and an overview of the consultation responses was attached to the meeting papers. At their 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 meeting Cabinet resolved to undertake a 10 week public consultation exercise on the proposal to amend the Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 to include a provision to exclude dogs from marked sports/playing pitches when it becomes possible to carry out meaningful consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders.

The Interim Corporate Director of Communities expanded on the position of the existing PSPO implemented in 2017 which was due to expire in October 2020. In order to allow time for a meaningful consultation, a brief consultation has been carried out to extend the existing PSPO by one year and this is now in place. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the proposal before them sought to alter the existing PSPO to exclude dogs from marked sports pitches, together with associated additions. They were asked to be mindful that a meaningful consultation would typically take at least ten weeks, and given the current pandemic, it may not be a suitable time to carry out this out, which is why the existing PSPO has been extended by 12 months to allow the Council time to carry out meaningful consultation. Therefore the Scrutiny Committee were advised that the proposal before them is the first stage in that consultation and the report was seeking views on the amended PSPO to exclude dogs from marked sports pitches to come into effect in a year's time

During the course of the ensuing debate, Members expressed their support for the proposal to exclude dogs from marked sports pitches, and suggested that the health risks arising from dog waste be publicised in the consultation. Members asked how the amended PSPO would be enforced given the wide number of pitches and pavilions across the county borough, and enquired how many fixed penalty notices have been issued since the implementation of the current PSPO. Officers confirmed that the Council has 5 Enforcement Officers together with a number of Community Safety Wardens who also have powers to issue penalty notices for dog fouling, and enforcement would take the form of targeted patrolling, routine inspections and random checks. It is anticipated that there will be a lesser need for enforcement once

the new PSPO requirements become established. Officers also confirmed that as of Summer 2020, 39 fixed penalty notices have been served on individuals allowing their dogs to foul and 59 notices served on those without the appropriate means to pick up their dog waste.

A query was received regarding spectators and other walkers at sport pitches with dogs on leads and Officers confirmed that it is only the marked areas of sports fields from which dogs would be excluded. A Member asked if dogs could be excluded from unmarked land on which children might play, and also asked if amendments could be made to memorial gardens listed in the draft PSPO. Officers explained that playgrounds and memorial gardens are already included in the existing PSPO, but that open ground is more difficult to enforce and that the other PSPO powers (such as requiring the carrying of a waste receptacle) could be utilised if needed. The Member requested that the Aber Valley Windsor Colliery be added to the list of memorials listed in Appendix 1 of the draft PSPO and two pitches at Senghenydd Cricket Club to be added to the list at Appendix 3, and Officers confirmed that this could be arranged.

Having expressed their support for the proposal to amend the PSPO, it was moved and seconded that subject to minor amendments to the sites listed in Appendix 1 and 3 of the draft PSPO as discussed at the meeting, the following recommendation be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By way of Forms voting and 1 telephone vote (and in noting there were 13 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to minor amendments to the sites listed in Appendix 1 and 3 of the draft PSPO being reflected, the support of the Scrutiny Committee on the draft PSPO be passed to Cabinet as part of the consultation process on the proposal to amend the PSPO to include the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches.

The meeting closed at 7.20 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 27th October 2020, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR



## **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH OCTOBER 2020**

**SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY 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 Environment and Sustainability 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 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period October 2020 to December 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 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 20th 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.

#### 5.4 **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.**

Scrutiny Committee forward work programmes contributes towards and impacts upon the Corporate Well-being Objectives by ensuring that the Executive is held to account for its Corporate 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

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

8.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals and is consistent with the five ways if working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by ensuring the scrutiny function is effective when reviewing services and policies and ensure is 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 jacqu@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director of Communities  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,  
Legal Services

Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny  
Committee  
Councillor Adrian Hussey Vice Chair of Environment and Sustainability  
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

Forward Work Programme - Environment & Sustainability				
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
27/10/20 17:30	Parking Enforcement Report		Lloyd, Marcus	Cllr. Morgan, Sean; Cllr. Ridgewell, John
27/10/20 17:30	Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan		Kyte, Rhian; Dallimore, Allan	Cllr. Ridgewell, John
08/12/20 17:30	Car Parking Review	awaiting key issue	Lloyd, Marcus	Cllr. Ridgewell, John
08/12/20 17:30	Wales Audit Office Final Report on CCBC Sport and Active Recreation Strategy		Williams, Mark S	Cllr. Ridgewell, John
15/12/20 17:30	CCBC Car Park Task and Finish Group report		Forbes-Thompson, Cath	Cllr. Ridgewell, John

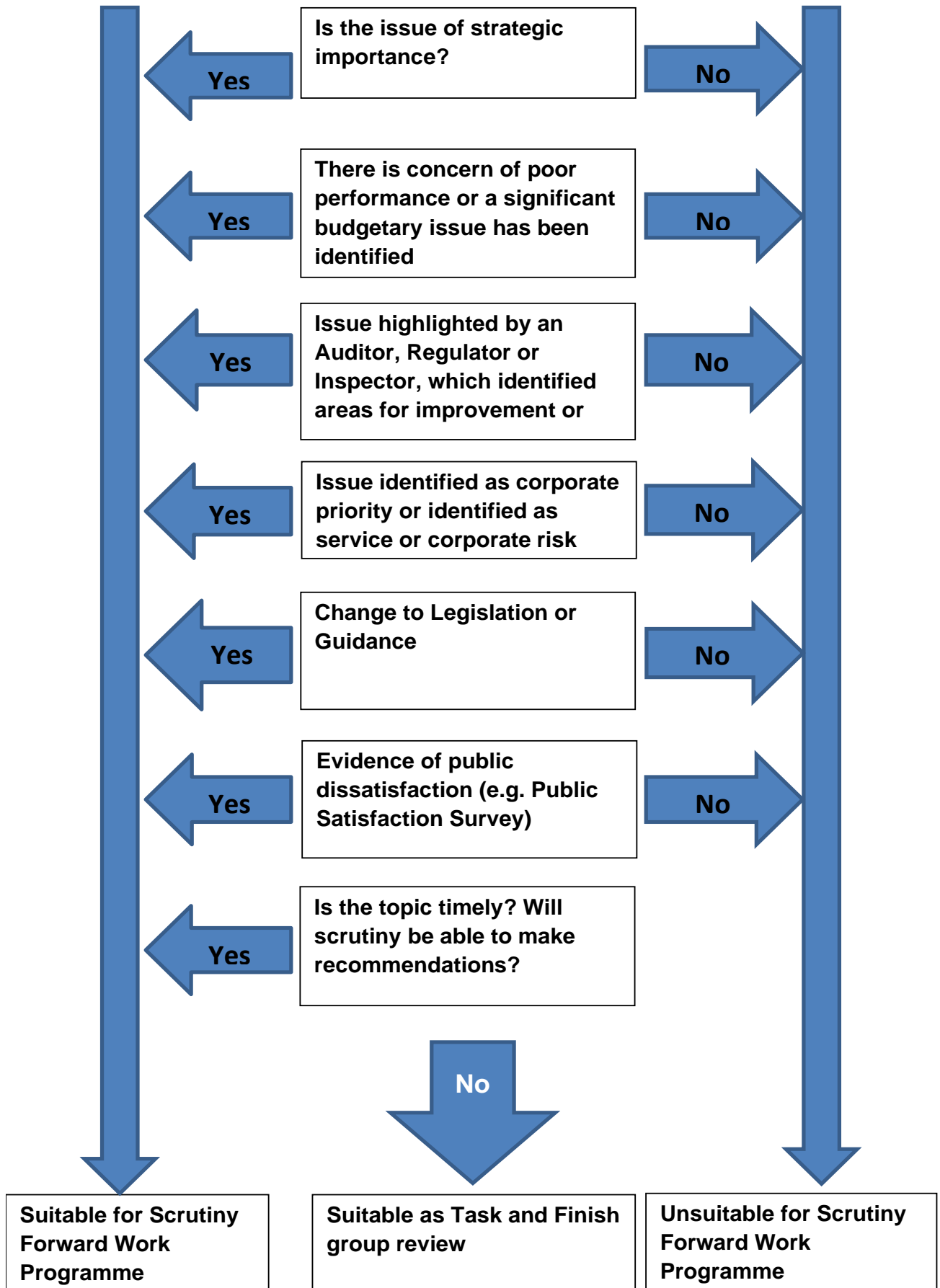
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Forward Work Programme - Cabinet				
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
28/10/20 10:30	(16) Community Asset Transfer Policy	Strategic Plan - Development of a policy and options to deliver a framework for Community Asset Transfer	Peters, Kathryn; Broadhurst, Timothy	Cllr. Phipps, Lisa
28/10/20 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
28/10/20 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
28/10/20 10:30	Annual Performance Report to Council	To consider the Authority's annual self-assessment of its performance, the Annual Performance Report for 2019/20, prior to its presentation to Council	Edmunds, Richard (Ed)	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned
28/10/20 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
11/11/20 10:30	Caerphilly Cares	To agree the establishment of a Caerphilly Cares service as a follow up to the existing Buddy and Legacy Schemes to be located within the Directorate of Social Services.	Street, Dave	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned; Cllr. Cook, Shayne
11/11/20 10:30	Regeneration Project Board -Project Proposals	To recommend the allocation of up to £509k Regeneration Project Board Development Funds towards a number of recently endorsed and evaluated projects, within the County Borough. To seek approval for a streamlined approval process for the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the re-purpose of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park	Kyte, Rhian	Cllr. Morgan, Sean
11/11/20 10:30	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	To seek Cabinet approval for funding to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure as part of the first phase of actions to introduce electric vehicles into the Authority's fleet.	Cooke, Paul; Richards, Sue	Cllr. George, Nigel; Cllr. Morgan, Sean

Forward Work Programme - Cabinet				
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
25/11/20 10:30	Green Infrastructure Strategy	Green Infrastructure is recognised as being central to the means that sustainability principles are put into place and maintained. The social and environmental benefits of green infrastructure are well recognised; of increasing importance are the wider economic benefits. The Vision for the Green Infrastructure Strategy reflects the success over the last 20 years of the implementation and development of the Countryside strategy which it will replace.	Hartshorn, Robert	Cllr. Ridgewell, John
25/11/20 10:30	Valleys Taskforce Initiative	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	Kyte, Rhian; Couzens, Shaun	Cllr. Morgan, Sean
25/11/20 10:30	Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan		Kyte, Rhian; Dallimore, Allan	Cllr. Ridgewell, John
25/11/20 10:30	Gwent Sustainable Travel Charter	To seek views on signing up the Gwent Sustainable Travel Charter- a cross public sector commitment to support staff to travel to and within work more sustainably	Richards, Sue; Peters, Kathryn; Cooke, Paul	

**Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation**



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## **ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH OCTOBER 2020**

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

**REPORT BY:       CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES**

### **1.     PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1     To update the Environment and Sustainability 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 Environment and Sustainability 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 its "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

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Cabinet – 25<sup>th</sup> November 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 Whitecombe, 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 Harray - 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.

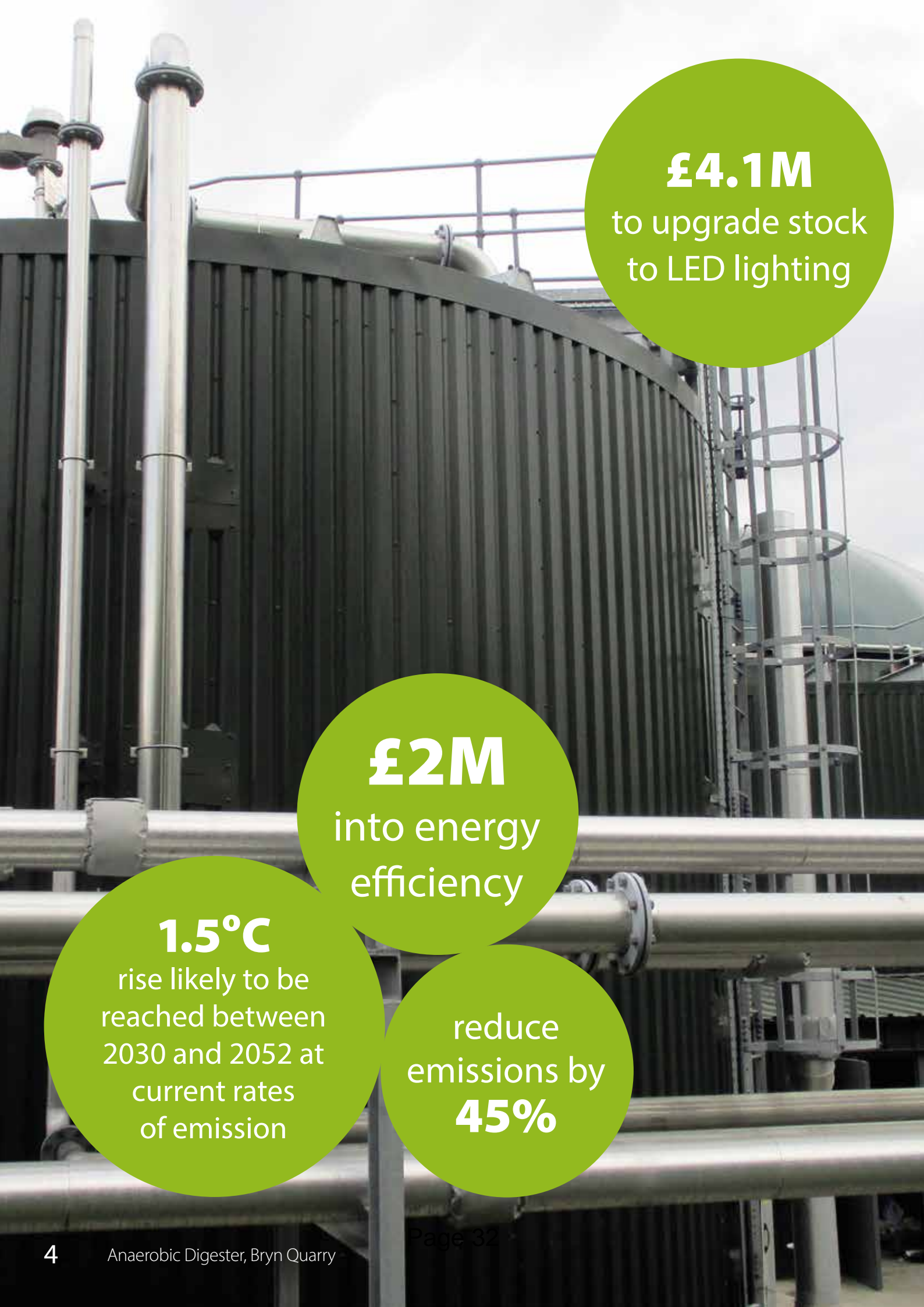
**2.7** The IPCC acknowledge that:

- 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.

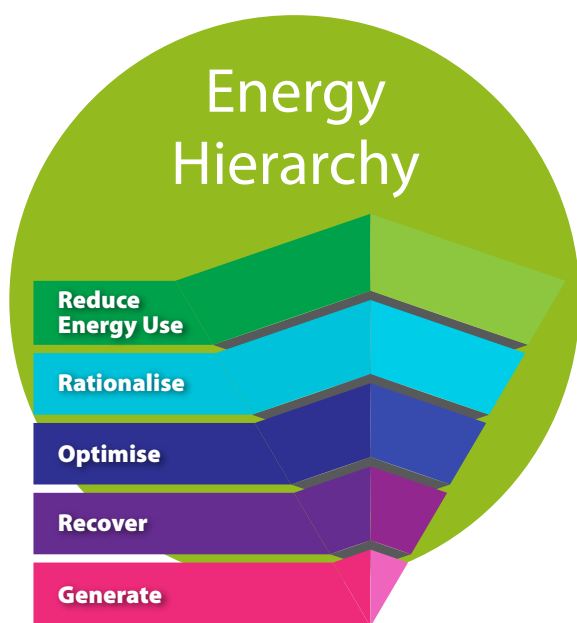
**2.14** Covid-19 has made a massive impact on people's working, commuting and living habits and it is conceivable that some aspects of society will be permanently altered and this will undoubtedly impact on decarbonisation. Opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes, for example through 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.

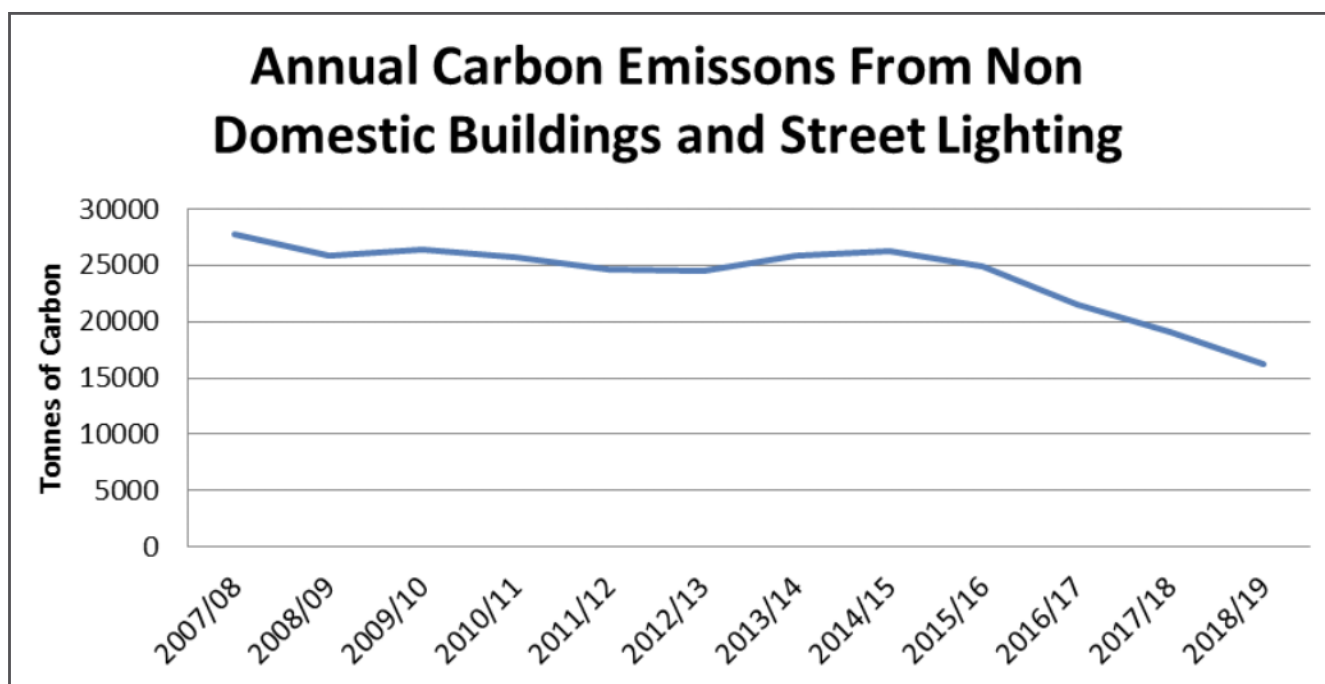
**3.6** The authority has introduced and executed numerous initiatives in working towards the 45% emission reduction target, not all of which can be outlined here. However a sample of what has been achieved is précised below:

- 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, Maescwmmmer

**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.



Anaerobic Digester, Bryn Quarry

## 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**

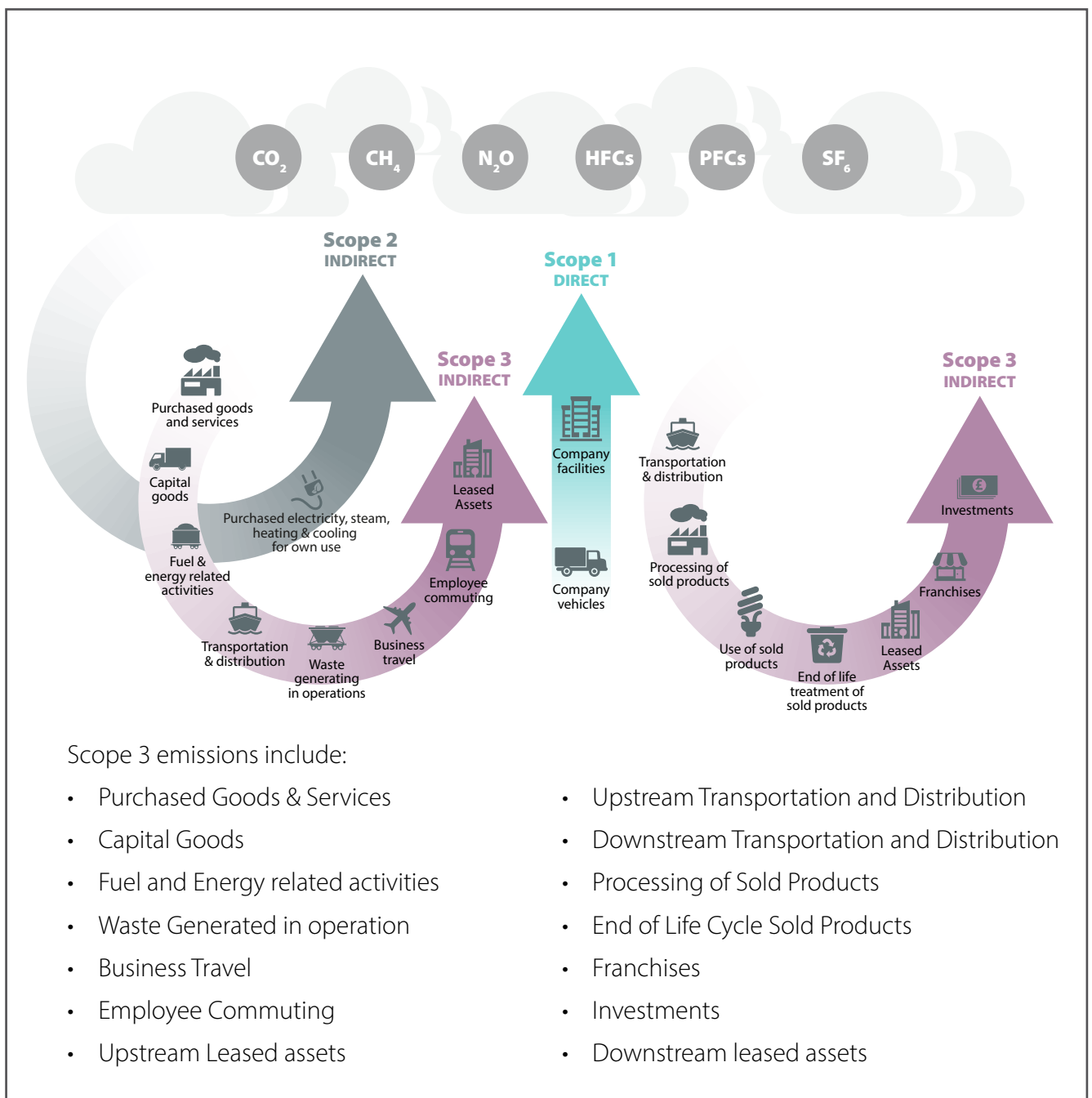
**7.11** These are emissions from the generation of purchased or acquired electricity consumed by Caerphilly CBC. Our Scope 2 emissions will be included in the Decarbonisation Strategy even though all of the electricity consumed on council owned non domestic buildings is already from a renewable energy 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.



### 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.





## 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.

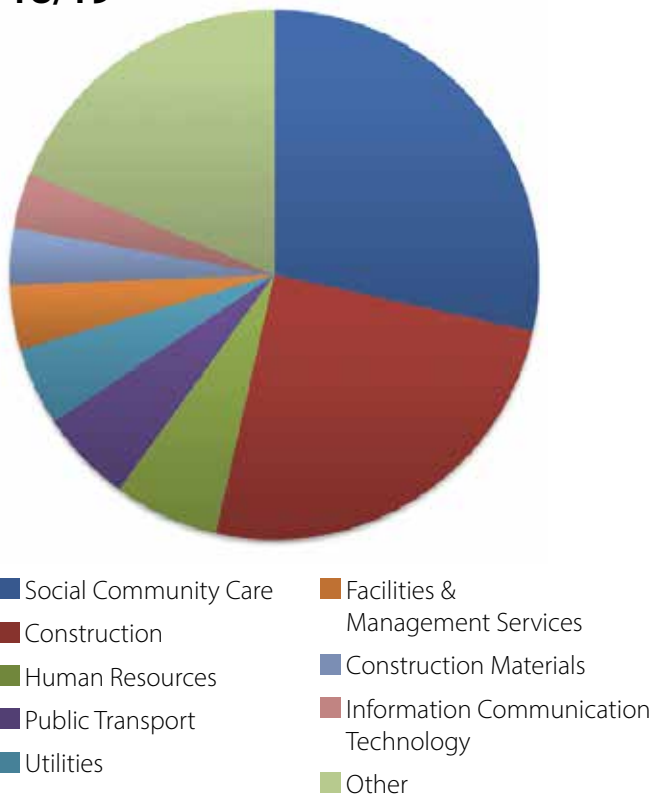
**8.30** In the short term, the authority should consider procuring/purchasing goods that generate the lowest level of carbon emission whilst operating. Likewise if the authority is about to secure the services of an external contractor, a significant factor should be their overall carbon footprint.

**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  
01443 866441

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





# Reduce, Produce, Offset and Buy

## 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
Page 55	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
	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

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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
	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

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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

**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 generation outside of the county borough.	Explore opportunities to invest in large scale renewable energy opportunities, including offshore opportunities.	Corporate approach	Short/Medium/Long
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
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## 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

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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
	<b>PROCUREMENT</b>			
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.	Procurement	Short/Medium

		co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc.		
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

# Energy Prospectus

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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)

SHORT TERM

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

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**Wind Turbines**

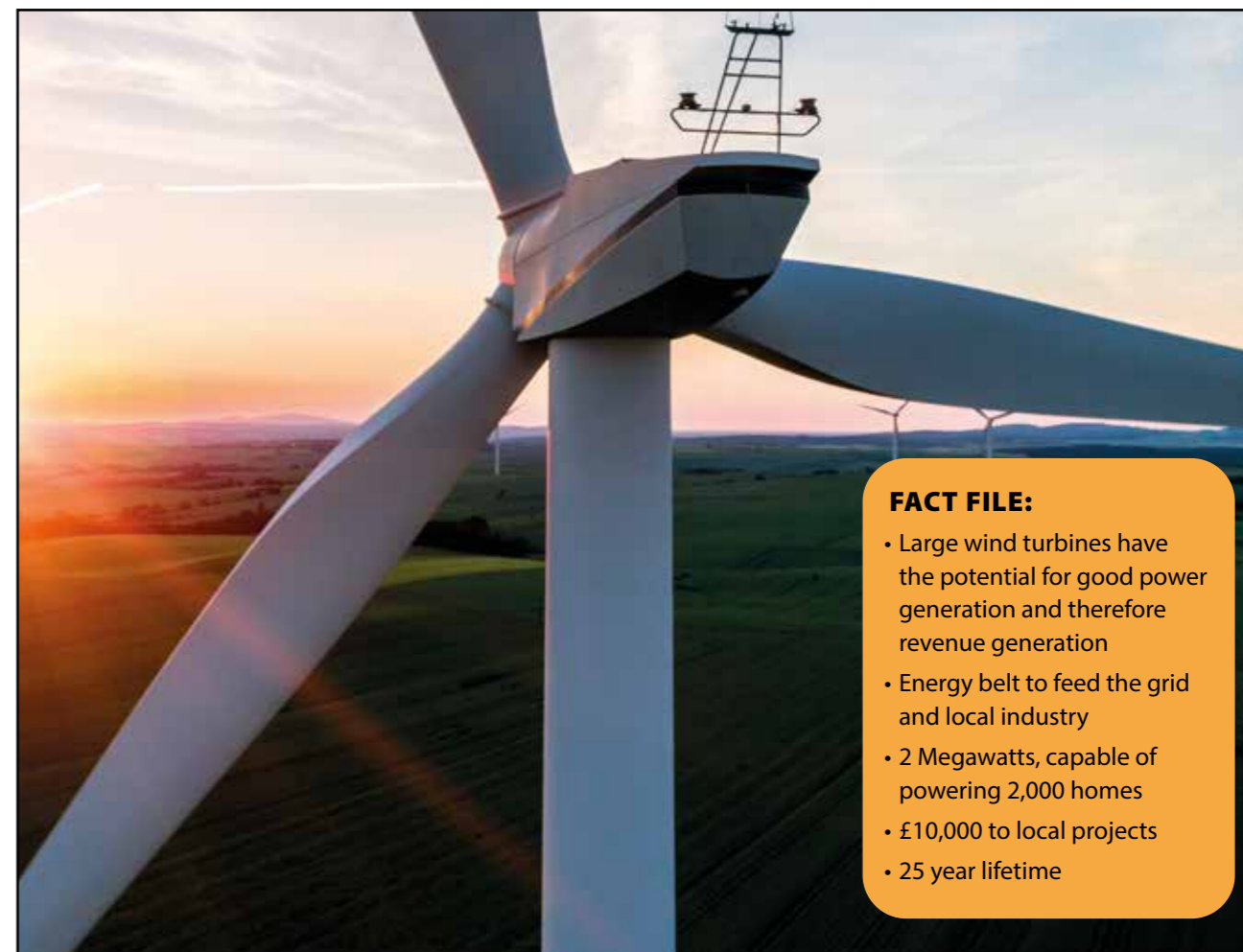
Timescale: Medium/Long (24-60+ Months)

MEDIUM/LONG TERM

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 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.

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



- 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)

SHORT TERM

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.



- 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





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Region**

Contact:  
Allan Dallimore,  
Regeneration Manager,  
Caerphilly County Borough Council.  
dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk  
01443 866441

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



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## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH OCTOBER 2020

**SUBJECT: CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT – 2019/20 12 MONTH UPDATE  
REPORT**

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

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Committee on the implementation and impact of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers, following the first twelve-months of operation.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The implementation of CPE has been broadly successful. During the first twelve-month period there have been 1043 requests for enforcement across the county borough. A total of 11528 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) were issued, 9305 (80%) of which have been paid with the remainder progressing through the appeals process.
- 2.2 Anecdotally there has been positive feedback about improvements in driver behaviour, greater parking availability and reduced congestion particularly in the busiest areas. As a result of the more pro-active enforcement of parking restrictions numerous requests have been received to consider changes to the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and these are currently being progressed.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to scrutinise the paper and provide comments on how this can be improved and/or to endorse the continuation of the approach taken within the contents of this report.

### 4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To enable Members to consider and comment on the impact of CPE and future work priorities and to consider whether the current approach should be maintained.

### 5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Prior to CPE implementation, the following actions were successfully completed to enable the 'Go Live' on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019:

- A review was undertaken of the parking restriction related TROs across the county borough, to identify any remedial works necessary to bring them up to the required standard for CPE enforcement.
- The CPE application was submitted to and approved by Welsh Government.
- TRO remedial works were completed by March 2019.
- A TRO consolidation order was made.
- A Service Level Agreement for the back office function with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) was concluded for the notice processing service. This service provided by RCTCBC is known as the South Wales Parking Group (SWPG).
- Parking Enforcement Operational Policy: CCBC's enforcement protocol was revised and agreed.
- Resident Permit Parking Policy: a TRO was made to bring the previous permit parking schemes in Abercarn, Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Risca, Newbridge, Rhymney and Ystrad Mynach in to line with the Council's approved resident permit parking policy. The charge of £15 per permit per annum was agreed by Cabinet on 28 November 2018.

5.2 The introduction of CPE across the county borough has been broadly successful and well received. The following provides an overview of the performance of the service after the first twelve months of operation.

### 5.3 CPE Performance 2019/20

- 5.3.1 **CEO (Civil Enforcement Officer) recruitment:** The business case for CPE requires enforcement staffing resource of 8 full time equivalents. During the first twelve months of operation there has been a retirement and a resignation that meant for some periods there has been a slight shortfall in the complement of staff. That said the service has managed to maintain a positive response to enforcement requirements across the county borough.
- 5.3.2 **PCNs (Penalty Charge Notices) issued:** During the first twelve months of operation 11,528 PCNs were issued of which 9305 (80%) have already been paid. The remaining 20% are progressing through the appeals and debt recovery process.
- 5.3.3 A total of 10,129 PCNs (88%) were issued on-street & 1399 PCNs (12%) were issued off-street. 9323 PCNs (81%) were issued in the six main towns, of which 3796 PCNs (33%) were issued in Caerphilly, 2097 PCNs (18%) were issued in Blackwood, 1543 (13%) were issued in Ystrad Mynach, 977 PCNs (9%) were issued in Bargoed, 745 PCNs (6%) were issued in Risca, 165 PCNs (2%) were issued in Newbridge, 2205 PCNs (19%) were issued in areas outside of the six main towns. A breakdown of the PCNs issued by town is provided in Appendix 1.
- 5.3.4 **Contraventions (On-street):** The greatest number of PCNs 3545 (31%) were issued to vehicles that were parked in contravention of waiting restrictions. 2170 PCNs (19%) were issued for exceeding limited waiting restrictions, 1048 PCNs (9%) were issued for failing to display a valid residents' parking permit, 928 PCNs (8%) for parking in loading bays, 776 PCNs (7%) were issued for parking on no loading restrictions. The remaining 26% of PCNs were issued for a variety of different contraventions; these are shown in Appendix 1 along with a breakdown of the contraventions for each town.
- 5.3.5 **Contraventions (Off-street):** The greatest number of PCNs 788 (58%) were issued for failing to display a valid parking ticket, 251 PCNs (18%) were issued for parking outside of a marked bay, 228 PCNs (17%) were for expired tickets, 53 PCNs (4%) were for failing to display a blue badge, 21 PCNs (1%) were for exceeding the maximum stay, and 25 (2%) were issued for other contraventions. A breakdown of the contraventions is provided in Appendix 1.

- 5.3.6 **Income received:** The CPE service generated an income of £353,386 from the issuing of PCNs during the first twelve-months of operation. As there are still a number of PCNs progressing through the appeals and debt recovery process (which can take up to 12 months) a full picture against the original business case will not be available for some time yet. However, based on the financial information that is available at this time the service has met its target to generate sufficient income to fund itself. After the first twelve months of operation income exceeded costs by £5.7k. NB it should be noted that for future years CPE will need to cover ongoing maintenance and IT software/support costs (approx. £24k per annum) that were funded as part of the setup costs in 2019.
- 5.3.7 **Covid-19 pandemic:** Due to the lockdown restrictions the council's CPE operations were suspended between 18<sup>th</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020. It is estimated that this led to a 4% reduction in the total number of PCNs issued / income generated during the first twelve-month period.
- 5.3.8 **Enforcement Agents:** A total of 474 cases were referred to the Enforcement Agents during the first twelve-month period however, debt recovery activities have been suspended by the Council since the start of the pandemic.
- 5.3.9 **Appeals received/successful:** During the first twelve months of operation 46 cases have proceeded to the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (the ultimate external arbiter). Of these, the Council won 25 cases (4 of which were granted a Consent Order i.e. an agreement reached between appellant and Council to pay the reduced amount), 16 cases were lost, 4 cases were not registered following receipt of additional information from the appellants, and 1 case was not contested.
- 5.3.10 **Requests for additional enforcement:** During the first twelve months, 1043 requests for additional enforcement were received. Appendix 2 provides a summary of these requests by ward. Where possible these have been responded to as part of the ongoing enforcement rotas and routes. A number of evening and Sunday enforcement operations were also conducted throughout the year.
- 5.3.11 **Residents parking permits:** A total of 1655 residents' parking permits were issued during the first twelve-month period which generated an income of £25,125. Of these, 736 were issued in Caerphilly, 354 in Bargoed, 276 in Ystrad Mynach, 203 in Blackwood, 40 in Newbridge, 31 in Pontymister, 11 in Abercarn and 4 in Rhymney.
- 5.3.12 **Behaviour changes:** anecdotal information is broadly positive with reports of greater parking availability and reduced congestion in busy areas of the county borough. This is supported by officer/CEO observations.
- 5.3.13 **Requests for changes to parking restrictions:** Since the introduction of CPE numerous requests for changes to parking restrictions have been received. These requests have been developed into a multi-phase delivery programme which is to be delivered over several years. Phase 1 of the programme (removal/relaxation of existing parking restrictions to create additional on-street parking) is progressing well and Public Notice was given for this element on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Phase 2 of the programme (new parking restrictions to improve safety, reduce congestion and aid public transport) is also being progressed and officers will be engaging with members over the detail of the proposed changes over coming months.
- 5.3.14 **Complaints/compliments/incidents/PR:** despite the anecdotal feedback, only two complaints and two compliments have been formally received. While there have been some incidents of verbal abuse of the CEOs and throwing of eggs, fortunately there have been no serious incidents. Officers and managers will continue to ensure such incidents are not tolerated and are reported to Gwent Police.

## 5.4 Conclusion

- 5.4.1 In light of the experience of CPE implementation since it went live on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019, all current indications are that it has been a successful first twelve months. The service has managed to cover its operational costs and is having a positive impact on traffic congestion, the efficiency of public transport services, the economic attractiveness and future vitality of all areas within the County Borough.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in the preparation of this report.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The following Council policies are relevant to the decision being requested.

### 7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023

- 7.2.1 This CPE service contributes towards the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

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

Infrastructure Division Objective: To work towards a safer environment through positive measures to reduce road accidents and particularly by protecting and providing for vulnerable road users.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 This service contributes to the following Well-being Goals:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

- 8.2 This proposal 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 resourcing of operation and management solutions of this specialised service provision allows for more effective and predictable resource/ financial commitments going forward.
- Taking direct control of CPE enables CCBC to increase prevention of parking disruption and congestion in conurbations contributing to the well-being of its communities.
- It forms part of an overall strategy integrating the traffic management of local roads to regional transport systems on which public transport, private users, cyclists and walking networks can operate.
- Collaboration with other organisations and local authorities enables a more effective and efficient service delivery.



## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 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.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 During the first twelve months of operation the CPE service generated an income of £353,386 and successfully exceeded costs by £5,700. However, Members should note that 20% of the PCNs issued are still progressing through the appeals process. So additional income is still expected but, it will be some months before the final financial account of 2019/20 will be available.
- 10.2 Members should also note that no PCN's were issued between 18<sup>th</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> March due to the Covid pandemic. It is estimated that this could account for up to 4% of income from PCN's that has not been achieved during 2019/2020.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications arising from the report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 The following enabling statutory powers apply to the CPE service.
- Traffic Management Act 2004.
  - The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (General Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
  - The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Representations and Appeals) (Wales) Regulations 2013.
  - The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Representations and Appeals) Removed Vehicles (Wales) Regulations 2013.
  - The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Approved Devices) (Wales) Order 2013.
  - The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Guidelines on Levels of Charges) (Wales) Order 2013

Author: Clive Campbell – Transportation Engineering Manager: campbc@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr. D.T. Davies – Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr. A. Hussey - Vice Chair of Environment & Sustainability Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr. J. Ridgewell – Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure

Mark S Williams – Interim Corporate Director of Communities  
Robert Tranter – Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Stephen Harris – Interim Head of Business Improvement Services & S.151 Officer  
Marcus Lloyd – Head of Infrastructure  
Dean Smith – Principal Engineer (Traffic Management)  
Robert Hartshorn – Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services  
Shaun Watkins – Principal Personnel Officer  
Anwen Cullinane – Senior Policy Officer – Equalities and Welsh Language  
Kathryn Peters - Corporate Policy Manager

**Background Papers:**

Decriminalisation of Parking – Residents' Parking Amendment Order 2018 – Cabinet 28 November 2018

Civil Parking Enforcement Progress Report – Council 22 January 2019

CPE Update Report - Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny committee – 29 October 2019

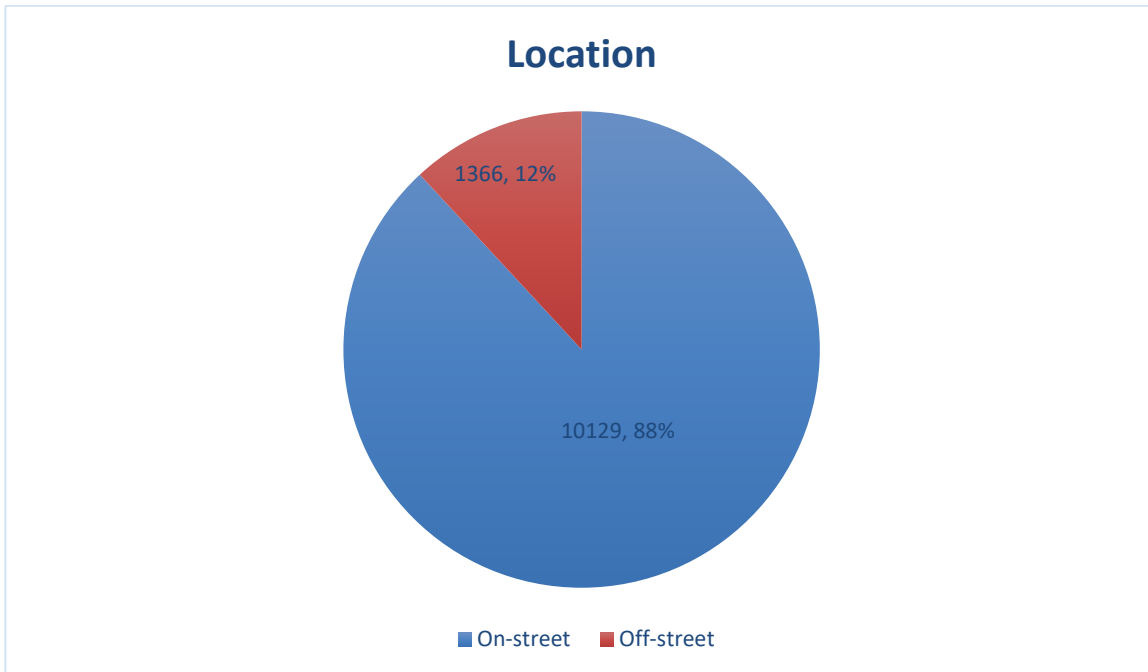
**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 PCN data for first twelve-month period of operation 2019/20

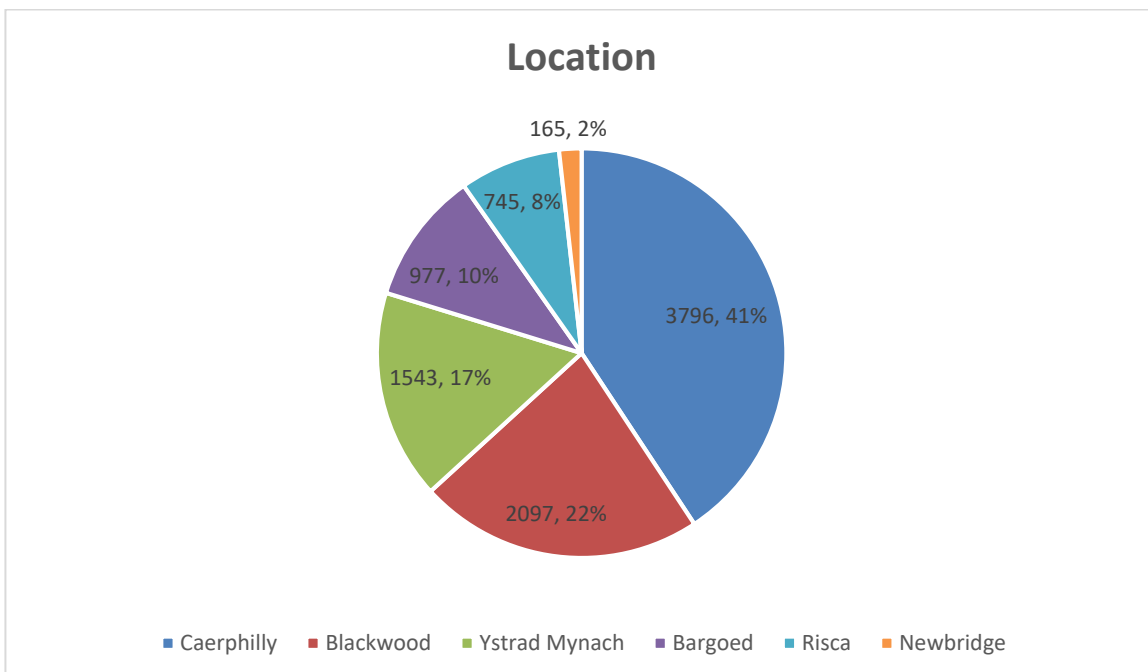
Appendix 2 Summary of requests for parking enforcement by ward 2019/20

**APPENDIX 1 – PCN data for first twelve-month period of CPE operations 2019/20 (8th April 2019 – 7th April 2020)**

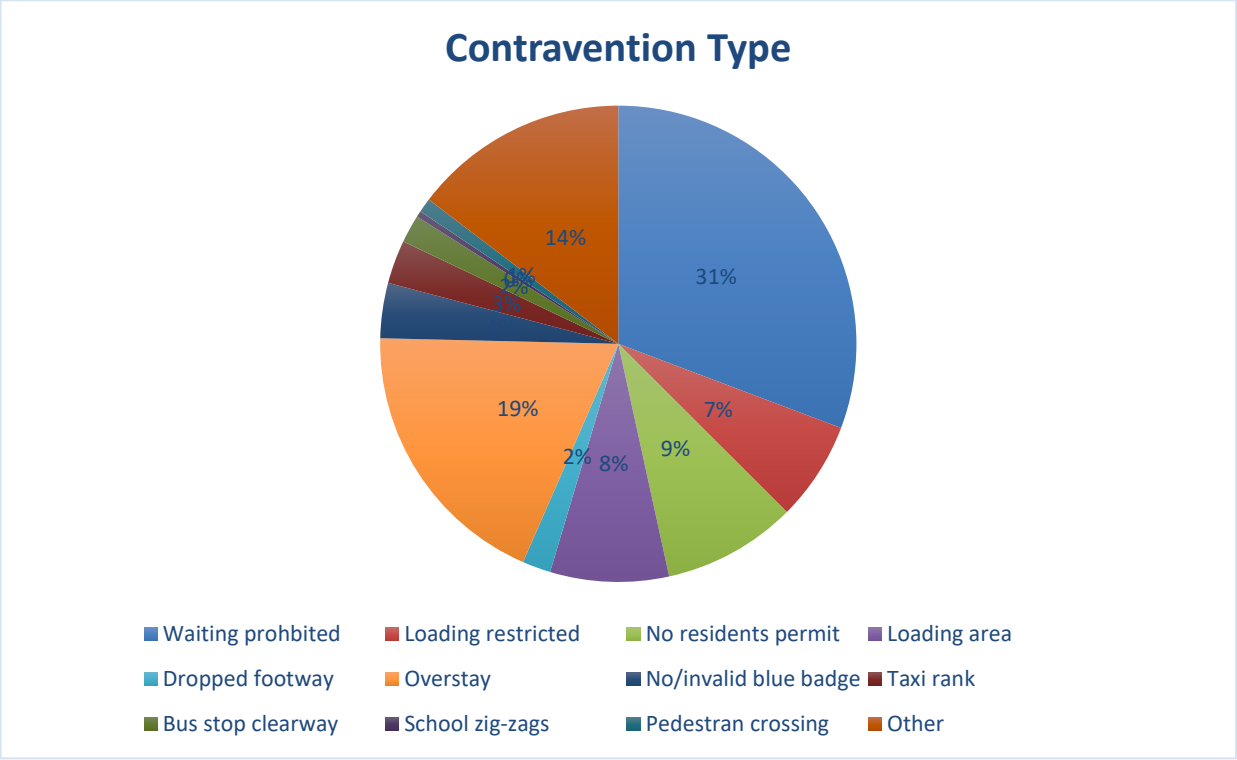
1. PCNs issued on-street & off-street



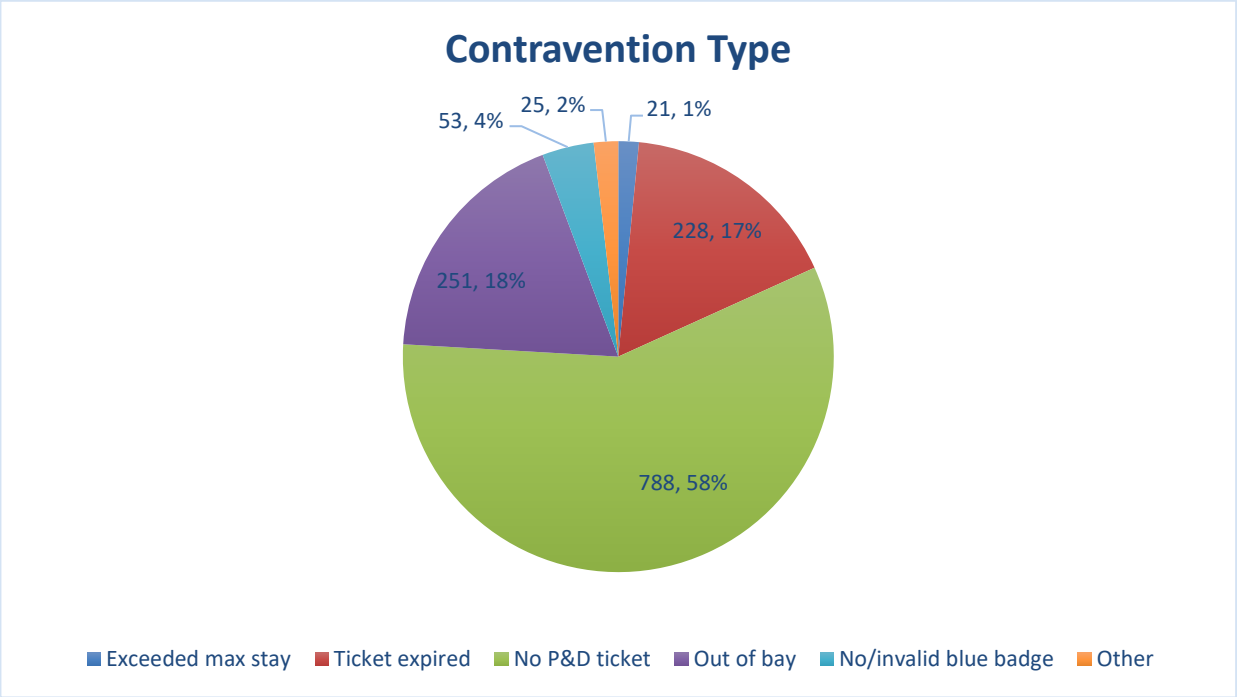
2. PCNs issued by geographical area / town



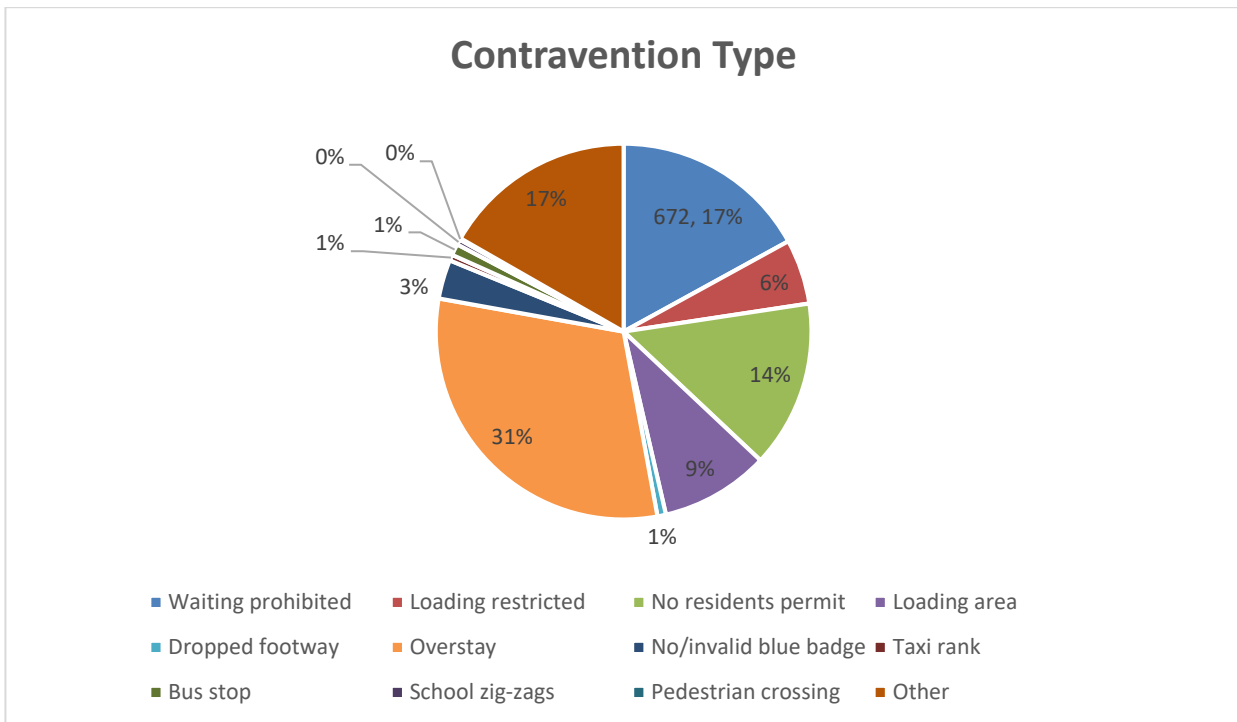
3. On-street parking contraventions



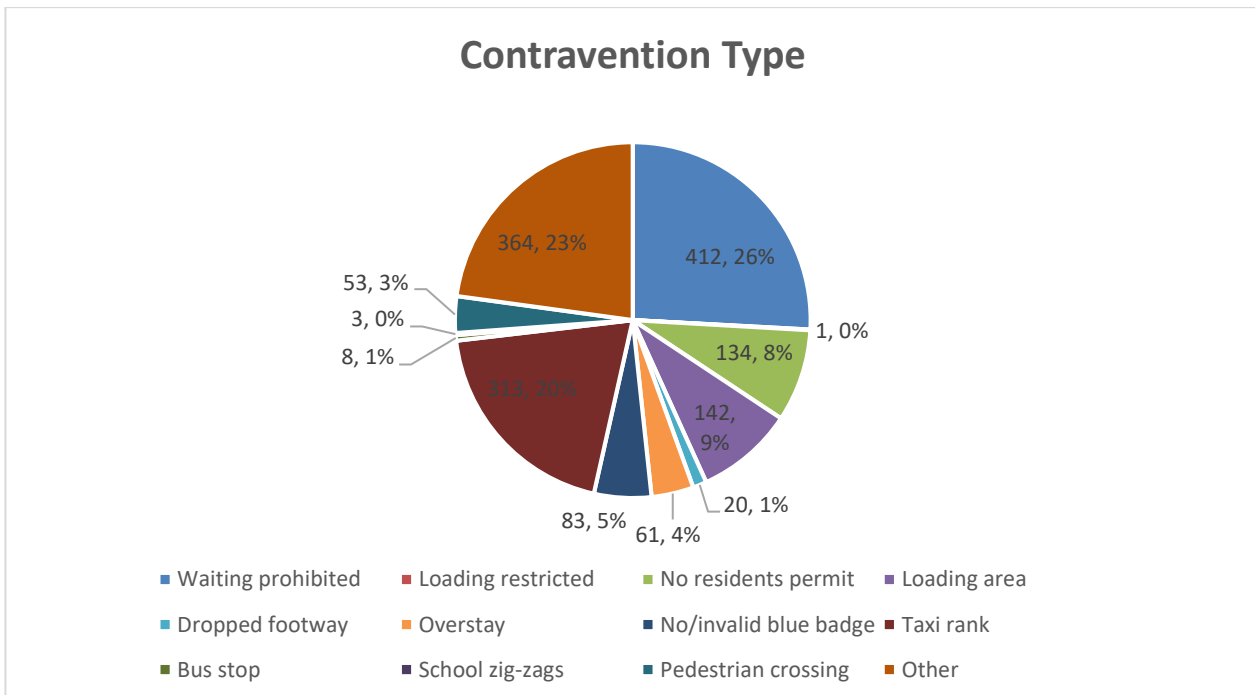
4. Off-street parking contraventions



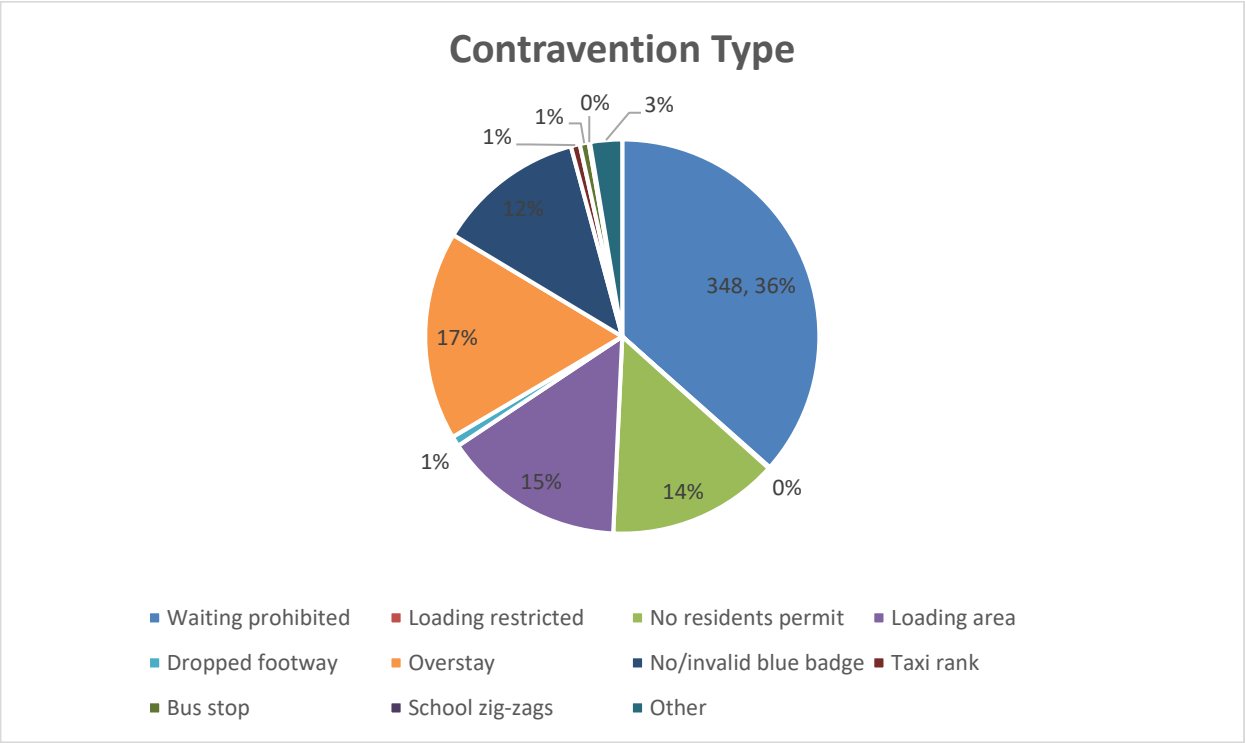
## 5. Caerphilly PCN Data



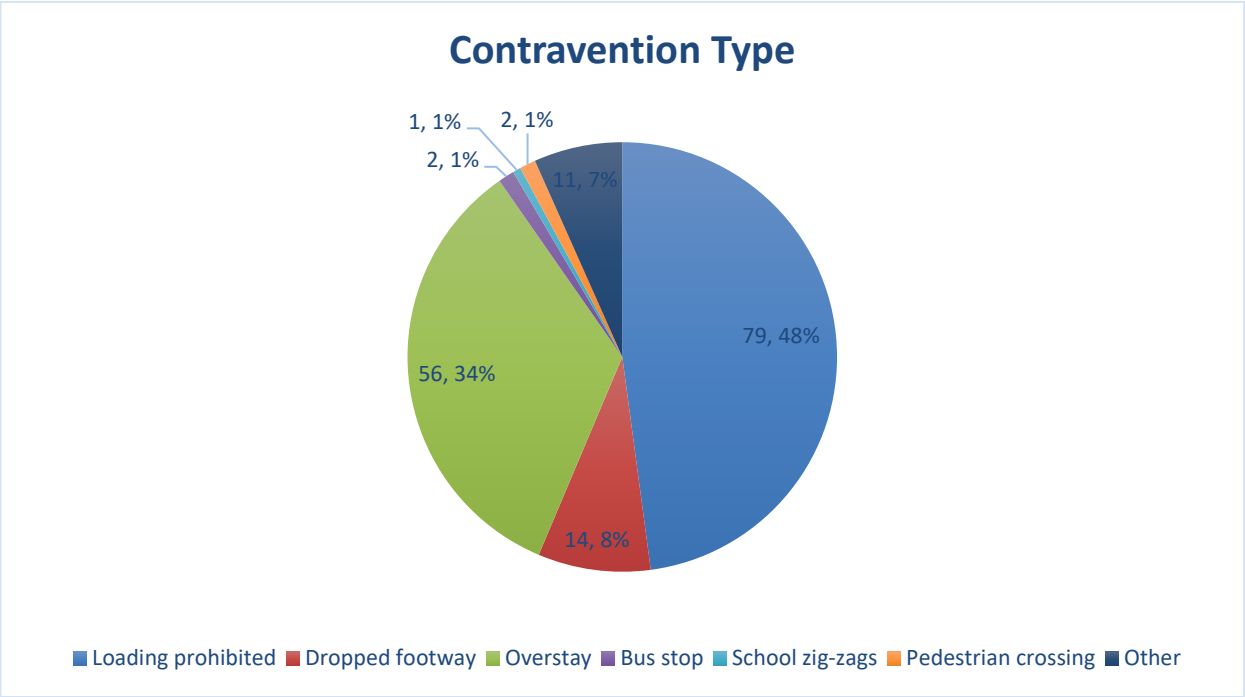
## 6. Blackwood PCN data



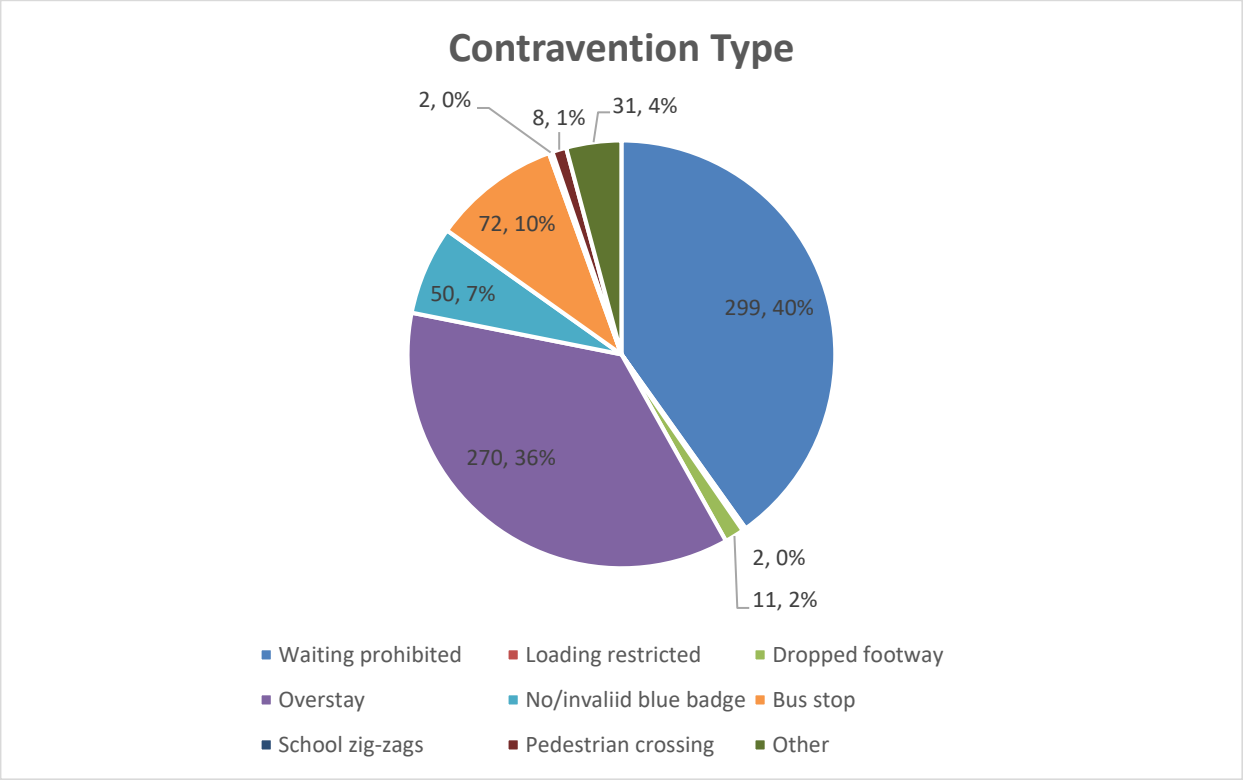
7. Bargoed PCN Data



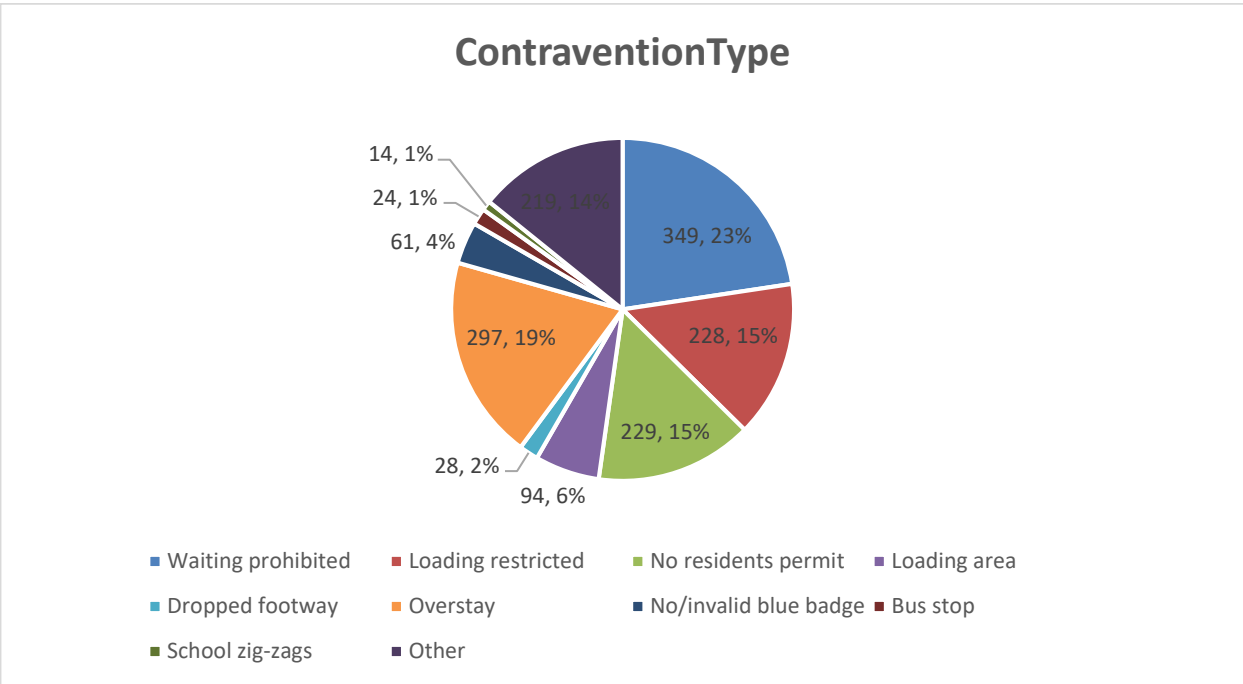
8. Newbridge PCN Data



9. Risca PCN data



10. Ystrad Mynach PCN Data



## Appendix 2 – Summary of requests for parking enforcement by ward 2019/20

Ward	Total
Aber Valley	23
Aberbargoed	19
Abercarn	60
Argoed	1
Bargoed	85
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	41
Blackwood	136
Cefn Fforest	22
Crosskeys	19
Crumlin	9
Darran Valley	16
Gilfach	11
Hengoed	12
Llanbradach	11
Maesycwmmmer	15
Morgan Jones	65
Moriah	4
Nelson	29



Ward	Total
New Tredegar	6
Newbridge	26
Pengam	12
Penmaen	9
Penyrheol	2
Pontllanfraith	37
Pontlottyn	8
Risca East	92
Risca West	6
St Cattwg	11
St James	67
St Martins	308
Twyn Carno	8
Ynysddu	18
Ystrad Mynach	57

**OVERALL TOTAL = 514**

These requests can be broken down in to type (i.e. double yellow lines, loading bay, schools, resident parking, obstruction at junctions, disabled bays, limited waiting bays, blocking of access and bus stops).

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