



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL -
26TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & LIVING ENVIRONMENT TEAM
ANNUAL REPORT - 2012/13**

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel aware of the progress achieved by the Sustainable Development & Living Environment Team against the agreed priorities for 2012/13.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Sustainable Development & Living Environment (SD & LE) Team continues to raise awareness of the key sustainable development issues, which affect the Authority, and to implement projects designed to improve the sustainability of the Authority. This report summarises some of the main achievements, the full text of the Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) work continues to go from strength to strength, demonstrating the benefit of employing a dedicated ESD Officer.
- 2.3 The Team continues to co-ordinate the Living Environment Partnership, one of the themes of the Community Strategy, ensuring that we maximise the benefits of working in partnership on environmental issues. In 2012/13 this has included co-ordinating the living environment input into the developing Single Integrated Plan.
- 2.4 The Team continues to deliver the Sustainable Energy element of the Rural Development Plan (RDP). This work includes raising awareness of sustainable energy and climate change issues with farms and rural businesses in the eligible rural wards.
- 2.5 Some specific achievements in 2012/13 include:
- 62% of our schools have achieved a Green Flag (the highest award) under the Eco Schools programme. Twenty-five schools have achieved their second Eco School green flag award, with thirteen schools also achieving their third flag and working towards their platinum award. Four schools have achieved the coveted Eco Schools Platinum Award, three primary and one infant school.
 - 245 Multi function printers (MFPs) have been deployed across the Authority to consolidate local printers, scanners and fax machines onto single devices these have replaced some 1,300 individual devices. The duplex rate of 68% has saved 14.3 million pages since MFPs were introduced.

- A Pedometer Challenge was run across the Authority to encourage more active lifestyles. In total 725 employees took part, and collectively they walked 3 times around the world during the 5 week challenge.
- 5,635 residents of the county borough have signed a pledge to combat climate change.
- The council continues to hold the Welsh Government/Sewta backed All Wales Travel Plan Award at Gold Level, a scheme introduced to recognise best practice in sustainable travel planning.
- The Council's Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme. 191 vehicles have been delivered via the scheme. On average the new vehicle has resulted in a 35% reduction in CO₂ emissions compared to the vehicle it replaced.
- The SD & LE Team secured a total of £240,984 funding for projects in 2012/13.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The work of the SD & LE Team supports the following strategies:
- Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
 - Caerphilly Community Strategy.
 - Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009.
 - CCBC Corporate Improvement Plan 2009 – 2012.
 - Rural Development Plan.
 - Carbon Reduction Strategy.
 - Waste Management Strategy.
 - Corporate Travel Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The SD & LE Team Annual Report highlights the work of Team, including the work in partnership with the Sustainable Development Core Group, the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel (SDAP), and the Living Environment Partnership. It should be noted that this report does not seek to identify all sustainable projects throughout the Authority, but identifies areas where the SD & LE Team, Core Group or SDAP have been involved. It is part of the role of these 3 groups to provide support, and to promote a culture where sustainable projects can develop with or without their direct involvement.
- 4.2 The Annual Report is structured to reflect the 4 areas of work of the Team:
- Sustainable Council.
 - Education for Sustainable Development.
 - The Living Environment.
 - Rural Development Programme, Sustainable Energy.

Sustainable Council

- 4.3 The Council has had a long commitment to sustainability and approved its first sustainable development policy in 1997. It has successively built on this foundation. In 2008 the Council published its Sustainable Development Strategy, *Living Better, Using Less*, which sets out the approach that the Authority is taking to sustainable development and our vision for a sustainable county borough. It sets out our strategy for tackling the issues and explains how we will manage and monitor the process and how we will report on progress.

- 4.4 Each year every Service within the Authority produces a Service Improvement Plan, which sets out what they will achieve and how they will deliver their services. The Service Improvement Plan process has a key role to play in ensuring that Services are considering economic, social and environmental issues related to their Service delivery. For 2013/14 reporting we have replaced the previous SD Integration Tool with a new SD Statement for Services to complete. The SD&LE Team supports Service to complete the Service Improvement Plan, and comments on how it addresses the key sustainability issues relating to that Service.
- 4.5 The SD & LE Team has worked with Sewta over the past few years to incorporate various sustainable transport initiatives into the Authority. As part of this work the council has continued to hold the Welsh Government backed All Wales Travel Plan Award at Gold Level, a scheme introduced to recognise best practice and excellent commitment to travel planning.
- 4.6 11 events promoting sustainable travel, and highlighting the support and initiatives available to staff to enable them to travel more sustainable were run in 2012/13. Events during National Bike Week (June 18th to 22nd 2012) were held to encourage staff to leave their cars at home and cycle to work. A variety of events were held during the week including cycle training, electric bike training, sustainable travel events at Penallta House and Pontllanfraith House, free breakfasts and lunches and a lunchtime mountain bike ride. Thirty staff that cycled to work during the week received a free breakfast or lunch.
- 4.7 The second CCBC Pedometer Challenge was held from January 28th to March 3rd 2013, consisting of a baseline week and a four-week challenge, catering for all CCBC employees. The challenge was a huge success with a total of 725 people participating. As well as promoting walking, staff were also encouraged to participate in other forms of exercise, including running, aerobics, cycling, tennis, gardening and housework. To support this the estimated equivalent steps for a variety of activities were included in the pedometer challenge user guide. The total distance walked by participants during the five weeks of the challenge was 73,200 miles, approximately 3 times around the world. The top individual walked approximately 316 miles during the challenge.
- 4.8 In line with our commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions from vehicles the Council has established a Salary Sacrifice Car Scheme as part of a government-sponsored initiative to provide a leasing arrangement for low emission cars. At the end of March 2013, 191 have been delivered. They cover a wide range of manufacturers. The CO₂ emissions for the vehicles being replaced by the lease cars has resulted in an average saving of 35%. The best individual saving is 62%.
- 4.9 The SD & LE Team has been working closely with the ICT Services, Energy Management Team and Carbon Reduction Group in reviewing sustainability issues with regard to the use of ICT equipment, and looking at the ways in which ICT can support the sustainability agenda. To date 245 Multi Function Printers (MFP) had been deployed across the Authority. The last remaining copiers in libraries were replaced in December 2012. An average of 350,000 sides of paper were printed per week, 80% in mono and 20% in colour. The duplex rate of 68% has saved 14.3 million pages (equivalent to 1700 trees or 71 tonnes of paper) since MFPs were introduced in 2008. The centralisation of paper and toner processes had lead to a reduction in ordering and invoicing for the Authority and a reduction in photocopier leases and contract management.
- 4.10 A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by Procurement, which is striving to embed sustainability into their procurement processes by including their Sustainability Policy in all tender documentation and undertaking Sustainability Risk Assessments (SRA) at the initial stages of all relevant procurement processes. The key focus of the team is now around Community Benefits and implementing this in key procurement projects wherever possible as well as identify the incorporation of Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T) and Living Wage requirements into public sector contracts as being one of the ways it could help stimulate the local economy.

- 4.11 The SD & LE Team contributed to the successful bid for an Arbed project at Fochriw. This project has recently commenced on site and is being project managed by Melin Homes. There are some 300 plus private sector properties that will benefit from a mixture of measures made up from external wall insulation, gas condensing boilers, voltage optimisers and positive input ventilation. The estimated value of the works is in the region of £2.5 million and is funded by the Welsh Government. A further bid was submitted for upgrading the energy efficiency of the private dwellings at Hollybush. This bid has been provisionally accepted and is being taken forward for surveying.
- 4.12 **The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)** is a central government initiative that requires energy suppliers to deliver energy saving measures to domestic customers in low-income areas. CESP has been designed to promote a 'whole house' approach to improving the energy efficiency of homes. Several CESP projects have been undertaken within the county borough during 2012/13 including:
- **British Gas CESP Scheme** - 58 council properties in Markham and 79 in Panside . The approximate value of the works is £1 million. (CCBC £600,000 & British Gas £400,000)
 - **SSE (Swalec) CESP Scheme** - 126 council properties in Porset/Lansbury Park, 168 properties in Rhymney, 155 properties in Gilfach, 96 properties in Fochriw and 42 properties in Cefn Hengoed. The estimated total value of the work is £4.4 million. (SSE £3.6million & CCBC £800K)
 - **SERS CESP project** - Approximately 350 properties have received external wall insulation as part of this project within Brithdir and Trethomas
 - **EDF Energy** - 100 private sector properties within the Cefn Hengoed area
 - **United Welsh Housing Association** - 29 Properties at Bryn Carno

Education for Sustainable Development

- 4.13 Education for sustainable development (ESD) has been a priority within the Authority since October 2004, when a dedicated ESD Officer was appointed to drive forward the agenda in the county borough. Embedding an understanding of sustainable development within schools and young people is seen as a vital element of achieving a sustainable county borough.
- 4.14 We achieved 100% participation in March 2009 with all schools in the Caerphilly county borough working towards the Eco Schools Programme. During 2012/13 schools have received support to help them achieve their bronze and silver eco school awards and progress through the programme to work towards the prestigious green flag award. .At the 31st March 2013, all 91 schools had achieved an Eco School award, with 13 Bronze awards, 22 silver awards and 56 Green Flag awards (including 25 second green flag awards and 13 third green flag awards). 62% of our schools hold the Eco School green flag award.
- 4.15 Four schools in the county borough have also achieved the prestigious Eco School Platinum award. These are St Gwladys Bargoed School, Llanfabon Infants School, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili and Cwrt Rawlin Primary School. This is a huge achievement with only 73 schools in Wales achieving the award.
- 4.16 An Eco Early Years Award Scheme is being developed to support early years settings working on environmental and sustainable projects as part of the settings development plan. The emphasis is on a commitment to environmental awareness and sustainable development within the setting and the wider community. The award scheme documents are currently being finalised, the aim is to launch the award in October 2013 and trial the scheme with a variety of early years settings and childcare providers over a 12-month period.

- 4.17 An Eco Early Years conference was held in March 2013 in partnership with the Early Years Team to support early years settings incorporating Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship (ESDGC) into their curriculum and management. Approximately 80 early years workers and managers attended the conference from settings throughout the Caerphilly county borough to learn more about sustainable development and global citizenship.
- 4.18 Solar photovoltaic panels have been installed on nine schools in the Heads of the Valley area through the Solar Schools Project – Phase 1, supporting the energy efficiency topic of the eco school programme, as well as supporting the authority's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. In partnership with United Welsh Housing Association an additional £71,000 has been secured to continue to install solar photovoltaic panels on the remaining schools in the Heads of the Valley area.
- 4.19 Work is ongoing to support the youth service to raise awareness and understanding of ESDGC and provide guidance to incorporate ESDGC into the youth work curriculum. An ESDGC Youth Award Scheme has been developed to support youth groups working on environmental and sustainable projects as part of the youth work curriculum. The Award Scheme, the first of its kind in Wales, has been developed as a partnership project between Caerphilly CBC and Bridgend CBC Sustainable Development teams and youth services. It's been developed using features from other sustainable award schemes and will support youth groups delivering ESDGC action as part of the Estyn inspection process.
- 4.20 Filming has been undertaken at five schools to create an Eco School You Tube film to promote the eco school achievements in the Caerphilly county borough. Schools were chosen to ensure all eight eco school topics were promoted plus the seven elements of the eco school process.
- 4.21 The SD & LE Team have continued to support Young Enterprise. Young Enterprise is the United Kingdom's largest business and enterprise education charity. Every year they help 250,000 young people learn about business and the world of work in the classroom under the guidance of volunteers from 3,500 companies. In Caerphilly various departments of the Council are heavily involved in mentoring and supporting the work. The SD & LE Team sponsored the award for the environment category in 2012/13. The environment award was won by 13 pupils from Lewis Girls Comprehensive School who developed a range of eco-friendly christmas decorations and wedding favours made from recycled materials.

The Living Environment

- 4.22 The Sustainable Development & Living Environment Team co-ordinates the Living Environment Partnership (LEP), which is one of the 4 thematic partnerships of Caerphilly's Community Strategy.
- 4.23 A key focus of the work of the SD & LE Team in 2012/13 has been to ensure the integration of sustainable development and living environment issues into the developing Single Integrated Plan for the county borough. Input has been provided into all stages of development including into the Unified Needs Assessment, involvement in workshops and the 'writing group' for the Single Integrated Plan. The draft Single Integrated Plan, produced at the end of March 2013 and incorporating comments from the public consultation, includes a "Greener Caerphilly" section based on the priority environmental issues identified and consulted on by the Living Environment Partnership.
- 4.24 The Caerphilly Environmental Quality Group, a sub-group of the Living Environment Partnership, was successful in securing an allocation of £25,000 funding from the Authority's Community Assets Fund for the Group to undertake priority projects during 2012/13. The CEQ Group operates a small grants scheme, which requires at least a £1 for £1 match funding to encourage maximum partner input. The £25,000 Community Assets money resulted in partnership projects worth £54,350. The CEQ Group supported the following projects:

- **Fairview Community Garden** – Creation of a garden at Charter Housing’s Community House on the Fairview Estate. The Community House is a resource for use by the whole community and has been used for community events as well as a base for the tenants association, Parent & Toddler Group, credit union collection point, midwife as well as weekly drop ins/coffee mornings/youth activity and IT drop ins. The works involved repaving, the creation of new raised planted borders, as well as soft play areas and a covered sandpit for children. Benches and seating were also provided to encourage people to enjoy the new garden.
 - **Wern Park Forest and outdoor education facility, Nelson**– Creation of a large new native woodland area to serve as a purpose-built outdoor education facility and will compliment and enhance the environmental quality at Wern Park, Nelson. As part of the project local people have been trained to deliver outdoor learning including Forest School and outdoor education activities, events and land-based skills to members of the community using the new site.
 - **Healthy Rivers**- A partnership project between Groundwork Caerphilly, South East Wales Rivers Trust (SEWRT), Environmental Agency Wales (EAW) and CCBC established with the aim of removing the barriers to salmon migration up the River Sirhowy, and to engage local people with the project. A project steering group was established to oversee the work and a project officer appointed to co-ordinate and take forward the work.
- 4.25 The SD & LE Team co-ordinates the “Come Outside! Greater Bargoed Project”, which is one of the Authority’s Outcome Agreements (Outcome Agreement 8, Enhancing the quality and enjoyment of the natural environment). This is one of 10 Outcome Agreements that the Authority has with the Welsh Government. Successful delivery of the 10 Agreements ensures that the Authority receives £1.869m for 2012/13 and a total of £5.6m over 3 years on achievement of these performance targets.
- 4.26 The Come Outside! Team completed the third year of a three-year pilot project. The Team comprises partners in the CCBC Countryside and Landscape Service, the Community Regeneration / Communities First Teams and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). The Come Outside! methodology involves engaging countryside and community development workers in promoting healthy lifestyles through the use of local, accessible green spaces. In the Aberbargoed area, 3 major green spaces are promoted - Aberbargoed Grasslands Special Area of Conservation, Bargoed Park and Parc Coetir Bargoed. During 2012-13, 158 community members volunteered for environmental improvements, 1,511 children attended environmental activities and 28 wildlife habitats were enhanced or created.
- 4.27 The SD & LE Team secured an allocation of £10,000 from the Community Assets budget for works to support the Allotments Strategy, which aims to bring disused and redundant plots in particular back into food production. In 2012/13 the funding was used to support work at:
- Stanley Row, Llanbradach where an area of overgrown land was cleared to create additional plots.
 - Abertysswg, where clearance of overgrowth and the removal of debris/rubbish was complimented by lifting the crowns and cutting back conifer trees that were overhanging the plots to provide light.
 - Gilfach where extensive ground clearance and the removal of debris was undertaken. Material removed during ground clearance has been stored on site as compost to rot down to be reused at a later date.

- 4.28 Climate change adaptation is a major area of work for both the SD & LE Team and the Living Environment Partnership. Significant resources were drawn into this priority issue during 2012/13. In collaboration with Dr. Alan Netherwood of Netherwood Sustainable Futures, two workshops have been run on Climate Change Adaptation. These workshops were designed to introduce climate adaptation to a range of key personnel from across the Authority and to develop an approach to the issues. The workshops focused on building understanding and awareness of climate change across the breadth of our Service areas and to promote the need for managers to consider adaptation to the likely impacts of climate change on those services in the county borough.
- 4.29 The Climate Change Woodlands concept was developed as a public engagement tool. It links with the Climate Change Commitment scheme, and enables signatories - whether individuals, families, organisations, businesses or schools - to make a pledge to do their bit to tackle climate change and plant a tree as a long-lasting and publicly-visible sign of that commitment. During 2012-13, three Climate Change Woodlands were planted:
- **Ty Sign.** A planting event took place on Wednesday 20th February 2013 at Ty Sign Nature Trail. The event was well supported with committee members of the Ty Sign Community Partnership, pupils and staff from Risca Community Comprehensive School, Groundwork Caerphilly staff and members of the Mid Valleys East Community 1st Cluster Team.
 - **Richard Lewis Woodlands, Oakdale.** On Wednesday 27th February 2013, planting was undertaken by the Oakdale & Penmaen Community Partnership along with pupils and staff from Oakdale Comprehensive School, Groundwork Caerphilly staff, CCBC Staff, Asda Blackwood staff and members of the Mid Valleys East Community 1st Team.
 - **McLaren Climate Change Woodland, Abertysswg.** On the 12th March local residents and children took part in climate change activities at the Abertysswg community centre and undertook planting to establish the McLaren Climate Change Woodland site. In total 800 native trees were planted.
- 4.30 At events throughout the county borough, local residents are encouraged to sign a climate change commitment to change their behaviour to reduce their contribution to climate change. Actions include planting a tree, using bags for life or changing to energy efficient light bulbs. In 2012/13, 1,580 local people made a climate change pledge. This brings the total number of residents that have signed a commitment to combat climate change to 5,635.
- 4.31 Research and data collection was undertaken and a State of the Environment in Caerphilly report was published in July 2012. The report is based on 10 key environmental indicators including street cleanliness, waste management, fly tipping and water quality.

Rural Development Plan (RDP)

- 4.32 In 2011 two Sustainable Energy Officers joined the SD & LE Team. They are funded through the RDP programme to deliver the sustainable energy element of the programme. The main aim of their project is to engage with farm households and rural businesses to reduce energy use, promote the uptake of renewable energy, and help them to adapt to climate change.
- 4.33 The officers provide 3 levels of support. Level 1 covers information and advice, and includes:
- Telephone and email advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy.
 - Information on grants/loans, signposting to external organisations.
 - Desktop solar power assessments.
 - Factsheets.

The factsheets cover the different renewable energy technologies, including biomass, heat pumps, micro hydro, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal and wind. The factsheets are aimed specifically at rural businesses.

- 4.34 Level 2 includes surveys and support. As part of the process of promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy to businesses, the RDP Sustainable Energy Team are able to offer free energy surveys to businesses whose bills are under £30,000 per year. The energy survey includes a site visit, during which a questionnaire is completed. Following this a report is generated that provides advice and recommendations on how the owner can improve the energy efficiency of the site, look at suitable renewable energy technologies (if any) and provide approximate costs and paybacks. During 2012/13 a total of nine energy surveys were completed and presented to businesses.
- 4.35 Level 3 support includes mentoring and exemplar projects. The first exemplar is the development of a new farmhouse in a completely off grid setting, near Manmoel. The design is inspired by the traditional Welsh longhouse and compliments the upland setting of the rural area. Maes Yr Onn Farm lacks mains connection of electricity, gas, water or sewage services. This provides some difficult challenges in integrating and balancing energy production and use within the property, but also some opportunities to promote sustainable solutions to energy/resource use and energy generation issues. A partnership between the RDP Sustainable Energy team, Building Research Establishment (BRE), SSE and Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) worked with the Davies family to provide a solution that balances resource efficiency with renewable technologies.
- 4.36 The second exemplar aims to promote behaviour change and to replicate the lessons learnt from the Maes Yr Onn Off Grid Project, to demonstrate sustainable living and to encourage and enable others to reduce resource consumption without reducing their quality of life. Living off grid means that householders need to be constantly aware of their consumption and ensure against wasteful use of lights and appliances. Limiting the use of electrical appliances and increasing manual work is a difficult balance to achieve, therefore a change in lifestyle is inevitable in order to ensure effective transition from “grid” to “off grid” living.
- 4.37 The third exemplar aimed to develop micro hydro schemes within the county borough. Working in partnership with Carbon Trust Wales, hydro specialists Locogen were appointed to complete a hydro viability study and overview of the opportunities for hydroelectric generation from high head and low head systems within the county borough. Phase 1 of the study involved carrying out a high level screening study of the area to assess the viability for low and high head hydro developments. Following this screening study, 3 priority sites were shortlisted for preliminary feasibility studies (initial assessments) to assess the potential in more detail. Business cases were prepared for each of these schemes. The Gibbs weir scheme was further progressed to detailed feasibility but was withdrawn due to the number of risks involved in the development of the scheme. The Nant y Twyn and Nant Twynyrharris schemes were not taken forward by the landowners.
- 4.38 As a result of a wider Climate Change Adaptation Project being delivered by CCBC Sustainable Development Team, the RDP energy team commissioned Netherwood Sustainable Futures to undertake a study to identify projected future climate changes, the implications for farms and rural businesses in Caerphilly and to identify actions that can be taken to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change in the county borough. The findings of the study will be used to raise awareness with rural communities within the county borough of the implications of climate change. Findings will also be used to inform the development of advice and programmes of support to farms and rural businesses in the county borough.

Monitoring and Measuring Progress

- 4.39 The SD & LE Team reports to a number of groups and against the indicators in several strategies within the Authority. The table below highlights progress against selected indicators:

Indicator	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Actual	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Target	2012/13 Actual
The number of individuals that have signed the climate change commitment	New PI	New PI	566	3,489	1,500	1,580
The number of staff on the 'Cycle to Work Scheme'	New PI	New PI	104	221	250	291
The percentage of schools with a Green Flag award under the Eco Schools programme	32%	39.5%	51.6%	58%	60%	62%
The number of education for sustainable development training with schools	New PI	New PI	128	102	100	89
Number of staff on our "Car share database"	New PI	New PI	293	321	350	342
Number of sustainable travel events held	New PI	New PI	10	13	12	11
Number of Climate Change Woodlands created	New PI	New PI	1	3	2	3
Farms and rural businesses advised on sustainable energy issues	New PI	New PI	New PI	28	20	28

Funding

4.40 The Sustainable Development & Living Environment Team **secured an additional £240,984 to contribute to our work in 2012/13**. This includes:

- £71,000 from UWHA for Solar Schools phase II.
- £25,000 for Caerphilly Environmental Quality projects from the Community Assets budget.
- £37,975 from Living Environment Partners to match fund CEQ projects.
- £10,525 for Allotment projects from the Community Assets budget.
- £5,800 for Climate Change Woodlands projects from the Community Assets budget.
- £5,000 from the Health Improvement Team towards the Pedometer Challenge .
- £3,750 from Sewta for Cycle Training.
- £400 from Fairtrade Wales towards Fairtrade school training.
- £12,000 from the Building Research Establishment contribution to RDP exemplars.
- £5,000 from the WLGA consultancy for Climate Change Adaptation work.
- £20,922 from the Countryside Council for Wales towards Community Strategy delivery.
- £4,280 from Heads of the Valleys for renewable energy behaviour change Study.
- £1,605 from the Building Research Establishment as a contribution to renewable energy behaviour change Study.
- £37,727 from SSE towards the installation of renewable energy technologies and associated works at Maes yr Onn Farm.

In addition the SD & LE Team:

- Co-ordinates Outcome Agreement 8, Enhancing the quality and enjoyment of the natural environment. This is one of 10 Outcome Agreements that the Authority has with the Welsh Government. Successful delivery of the 10 Agreements ensures that the Authority receives £1.869m for 2012/13 and a total of £5.6m over 3 years on achievement of these performance targets.

- The Team has worked to develop a strategic relationship with SSE (Swalec). This contributed to securing £4.4m worth of CESP funding which was used to install energy efficiency measures in 1,100 properties in the county borough in 2012/13.
- The Team has contributed to a successful application for Arbed funding for Fochriw. This project has recently commenced on site. The estimated value of the works is in the region of £2.5 million and is funded by the Welsh Government. A further was submitted for upgrading the energy efficiency of the private dwellings at Hollybush. This bid has been provisionally been accepted and is being taken forward for surveying.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's Equality process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 See list below.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Panel notes the achievements against the priorities set for 2012/13.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For the reasons set out in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 There are no statutory powers.

Author: Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment
 Consultees: Cllr Ken James - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development
 Cllr Derek Havard - Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
 Sandra Aspinall – Acting Deputy Chief Executive
 Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning
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 Paul Rossiter – Energy & Water Conservation Officer
 Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator
 Christopher Davidge, – Procurement Officer
 Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.

Tracy Evans - ESD Officer:
Kelly Silcox – RDP Sustainable Energy Officer
Melanie Phillips – RDP Sustainable Energy Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1: SD&LE Team Annual Report 2012/13