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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Charlotte Evans
(Tel: 01443 864210 Email: evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 18th November 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

A digital meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, 25th November, 2020 at 10.30 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so.

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 present and/or speaking at Cabinet will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Harrhy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

Pages

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

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

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

3 Cabinet held on 11th November 2020. 1 - 8

To note the Cabinet Forward Work Programme.

4 Cabinet Forward Work Programme. 9 - 10

To receive and consider the following reports on which executive decisions are required: -

5 Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy. 11 - 76

6 Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy (A Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan for Caerphilly County Borough Council). 77 - 124

7 Gwent Healthy Travel Charter. 125 - 132

8 Disposal of Land at Crescent Rd Car Park, Caerphilly. 133 - 142

Circulation:

Councillors S. Cook, N. George, C.J. Gordon, P.A. Marsden, S. Morgan, L. Phipps, J. Ridgewell, Mrs E. Stenner and R. Whiting

And Appropriate Officers

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Agenda Item 3



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C.J. Gordon (Corporate Services), Councillor S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. Harry (Chief Executive), R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

A. Dallimore (Regeneration Services Manager), P. Cooke (Senior Policy Officer), S. Harris (Head of Corporate Finance and Section 151 Officer), S. Isaacs (Rents Manager), R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

Observing:

Councillor J. Pritchard.

LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader sought the agreement of Cabinet and those in attendance, to adjourn this meeting at 10.55am, in order that Members and Officers could participate in Remembrance Day Services, and a 2-minute silence, to honour those fallen during World War 1 be observed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L. Phipps (Housing and Property).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. SPECIAL CABINET – 20TH OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the special meeting held on 20th October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4. CABINET – 28TH OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2020 were approved as a correct record.

5. CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – TO NOTE

Cabinet were provided with the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, which detailed the scheduled reports from 11th November 2020 to 25th November 2020. Members were reminded that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme is a working document and therefore subject to change.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Forward Work Programme be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme be noted.

6. CAERPHILLY CARES

The report, which was considered by Social Services Scrutiny Committee on 20th October 2020, sought approval to develop the existing Buddy Scheme and Community Regeneration Legacy into the Caerphilly Cares Service, which aims to ensure people receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time, using a single point of contact through a triage system.

The report also sought to establish a universal gateway model that provides a central coordination and response team that understands the different needs of individuals at risk or suffering from disadvantage. Providing advice, support and signposting through strength-based assessments to internal and external support services, to enable them to become more resilient and live as independently as possible through a strength based, community centred model and incorporate it into the Caerphilly Cares provision as part of a phased approach to developing an integrated end to end journey through internal and external services for 'at risk' customers.

Members noted that the report sought to create the conditions for community assets to thrive and create a balance between service and community support by removing any barriers and for our services to work alongside communities in ways that are empowering, engaging and meaningful. To stimulate collaborative working within the Council and with partners and, above all, put communities at the heart of what we do.

It was noted that, according to Recovering from Emergencies; UK Government 2010, 'Pandemic recovery is a complex and long running process that will involve many agencies and participants. The way processes are undertaken is critical to their success. Recover is best achieved when the affected community is able to exercise a high degree of self-determination.

As cited in 'the front door' to adult social care, auditor general for Wales' report, often authorities do not know where gaps in provision lie which has resulted in an inconsistent distribution and provision of services. Even where effective services exist, poor co-ordination between services and organisations can also limit their effectiveness.

As a result of the pandemic, communities will suffer from economic, health and other social challenges. Well-being issues and inequalities existed in communities before the pandemic, which has only served to exacerbate these and the coming months could prove particularly difficult after furlough ends. However, conversely, the lockdown also resulted in strengthening of resilience both individually and at community level. Local activities are vital to supporting wellbeing, with new and existing local groups picking up the mantel. Support for these groups is crucial moving forward and should be seen, very much, as part of the offer of support.

The current crisis has provided the Council with an opportunity to harness, support and expand the community resilience demonstrated in many communities across the borough. It provides opportunities for meaningful dialogue with vulnerable people, to assess service and support needs and coproduce services designed to promote long term independence.

The report outlines the reasons for establishing the proposed Caerphilly Cares model as well as the learning from the buddy scheme to date. It explains the model proposed as well as the plans for the transition of the buddy scheme within this model and makes some recommendations for decision.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

A Cabinet Member queried, in response to paragraph 3.4, the long-term funding options should the proposed funding not be secured. Officers explained that there are a few avenues of exploration for grant funding, which includes the use of the underspend in the Children and Communities Grant Funding and the possibility of utilising the Social Care Service reserves. Whilst this could be a short-term fix, suitable long-term funding will be required in order to continue the provision of the service and employ permanent staff. Therefore, it may be a requirement, should funding not be available, to highlight these pressures to Cabinet and Council at a later date and seek approval for growth funding allocation.

In acknowledging the query raised, the Cabinet Member for Performance and Customer Service suggested that two additional recommendations be considered by Cabinet.

A Cabinet Member expressed his gratitude to all staff involved in the schemes and in the preparation of the report. The Cabinet Member reiterated the benefits of the scheme, as a volunteer during the earlier period of the pandemic for the buddy scheme and highlighted the benefits to the community, service user and volunteers alike. The Cabinet Member outlined the excellent work undertaken as part of the scheme and the Community Cohesion element achieved as a result.

A Cabinet Member further echoed these sentiments and outlined that the scheme is one of the few positives to come out of the Pandemic and is encouraged that the needs of the Communities are being identified and met.

Following consideration and discussion and the inclusion of two additional recommendations, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of electronic voting, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report and with the inclusion of the additional recommendations at *iv)* and *v)*: -

- i) The establishment of the Caerphilly Cares Service be agreed;
- ii) The allocation of £130k of funding as outlined in the financial implications in the report at 10.1 be utilised to develop a Caerphilly Cares Central team;
- iii) The allocation of £155k of funding be agreed to enhance the Caerphilly Housing Tenancy Support team to provide financial advice to all residents.
- iv) *In terms of identification of funding it be agreed that the first option would be to use underspends from the current years Children and Communities Grant (CCG), subject to Welsh Government approval until 31st March 2021 and explore opportunities to utilise this grant to fund the service from 1st April 2021 to March 31st 2022. The second option would be to utilise Social Service reserves.*

- v) *However, if these funding streams aren't available in the long term, it be agreed that a growth bid in the 2021/22 budget proposals be presented to Council in February 2021.*

At 10.52am, Cabinet agreed to adjourn the meeting, for a short period, in order to participate in Remembrance Day Services.

The meeting of Cabinet reconvened at 11.15am.

7. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The report sought Cabinet approval for funding to install an electric vehicle charging infrastructure as part of the first phase of actions to introduce electric vehicles into the Authority's fleet.

It was noted that at its meeting of 19th September 2018, Cabinet approved the Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan. Good progress has since been made, and the report sets out the next steps, including requesting capital funding to deliver the proposed actions.

The initial actions identified in the report focus on providing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the three main Council sites. This will allow the Council to be able to charge in excess of 100 electric vehicles, depending on service area demand. The initial costings based on Western Power Distribution (WPD) quotations and Building Consultancy estimates amount to just under £300,000.

It was noted that Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Workplace Charging Scheme funding is potentially available for up to £10,000 which will be applied for. A balance of £49,500 for capital funding is available from previously approved Carbon Reduction Initiatives and a figure of £240,500 is requested from Capital Earmarked Reserves.

The Officer provided additional information in relation to the site and charging apparatus that it is proposed for instalment. Members noted that there are several options for the charging infrastructure, from 3kw, 7-22kw and 43-50kw, all of which vary in purchase price. Following a review of the Fleet requirements, it was ascertained that points charging 7-22kw would be sufficient for the coming 18-month period, for the replacement fleet vehicles, allowing a speedy charge to suit the use of the vehicle. However, it was noted that the replacement of refuse lorries and larger fleet vehicles have not yet been considered as there is yet to be suitable and economical solutions for a larger vehicle. Members were assured that this is however being considered.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

A Cabinet Member sought further information around the procurement process for the vehicles and charging facilities. Officers explained that the fleet will be replaced as required and the lease term comes to an end, at this point, the needs of the service area will be ascertained, and a suitable electric vehicle sourced, where possible. The charging options will also be determined at this point.

A Cabinet Member wished it noted that, prior to the onset of the Pandemic, Stagecoach were awarded funding to pilot some electric buses from Caerphilly town centre, whilst this is currently on hold, information and learning experiences could later be utilised from Stagecoach on the approach to maintaining and charging larger vehicles.

The Chief Executive drew Cabinet's attention to paragraph 8.3 of the report, which outlined that the project is part of a wider collaboration across Gwent, and a theme of the Public Services Board. In addition, queries have been raised for making this infrastructure available

to staff and Cabinet were asked to note that this is the beginning of the journey and therefore should commence with the fleet. Further engagement and consultations will be undertaken with staff and Trade Unions in due course, and proposals will feature in future reports.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's Report:

- i) Capital funding allocation of £240,500 from Capital Earmarked Reserves be agreed to install electric vehicle charging units at the CCBC sites listed in the report and Appendix 1;
- ii) The allocation of the remaining balance of £49,500, in the previously approved Carbon Reduction Initiative budget, be allocated to the installation of the charging units;
- iii) A grant application be submitted to the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) for £10,000;
- iv) The installation of electric vehicle charge units be approved directly from existing buildings where there is sufficient capacity, to minimise grid connection costs.

8. REGENERATION BOARD – PROJECT PROPOSALS

The report sought Cabinet approval for the allocation of up to £509.7k Regeneration Project Board Development Funds toward several recently endorsed and evaluated projects, within the County Borough.

The report also sought the 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 and 4 Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

It was noted that at the meeting on 30th May 2018, Cabinet agreed that a Regeneration Project Board would be set up with a cross-party political representation of Councillors plus key officers. This group is supported by a Regeneration Assessment Panel consisting of officers from a range of service areas.

The Regeneration Assessment Panel have met on numerous occasions to consider the prioritised list of capital projects, which have been identified by the Board to move to the Assessment Stage. Following subsequent Cabinet Approvals, since February 2019 numerous projects have been endorsed with financial assistance provided (where necessary) from the Regeneration Project Board Development Funds.

During January 2019 Cabinet resolved to release £1.2m of reserves for the Regeneration Board prioritised projects, bringing the Total Development Fund budget allocation to £1.5m. To date, £882,500 has been allocated towards prioritised capital regeneration schemes, across the County Borough.

The report sought Cabinet approval for the allocation of a further **£509.7k** Development Funds towards a number of prioritised projects, namely:

- WG TRI Town Centre Covid-19 Response;
- WG TRI = Caerphilly Place Making Plan;
- Oakdale Business Park – Plateau 1;
- Caerphilly Workmen's Hall and Institute;

- Cwm Ifor Solar Farm.

It was noted that the above request would leave an active Development Fund of **£107,800**.

The report also sought Cabinet approval for a streamlined approval process associated with the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the use of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 & 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

The Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, in noting the report, wished to add an additional recommendation, in acknowledging the information outlined at 5.52 of the report that delegated powers, for approvals up to £50k, be given to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise (and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board) appropriate Head of Service and Finance Officer. This process will enable efficiency of approval and award of the grants programme and delivery of enhancements on the ground.

A Cabinet Member wished to express his gratitude for the proposals around Caerphilly Workmens Hall, and highlighted that previous meetings have taken place in which the history, activities and facilities have been identified in order to secure potential funding. It is therefore positive news that funding has been identified for this community hub.

A Cabinet Member, in noting the projects outlined in the report and the benefits the additional funding would provide to the community, outlined the additional benefits such as the potential for job creation and economic resilience.

Discussions took place around a site visit, which was undertaken by Cabinet Members prior to the meeting, and it was noted that feedback has been provided by members of the local community on what they feel would benefit the community, which includes more business units.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report and with the inclusion of the additional recommendation at iv): -
:-

- i) The recommendations of the Regeneration Project Board towards the review of and development of the projects listed within the report be agreed;
- ii) £509,700 of the residual Regeneration Project Board Development Fund of £617,500 be allocated to these priority schemes, as approved by the Regeneration Project Board;
- iii) A streamlined approval process be agreed for the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Thematic Grants Programme and the re-purpose of previously agreed funds for Oakdale Business Park Plateau 2 and 4 towards Council owned land at Caerphilly Business Park.
- iv) *Additionally, it was agreed that delegated powers, for approvals up to £50k of the TRI Thematic Grants Programme, be given to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise (and Chair of the Regeneration Project Board), appropriate Head of Service and Finance Officer. This process will enable efficiency of approval and award of the grants programme and delivery of enhancements on the ground.*

The meeting closed at 11.48am.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 25th November 2020.

CHAIR

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Cabinet Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
09/12/20 10:30	Commercial & Investment Strategy	To discuss, agree and approve the Commercial & Investment Strategy to be implemented in support of Team Caerphilly Transformation Strategy objectives.	Camp, Victoria;	Cllr. Morgan, Sean; Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/12/20 10:30	I.T. Strategy	To provide an overview of the proposed direction of travel for IT infrastructure and working arrangements to transform the ICT and Digital service into a fit for purpose provision.	Lucas, Liz;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
09/12/20 10:30	Phase 1 consultation report on 21st Century schools	To consider the consultation report and recommendation on the following 21st Century Schools and Education Band B proposals The expansion of Trinity Fields School The relocation and expansion of YGG Cwm Gwyddon on the former Cwmcarn High site	Richards, Sue;	Cllr. Whiting, Ross;
09/12/20 10:30	Council Tax Base 2021/22	To provide details of the Council Tax base for 2021/22 for tax setting purposes and the collection percentage to be applied.	O'Donnell, Sean;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
16/12/20 10:30	Draft responses to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 and the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.	To consider and comment on the response to draft regulations establishing Corporate Joint Committees and defining the Strategic Development Plan process.	Peters, Kath	Cllr. Marsden, Philippa

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CABINET – 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached report summarises the content and methodologies contained within the Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy. This report was considered by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 1st October 2020. The report sought the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members were advised that the strategy laid out steps towards a 5 year integrated action plan. It was also outlined to Members that the strategy provided a good fit with the developing environmental strategies of neighbouring authorities and other public sector bodies, such as Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- 3.1 This report came before the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 1st October 2020. Members were advised of the importance of the document in view of changing legislation and a shift in the significance of green infrastructure.
- 3.2 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 rainwater harvesting via Sustainable Drainage Systems and if the Strategy is linked to other regeneration strategies. Officers explained that it is standard practice to incorporate rainwater 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.
- 3.3 A query was received regarding biodiversity with regard 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.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and the comments made by the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer – jacqum@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:
Appendix Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy.



ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1ST OCTOBER 2020

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Scrutiny Committee on the adoption of a Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy prior to a presentation to Cabinet for approval. The draft Strategy is appended at Appendix 1 and this report summarises the content and methodologies contained within the Strategy.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report describes the need for a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county borough and the methodology used to prepare the strategy. 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.
- 2.2 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). As such a recommendation is made that this Strategy be approved as the core Green Space development and management tool for CCBC.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Committee considers this report and appended Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy and provides any comments or suggested amendments prior to presentation to Cabinet for approval and use as the core guidance document for Green Space development and management within the county borough.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To provide an up-to-date and robust Strategy to inform Council decisions with regard

to natural resource management. To ensure the Council is well placed to meet existing good practice with regard to green infrastructure management and anticipated legislative requirements.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 TACP Environmental Consultants were appointed by Caerphilly County Borough Council to prepare a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for its administrative area. The majority of local authorities have either prepared or are in the process of preparing similar strategies. This report sets out the methodology and findings of this study and establishes a Strategy for the county borough. Whilst a working document, the vision of the Strategy is *“Caerphilly will be a green and healthy place to live with an established, multi-functional green infrastructure of high quality spaces interlinked by a network of corridors that benefit both people and nature”*.
- 5.2 The extent and component elements of GI are wide ranging and often include water features, sometimes referred to as being Blue Infrastructure and for the purposes of the Caerphilly Strategy are included within the GI definition. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 broadly explains and defines GI to be *‘the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places’*. The component elements of GI can function at different scales. For instance, at a landscape scale GI can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways and forests. At a more local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, public rights of way, allotments and cemeteries. Small scale individual elements such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs all contribute to GI networks.
- 5.3 A key feature of GI is its multi-functional character and the capacity to provide several functions at the same time thus offering multiple benefits for social, economic as well as environmental resilience. It touches most elements of daily life and is essential to the functioning of society. These results give benefits to wellbeing, including flood management, water purification, improved air quality, reduced noise pollution, local climate moderation, climate changes and food production.
- 5.4 The importance of and inter relatedness of GI is becoming increasingly recognised and this is reflected in various recent legislative requirements including the Environment Act 2016, which places a biodiversity duty on Councils (section 6), Planning Policy Wales 10 (PPW 10) which sets out the need to address GI functions within the planning process and the Draft Wales Development Framework which again identifies GI as a core policy consideration. The legislation aims to fully integrate GI and its functions into decision making processes with the objective of protecting the environment. The Caerphilly Strategy aims to assist in this regard and it is considered likely that Councils will be required, by Welsh Government, to publish Green Infrastructure strategies for their areas. As it stands PPW 10 states that *‘planning authorities should adopt a strategic and pro-active approach to GI and biodiversity by producing up to date inventories and maps of existing GI and ecological assets and networks...’*.
- 5.5 In the regional and local context NRW are preparing Area Statements, which focus on GI and the priorities identified at both a regional and sub-regional level. The data held by NRW and their mapping has been widely used within this study. Officers have been feeding into these Area Statements and working with neighbouring authorities to integrate priorities and projects notably through the award of Enabling

Natural Resources and Well Being (ENRaW) and Rural Development Programme (RDP) funding.

- 5.6 Unlike some neighbouring authorities, Caerphilly does not currently have a Green Infrastructure Strategy, relying on the existing Countryside Strategy, and the opportunity has been taken to prepare this Strategy in alignment with the forthcoming NRW (State of Natural Resources Report) SoNaRR Area Statements. This will provide a hierarchical approach to the management of green space. Given the intense development pressures on many urban areas within the county borough and the replacement of the Local Development Plan (LDP), combined to changes in the wider planning system, notably regionalisation, the need for a robust GI Strategy is evident and timely. The GI Strategy is proposed to update and supplement the adopted Countryside Strategy.

The Approach

- 5.7 The Caerphilly GI Strategy follows a format similar to some other strategies and should provide some consistency with our neighbours whilst at the same time being able to identify the specific Caerphilly priorities. Natural England have provided guidance identifying the key functions of GI and these, having been proofed by a wide range of internal and external stakeholders, have been utilised for the Caerphilly Strategy. There are nine functions identified and it is these functions that form the basis of the development of the Strategy and are illustrated pictorially within the scoring tables throughout. These functions are Biodiversity, Access, Water Management, Tourism, Community, Regeneration, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Landscape Amenity.
- 5.8 Three data sets have been utilised to map the Green Infrastructure throughout the County borough and this in turn has been broken down into five Primary landscape types, these being Parks and Gardens (1.6%), Amenity Space (8.7%), Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces (39%), Green Corridors (1.5%) and Other (38%), this latter typology including farms. Each of these primary landscapes includes a range of secondary typologies relating to the landscape types and covers some 89% of the area of the County borough. The Strategy provides both the comprehensive data set of this information and a worked up example of the Ystrad Mynach area by way of map illustration. There are some 38 of these secondary typologies each allocated to within one of the primary landscape types. Only 3 of these 38 secondary typologies cover more than 10% of the county borough, woodland and scrub 18%, grassland 15% and farms 34%. The identification of these secondary typologies concludes the first stage of the Strategy.

Having identified the above typologies, the GI Strategy moves on to consider four further stages, outlined below, which are the dynamic components of the Strategy.

- Stage 2 – score functions for importance: This is the relative importance of each function to CCBC. These numerical scores, ranging 1 - 5 reflect the policy context with those delivering national policy scoring highest, a score of 5 and those of little importance a score of 1.
- Stage 3 - score secondary typologies for their performance of function: This scores each secondary typology according to the extent to which it provides each function.
- Stage 4 - review of value scores: The value of each secondary typology considering the importance of provision and function.

- Stage 5 - review need for enhancement scores: The need for enhancement of each secondary typology considering the importance of function.
- 5.9 Once these scorings are complete they are transferred on to the base map of the county borough to provide the mapping of the relative importance of each parcel of land. This can then be used as the planning basis for a range of both policy and strategy formulation and implementation initiatives, allowing specific prioritisation and targeting as will the identify opportunities where the restoration, maintenance, creation or connection of green features and functions would deliver the most significant benefits. Key principles are applicable to new development as well as existing green areas and how this adds value to the place making process.
- 5.10 Coronavirus has had a terrible impact on our country. The benefits of green space on our mental and physical health have become more apparent during the enforced period of change to our daily lives brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. The public has turned to green spaces to walk, run and to meet and appreciation of nature soared under lockdown. Reflecting on this reconnection with the landscape around her, Clare Pillman, Chief Executive of NRW said that she had taken the opportunity “To reacquaint myself with every nook and cranny of the place I call home in north Wales. To observe the small miracles of nature on my daily walk and to share those with others on the phone”
- 5.11 The current reduction in mowing frequencies, as a result of coronavirus restrictions, provides the opportunity to introduce a phased implementation of this regime as a new corporately driven approach to grass cutting so as to illustrate the environmental benefits that green space offers. Feedback from the public, particularly with regard to reduced highway verge cutting has been overwhelmingly positive. This cutting season has been identified as an ideal opportunity to deliver differently operations/frequencies as a trialled approach to gauge public perceptions against traditional expectations and we ask members to be mindful of this. The trial needs to be rigid in order to collect and scrutinise valid public views and ecological data. In this regard, it is suggested that the service liaises with all local members over the winter period to agree some areas for inclusion in the trial. Once the outcome of this trial is known then a more detailed programme for future mowing can be prepared. A full report on trial areas for a revised mowing regime will be presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet Members for consideration and approval prior to the 2021/22 grass cutting season. Once the trial is evaluated a revised cutting regime can then be included in the overall Strategy once approved.
- 5.12 The second element of the GI Strategy is a 5 year integrated action plan that identifies the initiatives that should be undertaken in that period. This programme of works is flexible and based on a similar format to that used in the existing Countryside Strategy and would be subject to annual review. The development of the integrated action plans will be undertaken in house as it allows the authority to be flexible in the determination of priorities and utilises the expert knowledge of staff. A template is included within the GI Strategy.
- 5.13 It is further anticipated that the Strategy will be of significant benefit in terms of the ability to attract grant support as organisations. For example, NRW are increasingly requiring a considered and co-ordinated justification for their support.
- 5.14 The integrated action plan allows for the identification of specific schemes within the context of this strategic direction both within the County borough and regionally. The

wider role of partners will be key for the promotion and implementation of the strategy. This goes beyond the Public Services Board and includes wider non-statutory and community groups.

Conclusion

- 5.15 In summary the GI Strategy will be of benefit in identifying existing GI assets that should be protected, restored or enhanced. It should assist in the creation of new GI, in particular within the urban edge where there is considerable pressure on the resource. The linking of GI assets provides the means to optimise use of resources both at the regional and local level.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The following Council plans and policies are relevant to the Local Development Plan:

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

As the GI Strategy is based around the wider environment and has numerous potential uses, it has both direct and indirect implications for each of the 6 Corporate Plan Objectives:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

The GI Strategy can assist in providing a more robust framework for decision making and has a role in education particularly the wide range of opportunities green space offers in terms of its usage and as a direct tool for learning. Such opportunities include:-

- Tackling poverty.
- Providing economic conditions to encourage economic growth and skills development.
- Assist in the delivery of the City Deal.
- Providing the learning resource required to promote education and learning.

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

The GI Strategy will help identify appropriate land to facilitate the development of new employment. Further to this it will help retain or create the quality landscape and environmental services required by employers and employees.

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

The GI Strategy will help secure sustainability through both the quality of residential development and the surrounding GI required to adequately support such development.

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

Green corridors and connectivity are identified as key components for both biodiversity and humans and the targeted development of these promotes sustainable transport and protection of the environment. Secondary economic benefits should occur as a result.

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

The GI Strategy sets out the local framework that will facilitate the creation of healthier places, providing opportunities to create environments that engender healthy lifestyles and mitigate a range of environmental concerns.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

Coupled to the above objective, the improvement in residents' physical and mental health will promote independent living and improved quality of life is of significant benefit to well-being.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The GI Strategy seeks to promote the better use of natural resources and in particular those associated with green spaces. These will have significant benefits at both the local and wider geographic and considers ecosystems as a whole. It assists in guiding how and where sustainable development can be delivered as well as providing more direct and targeting of practical land management. It is a cross cutting strategy allowing the assessment of a broad range of issues and provides the tool to analyse competing outputs and potential outcomes. It will assist in meeting all seven well-being goals identified below:-

- 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

The GI Strategy is particularly pertinent in terms of helping create a more resilient Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities and a globally responsible Wales.

8.2 The five ways of working are integral to the preparation and implementation of the GI Strategy and are demonstrated by being:-

- Long Term – The preparation of the GI Strategy is about planning for the

future in a sustainable way. Whilst it is typical for a 15 year plan period it is anticipated, given the long term nature of environmental matters that a longer period has been planned for as the Strategy can be updated frequently. The principles remain relevant.

- Prevention – plan preparation is built on a robust evidence base which considers key issues and how to respond to them in a manner that prevents any issues deteriorating and seeks to address key land management and land use matters.
- Integration – the preparation of GI Strategy has identified the issues of importance with regard to GI within CCBC through partnership working with a range of other bodies and individuals. The Strategy has also been prepared in the context of work being done by Natural Resources Wales and by neighbouring authorities and assists conformity. This should have an added benefit in maximising the resources available for the future implementation of elements of the Strategy.
- Collaboration – the preparation of the GI Strategy will require collaboration reflecting the land use priorities of multiple Council departments and Public Services Board partners, as well as external stakeholders both within and adjacent to the County borough.
- Involvement – both during the preparation of the GI Strategy and any subsequent implementation there has been and will be on going engagement with those that will help deliver. A series of workshops have been held as part of the strategy development process. These will range from interest groups, residents and stakeholders to potential developers.

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 There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report per se. There are however potential implications with regard to implementation of some land management elements which would vary from individual action to individual action, some possibly incurring costs whilst others save. The more significant of these e.g grass cutting regimes would be subject to further reports and approvals.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 This report includes the views of the listed consultees.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Planning Policy Wales (10) requires Planning authorities to develop an integrated map-based evidence resource through the preparation of a GI Assessment.

Author: Philip Griffiths – Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager

Consultees: Cllr D. Tudor Davies, Chair Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny
Cllr Adrian Hussey, Vice Chair Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny
Cllr Nigel George, Cabinet Member for Environment and Neighbourhood Services
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director, Communities
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services
Mike Headington, Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Dave Lucas, Team Leader, Strategic and Development Plans
Jonathan Davies, Parks and Countryside Operations Manager
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services

Background Papers:

Those referenced in the report – Area Statement, Planning Policy Wales

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

VOLUME 1 - STRATEGY

APRIL 2020

APPENDIX 1



Caerphilly County Borough Council Green Infrastructure Strategy

Volume 1 - Strategy

Caerphilly County Borough Council

April 2020

TACP
10 PARK GROVE
CARDIFF
CF10 3BN

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GLOSSARY

Term	Description
Assets	<i>Assets include the natural elements which provide social, economic and environmental benefit. They can be specific sites or broader environmental features within and between urban and rural areas.</i>
Benefits	<p><i>Whereas GI Functions refer to specific uses of land, benefits refer to the wider, less tangible contributions to people and nature arising from GI. For example, a green travel route might have a Primary Function of Access but can deliver a number of wider benefits such as Health and Wellbeing, Tourism, Education and Biodiversity.</i></p> <p><i>Benefits are identified as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate Change Adaptation • Economic Growth and Investment • Education • Flood Alleviation • Health and Wellbeing • Heritage and Cultural Assets • Quality of Place • Sense of Place • Tourism
Blue Infrastructure	<i>A combination of ditches, ponds, lakes, rivers, canals and streams which can both complement and support GI.</i>
Connectivity	<i>Connectivity between different GI will help maximise the Benefits that they can generate. The Connectivity can be visual or notional; however physical connections make the most impact. This Connectivity can help to enhance public engagement with the natural environment, improve opportunities for biodiversity movement and encourage more sustainable forms of travel.</i>
Ecosystem Services	<i>Underpinning the multiple Functions that GI performs is the concept of Ecosystem Services. These are the Benefits provided by GI that contribute to making life possible and worth living. Health and wellbeing depend on the range of services provided by ecosystems and their constituent parts: water, soils, nutrients, and organism.</i>
Functions	<i>Functions are the roles that GI plays or can play if planned, designed and managed in a way that is sensitive to and includes provision for natural features and systems.</i>
Multi-Function	<i>Is central to the GI approach to land use planning. Where land performs a range of Functions it affords a far greater range of social, environmental and economic Benefits than might otherwise be delivered.</i>
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	<i>Sustainable Drainage Systems are an approach to managing rainfall and run off in developments with a view to replicating natural drainage. SuDS also aim to control pollution, recharge ground water, control flooding and often provide landscape and environmental enhancement.</i>
Typology	<i>A Typology is the Primary or Secondary description/purpose of GI such as 'Amenity Greenspace' or 'Parks and Gardens'.</i>

1 INTRODUCTION

TACP (UK) Ltd was appointed by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) in April 2018 to prepare a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy (hereafter referred to as the 'Strategy') for its administrative area. The Strategy has been prepared in two volumes:

- **Volume 1 – Strategy:** (this report) introduces GI, identifies where it is present across CCBC and details a Strategy for its enhancement and development.
- **Volume 2 – Green Infrastructure Maps:** maps showing Primary and Secondary Typology, Provision of Function, Value and Need for Enhancement for 18 settlements across CCBC

An Executive Summary of Volume 1 has also been prepared as a standalone document.

1.1 What is Green Infrastructure?

For the purposes of this Strategy, the following definition from Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10 has been used (Welsh Government, 2018):

Green Infrastructure (GI) is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places.

Component elements of GI can function at different scales. For instance, at a landscape scale GI can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways and forests. It also helps with establishing ecosystem resilience and is an important link with the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Area Statements on the condition of the environment. At a more local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, Public Rights of Way (PRoW), allotments and cemeteries. Small scale individual elements such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs all contribute to GI networks.

A key feature of GI is its Multi-Functional character and the capacity to provide several Functions at the same time thus offering multiple benefits for social, economic as well as environmental resilience. These results give benefits to wellbeing, including flood management, water purification, improved air quality, reduced noise pollution, and local climate moderation, climate change and food production. These benefits are particularly important in urban areas where they can facilitate health and wellbeing-related elements of open space, cleaner air and improved tranquillity as well as creating a sense of place and improved social cohesion. GI also provides a means of addressing the pressures on the environment exemplified by the urban-rural fringe

Wales has long championed the benefits of GI to both enhancing and managing the quality of the environment. This is clearly illustrated by the outputs from the Landscapes Working for Wales programme in the 1990s which set out proposals for landscape development and management to help raise awareness of the issues on a local authority basis. In a contemporary context the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a strong driver for the delivery of Multi-Functional GI. Its provision can make a significant contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. Thus, GI is an important tool for local authorities to deliver their Section 6 duty under the Act.

1.2 Strategy Scope and Process

The Caerphilly GI Strategy is a replacement to the Countryside Strategy which was produced and adopted by CCBC in 1998. This was updated in 2010, although the update was not formally adopted by CCBC. In addition, in 2014 CCBC's ecologist mapped green corridors and opportunity areas to feed into a biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance document in support of the Local Development Plan. Again, this was not formally adopted, and it remains in a draft format.

The scope of this Strategy is much broader in its outlook and includes elements of GI such as:

- Parks and Gardens – urban, country and regional parks and formal gardens
- Amenity Greenspace – informal recreation spaces, housing green spaces, domestic gardens, village greens, urban commons and other incidental space
- Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces – woodland, scrub, grassland, heath and moor, wetlands, open and running water, bare rock habitats, quarries, and derelict land
- Green Corridors – rivers and canals including their banks, road and rail corridors, hedgerows, cycling routes, pedestrian paths and public rights of way
- Other – allotments, community gardens, farms, cemeteries, churchyards, sports clubs and recreation grounds, institutional spaces and green roofs.

The development of the Strategy took the form of a literature review supported by a CCBC workshop and presentation to the Public Service Board (PSB) (See Appendix A). The literature review was important to obtaining a clear understanding as to what GI entails and how it can enhance other work programmes. The workshops ensured that the key drivers for these organisations as well as where barriers to implementing GI exist were integrated into the Strategy. This has been an important part of the Strategy's development and through the process has allowed people to buy into the concept. In doing so it has ensured that the Strategy elements have been taken on board and integrated into the departmental and organisation work programmes.

The Strategy identifies the Functions delivered by, and Typologies of, GI and how these have been developed. It also ensures that the data used to define GI are easy-to-update and readily obtained at little or no cost to CCBC. This will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy throughout its proposed 20-year programme. Importantly it provides a mechanism for adding value to the different Typologies, thus allowing CCBC to measure how successful they have been in implementing GI.

1.3 Strategy Vision

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 is reflected in the suggested vision for the Strategy as follows:

Caerphilly will be a green and healthy place to live with an established, multi-functional green infrastructure of high-quality spaces interlinked by a network of corridors that benefit both people and nature.

1.4 Strategy Aims

The strategy aims to deliver the following in order to achieve its vision:

The planning and management of the green infrastructure network is based upon sustainable principles that reflect the diversity of the County Borough's landscape, heritage and biodiversity resource, all working within a thriving economy. These will ensure resilience is built into the strategy which will assist in tackling climate change.

Caerphilly's green infrastructure provides enjoyment, relaxation, inspiration and wellbeing for local people and visitors. This enhances a distinct local identity and resulting sense of place and an expression of the cultural heritage of the area.

1.5 Strategy Objectives

The study brief outlined the following key objectives:

1. A Vision for the GI Strategy should be developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and this should be shared by politicians, council officers, key partners and communities in order to generate widespread support and understanding and the full role and function of green spaces throughout the County Borough. Important in achieving this objective is the appreciation of the role and function of the Public Service Board (PSB) which has been established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015). These will be key players in resource allocation for the future and important to the development of GI.
2. The Strategy should identify key strategic opportunities where the restoration, maintenance, creation or connection of GI would deliver the most significant benefits.
3. Identify and prioritise GI within CCBC as well as within the national and regional context.
4. Identify clear and practicable mechanisms for delivery with clearly measured targets and outcomes.
5. Develop a comprehensive policy framework for the protection, accessibility and use of GI. The framework should include policies that shape future planning, design, management and maintenance of GI.
6. Set out key principles that will guide the provision of green infrastructure to ensure it is embedded into the design of new development and adds value to the place making process.
7. Act as a basis for a five-year rolling delivery and action plan by establishing local and regional delivery priorities.
8. Provide the foundation and a supporting document for the future preparation and submission of grant bids by CBC to relevant funding bodies and organisations.

1.6 How to Use the Strategy

This document sets out the Strategy and provides a CCBC-wide framework against which programmes, and projects can be developed but it does not include detailed GI Action Plans. It is important that the user fully understands the concept of Green Infrastructure and therefore must understand:

- The policy framework (see section 2) in which the Strategy sits as it will underpin any programmes developed by CCBC. The policies set out the programme of actions for each CCBC department as well as those for outside stakeholders such as NRW.
- The importance of the Public Service Boards (PSBs) in allocating resources to support work programmes throughout CCBC.
- What the Functions (see section 3.1) of GI are and how they contribute to valuing GI within the CCBC.
- The relationship of one scheme against others within CCBC so that outputs can be set against the Multi-Functional actions coming from the Strategy. Likewise multiple Benefits will accrue from a broad GI approach.
- The need for projects to have a set of tools that enables success or failure to be measured.

2 POLICY FRAMEWORK

The implementation of GI operates within a national, regional and local level policy framework. The inter-relationship of the policies and strategies is illustrated on Figure 1. All contribute to GI in a variety of ways. Of particular relevance are the following:

2.1.1 National Policy

2.1.1.1 *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*

This set out a number of factors affecting the long-term management of the environment. Of importance to the development of GI is the requirement of section 6 of the Act known as the biodiversity duty. Section 6 requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems. To follow the section 6 duty, public authorities should seek to embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early planning of policies, plans and programmes, as well as their day-to-day activities. By its nature this requirement is a key driver to the development of GI.

2.1.1.2 *Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)*

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA) requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

To ensure all parties are working towards the same purpose the act describes seven wellbeing goals. The Act makes it clear that the forty-four listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two. The Act defines sustainable development in Wales as “*the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the seven wellbeing goals.*” which are a Wales that is:

A Prosperous Wales



an innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resource efficiently and proportionately and develops a skilled and well-educated population.

A Resilient Wales



a nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience.

A More Equal Wales

a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

A Healthier Wales

a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

attractive, viable, safe and well-connected.

A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sport and recreation.

A Globally Responsible Wales

a nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

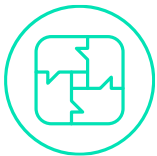
To achieve this, it sets out five ways of working needed for public bodies to achieve the seven wellbeing goals. These are as follows:

Long-term



the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs.

Integration



considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Involvement



the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Collaboration



acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Prevention



how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

This approach is seen as providing opportunities for innovative thinking to meet these ends.

An important feature of the Act is the establishment of PSBs in each local authority area which will form the approach to implementing programmes including GI. In CCBC the environment has been identified as a key feature of the operation of the Board.

2.1.1.3 *Planning Policy Wales, Edition 10*

This version of the policy guidance was introduced during the preparation of the Strategy. Importantly, the document makes specific reference to GI (paragraphs 5.65 to 5.75) and places it at the core of planning policy, thus raising the need to address GI within the statutory planning process. The guidance also covers place making which is a central premise of the GI process.

2.1.1.4 *National Development Framework*

This emerging draft guidance mandates local authorities to deliver a GI strategy and further strengthens the role of GI. At a strategic level, it sets out to address a series of issues including prosperity, wellbeing, economy, housing, transport, energy and environment. It is due to be published in September 2020 and covers the period up to 2040 and will include 5 yearly reviews.

2.1.1.5 *Technical Advice Notes (TAN)*

A series of notes that provide advice on specific subjects which should be read alongside Planning Policy Wales. With regard to GI, the following are relevant:

- **TAN 5 (2009) Nature Conservation** - gives advice on how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation.
- **TAN 10 (2017) Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)** – sets out the scope of TPOs from single tree to woodlands. It is supported by the definition of the need for such orders together with making and confirming them.
- **TAN 12 (2016) Design** – gives advice on how the planning system addresses good design.
- **TAN 16 (2009) Sport, Recreation and Open Space** – outlines how planning incorporates sports, recreation and open space needs into development plans and in dealing with planning applications.

2.1.1.6 *Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013*

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (ATWA) requires each local authority to develop an Active Travel Plan (CCBC published theirs in 2016). This will have an influence on active travel in CCBC, in particular cycling and walking infrastructure which provide opportunities for the development of GI. CCBC's Active Travel Plan offers the potential to develop wider green corridors particularly in rural area such as Caerphilly.

2.1.1.7 *Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010*

Schedule 3 of the Act requires that surface water drainage for new developments comply with mandatory national standards for SuDS. It requires that proposals are agreed with and approved by a SuDS Approval Body (SAB) before construction with drainage implications begins. This will be managed by the local authority which also has the power to adopt and maintain the water drainage systems according to Section 17 of Schedule 3. The powers come into force on 7th January 2019 and the process runs in parallel with the requirements for planning consent.

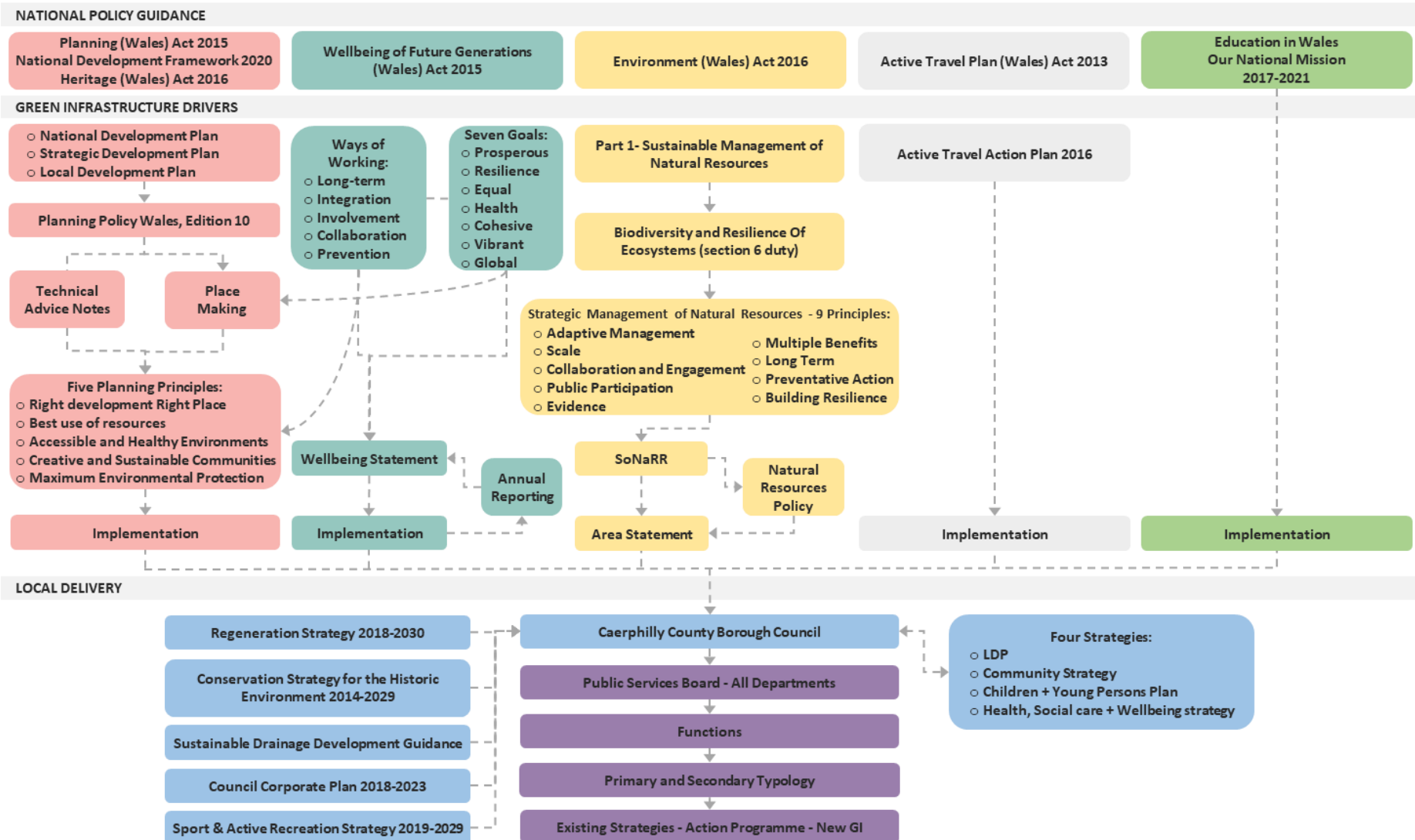


Figure 1 - Green Infrastructure Policy Framework

2.1.2 Regional Policy

2.1.2.1 *Gwent Green Grid*

The Gwent Green Grid (3G) is a regional approach to developing and implementing GI covering the former Gwent councils of:

- Newport City Council
- Monmouthshire County Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

It is seen as a model for GI in Wales by focusing PSB fund allocations and building a network of GI in terms of connectivity, ecosystem services and resilience. It builds on work previously carried out on pollinator resources and upland natural resource management.

2.1.3 Local Policy

There are a number of County Borough Council plans and strategies which are relevant to GI implementation:

2.1.3.1 *Council Corporate Plan (2018-2023)*

The primary policy document is the Council Corporate Plan (2018-2023) which sets out what CCBC is aiming to deliver and how this should be achieved. The plan identifies a number of wellbeing objectives. Of these, Objective 5 is relevant; this seeks to achieve a healthy community within the context of the sustainability principles as set out in the WFGA. Particular reference is made to the role that GI will play in meeting this objective.

2.1.3.2 *Local Development Plan*

The existing and emerging Local Development Plans (LDP) sets the development framework for CCBC. It is important for the development of GI that a strong policy structure is contained within the Local Development Plan, which is supported with Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) as required.

2.1.3.3 *The Sports and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029*

A key part of the strategy is the role of the outdoor environment for activity. This will influence the priority of development of GI.

2.1.3.4 *The Regeneration Strategy 2018-2023*

Entitled “A Foundation for Success”, this sets out a framework for the future regeneration of CCBC for the next five years up to 2023. The strategy sets out priorities under four key themes:

- Supporting People
- Supporting Business
- Supporting Quality of Life
- Connecting People and Places

Of these, the Quality of Life theme is key in relation to GI. In this context “quality” is defined as a general perception of wellbeing of both communities and business within the area. It recognises that a variety of factors can affect this. Importantly it notes that to improve quality of life, the physical and natural environment requires improvement and maintenance. Seven main objectives support quality of life and of these, the two that are most relevant to GI are:

- Manage the natural heritage and its resources appropriately for future generations, whilst accommodating much needed sustainable development, protecting wildlife and encouraging the use of green spaces to promote wellbeing
- Improve access to culture, leisure and the arts.

A number of key priorities support these, each with an associated action programme. These in turn seek to:

- Balance the need for development and the protection of the landscape.
- Balance the need for development and protection of GI.
- Maximise the economic values of country parks.

All of these criteria support the concept, development and implementation of a GI Strategy and these are recognised within the action programmes.

2.1.3.5 *Countryside Strategy*

This was originally produced in 1998 as a response to the Local Agenda 21 process. The strategy was updated but not formally adopted by CCBC in 2010. The scope of actions within the strategy form the basis for developing and promoting the GI Strategy. It addressed a series of issues:

- Increase in demand for access into the countryside
- Growing awareness of environmental issues
- The economic pressures on agriculture and forestry
- The pressure to develop greenfield sites for housing and employment
- Continuing loss and degradation of habitat
- The lack of complete information on which to take decisions.

It sought to address these by:

- Working more closely with landowners and farmers
- Working within the development process to address development in the countryside
- Build up data to monitor change in terms of habitat loss and gain
- Build upon growing corporate and public awareness of environmental issues to turn appreciation into action

2.1.3.6 *Saving Landscapes of Caerphilly Strategy*

This focuses on the Caerphilly basin area in the southern part of the County Borough this strategy is structured on a series of landscape-based solutions to improve the environment and improve quality of life. A number of its efforts seek to address social issues affecting residential areas set within the landscape framework established by the backdrop of Caerphilly Mountain

3 EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

CCBC lies between Cardiff and Newport to the south and abuts the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) in the north (see Figure 2). It covers an area of approximately 280 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 181,000 (Office for National Statistics, 2019).

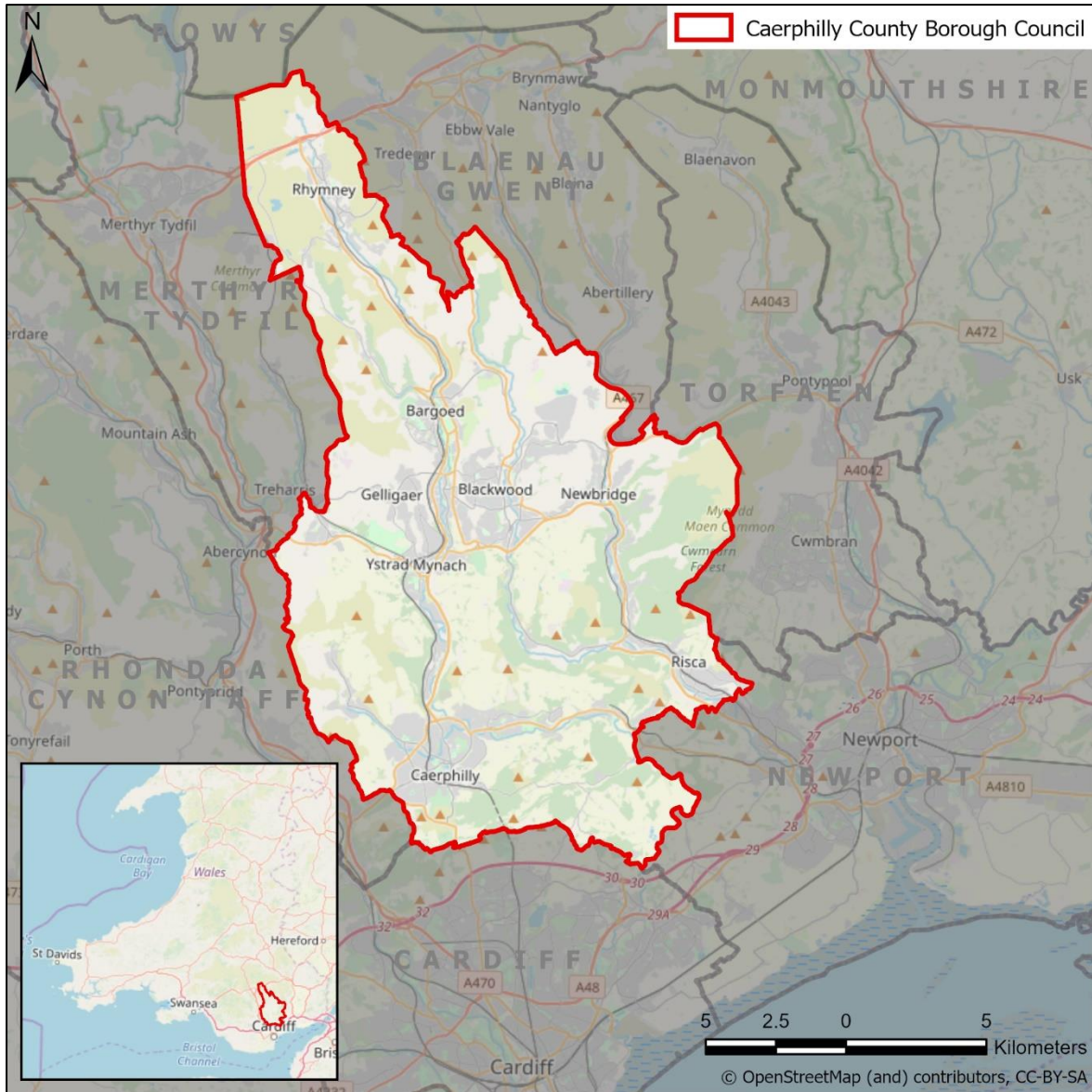


Figure 2 - CCBC's location in the context of South-east Wales

The landscape of CCBC is varied ranging from the upland moors of Pen March and the open commons of Gelligaer and Mynydd Maen in the north, to the dramatic steep sided valley sides of the Ebbw and Sirhowy and Rhymney Rivers which form the central core. To the south, it has a softer landscape typified by the traditional patchwork of agricultural fields of the Mynyddislwyn plateau and the mixed agricultural and woodland landscapes of Machen and Rudry.

The landscape's quality is reflected by its designation within the LDP of six Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and four areas of Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL). The biodiversity of the area is both rich and varied. The Aberbargoed Grasslands has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation

(SAC) under EU legislation in recognition of its international conservation value. There are ten Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Of these, five have been designated on geological value and interest and five on biological grounds. Underpinning these are a number of locally valuable sites. These include four Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and 190 Sites of Interest of Nature Conservation (SINC).

The rich heritage of the area is shown in the designation of 14 Conservation Areas and 365 Listed Buildings. In addition, there are 46 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and four Historic Parks and Gardens.

3.1 Functions of Green Infrastructure

The choice and number of Functions reflects the scale and extent of the Strategy. The Functions are derived from Natural England’s Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England, 2009), the three workshops held with CCBC staff, members and key external stakeholders and a review of other GI studies in Wales.

The outcome of measuring Functions includes benefits to the users and receivers of GI. The social and environmental benefits are well recognised however, of increasing importance are the wider economic benefits of GI. These were examined in a study published in 2008 as part of Natural England’s and the Northwest Regional Development Agency’s Natural Economy Northwest programme (Natural Economy Northwest, 2008). This programme looked at the increasing economic benefits of GI and how they underpin its application. These findings are further supported by the findings from the Greening of the Valleys project which have underpinned the emerging works for the Valley’s Regional Park currently being implemented by the Welsh Government (WG). It is considered they have a relevance to the situation in Caerphilly and provide a useful framework to support the wider implementation of GI. The functions are as follows:



Figure 3 - GI Functions



Biodiversity – this is a major function in GI strategies as it encompasses both the rural and urban resource and therefore underpins much of the action programme inputs and builds upon the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Key Benefits - Education, Health and Wellbeing, Quality of Place.



Access – access and movement are a key driver of the development of green corridors and is closely aligned to the public rights of way network and areas designated with the right to roam and relates to objectives of the Active Travel Act.

Key Benefits – Health and Wellbeing, Tourism, Education, Biodiversity.



Water Management – a key element in GI provision. Importantly in 2019 the application of more stringent standards to drainage design relating to development areas having the requirement to comply with mandatory national standards for sustainable drainage (SuDS). This will be a major boost to GI provision.

Key Benefits – Flood Alleviation, Climate Change Adaptation, Economic Growth and Investment, Health and Wellbeing, Biodiversity.



Tourism – seen as an increasingly important economic sector within the County Borough through the emphasis on its natural and heritage assets. Figures published in 2018 show 1.77 million visitors to the County Borough spending £128.95 million. They also showed that tourism supported 1559 Full Time Equivalent jobs.

Key Benefits – Economic Growth and Investment, Heritage and Cultural Assets.



Community – The engagement with the community in terms of understanding their aspirations and interests is key to the successful implementation of the GI strategy. It is important to clarify the gains against the perceived changes in the environment.

Key Benefits – Health and Wellbeing, Education, Quality of Place, Sense of Place.



Regeneration – the longer-term regeneration will facilitate the introduction of the GI Strategy. With positive regeneration comes greater opportunity to develop GI. The Regeneration Strategy 2018-2023 identifies the importance of greenspace and GI in achieving the strategy objectives as well as facilitating regeneration itself. This can build upon the positive efforts associated with the original WDA “Landscapes working for Wales” programme.

Key Benefits - Economic Growth and Investment, Quality of Place.



Health and Wellbeing – a key function for the implementation of GI given the introduction of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This sets out a series of objectives and ways of working to bring forward sustainable development

Key Benefits – Quality of Place, Economic Growth and Investment, Biodiversity, Health and Wellbeing.



Education – GI provides an important vehicle to ensure the community sees the gains from education, particularly using the GI resource. This will build upon the extensive effort with regard to greening schools and the resultant educational benefits

Key Benefits – Economic Growth and Investment, Quality of Place, Health and Wellbeing.



Landscape Amenity - addresses a wide range of GI assets and forms the backdrop to other GI actions as well as a distinct asset in its own right. The basis for this is included within the LANDMAP strategy and supporting designation of SLAs and VILLs.

Key Benefits – Quality of Place, Economic Growth and Investment, Health and Wellbeing

3.2 Mapping Green Infrastructure

In order to understand the extent of GI across CCBC, three datasets have been reviewed and combined. These each focus on GI from a slightly different perspective and combine to create a more comprehensive dataset for CCBC, both with regards to information and coverage. These include:

- 1. OpenStreetMap** – this is a citizen science project aiming to provide a comprehensive and open dataset similar to Google Maps and Bing Maps. It offers an excellent insight into what the people of CCBC are mapping and therefore are interested in. Whilst the coverage can be patchy, and the focus is not always on GI, information contained in several of the data's fields can be interpreted into GI Typologies
- 2. Ordnance Survey MasterMap** – this is the UK's most authoritative mapping data which is used regularly in planning and design work. It contains information relating to land use which can be interpreted into GI Typologies.
- 3. Ordnance Survey Green Space** – derived from Ordnance Survey MasterMap, this open data (also available with more information through the Public Sector Mapping Agreement) contains more specific information relating to GI with a coverage predominately confined to urban areas.

The datasets are combined in the order presented above, with each replacing any data beneath them (the method is detailed in Appendix B).

Figure 4 demonstrates the combined dataset and therefore, GI across CCBC. It is symbolised according to original dataset from which information has been sourced. The Ordnance Survey MasterMap data provides the original data for the majority of CCBC however, the Ordnance Survey Green Space data provides an important level of detail in the more urban environments. Where there is OpenStreetMap data, it fills small gaps in the Ordnance Survey MasterMap and Green Space data.

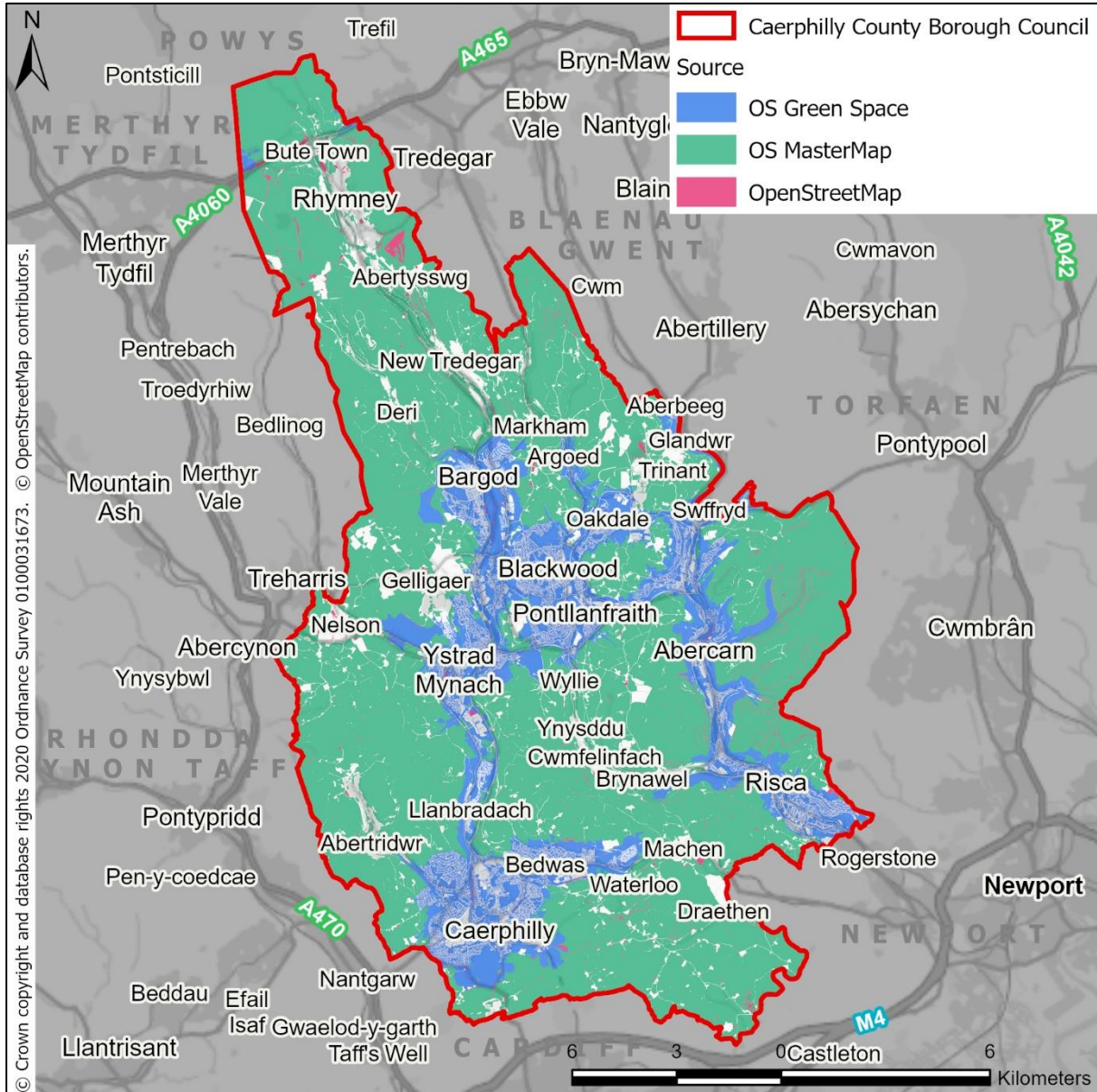


Figure 4 - GI across CCBC - the results of combining OpenStreetMap, Ordnance Survey MasterMap and Ordnance Survey Green Space data

3.3 Green Infrastructure Typologies

Figure 1 demonstrates the extent of GI across CCBC. However, it does not explain the types of GI and therefore, it is necessary to define the Typology of GI. This definition is based on landscape type as opposed to landscape designation. Landscape designations are better used to define the management of landscape types.






With careful consideration of CCBC's unique character, a series of Primary and Secondary Typologies have been defined in accordance with:

- the scope of the Strategy (see section 0);
- Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (Natural England, 2009); and,
- Feedback received at the CCBC GI workshop (see Appendix A).

The Primary Typology provides a broad classification of landscape type, which is useful for high level strategic planning. However, with over 88% of CCBC identified as GI (see Table 2), the Secondary Typology is important in providing a finer grained review of the landscape type and offering specific direction to actions plans.

The Primary and Secondary Typologies are as follows:

Table 1 - GI Primary and Secondary Typologies

PRIMARY TYPOLOGY	Parks and Gardens	Amenity Greenspace	Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	Green Corridors	Other
SECONDARY TYPOLOGY	 <p><i>Country and regional parks</i> <i>Formal gardens</i> <i>Urban parks</i></p>	 <p><i>Domestic gardens</i> <i>Housing green spaces</i> <i>Informal recreation spaces</i> <i>Other incidental space</i> <i>Play space</i> <i>Urban commons</i> <i>Village greens</i></p>	 <p><i>Bare rock habitats</i> <i>Beach</i> <i>Grassland</i> <i>Heath or moor</i> <i>Meadow</i> <i>Nature reserves</i> <i>Open and running water</i> <i>Other</i> <i>Rural commons</i> <i>Wetlands</i> <i>Woodland and scrub</i></p>	 <p><i>Cycling routes</i> <i>Hedgerows</i> <i>Other</i> <i>Pedestrian paths</i> <i>Rights of way</i> <i>Rivers and canals including their banks</i> <i>Road and rail corridors</i></p>	 <p><i>Allotments</i> <i>Camping/ caravan parks</i> <i>Cemeteries and churchyards</i> <i>Community gardens</i> <i>Farms</i> <i>Golf course</i> <i>Institutional</i> <i>Orchard</i> <i>Other</i> <i>Public/civic space</i></p>

After reviewing the values in the combined dataset for CCBC (as discussed in Section 3.2) the Primary and Secondary Typologies have been applied and mapped. Figure 5 demonstrates the Primary Typologies for Ystrad Mynach (maps for other settlements in CCBC are included in Volume 2). Clearly illustrated by the amount of land identified by the 'other' Primary Typology, it is immediately apparent that these are broad-brush.

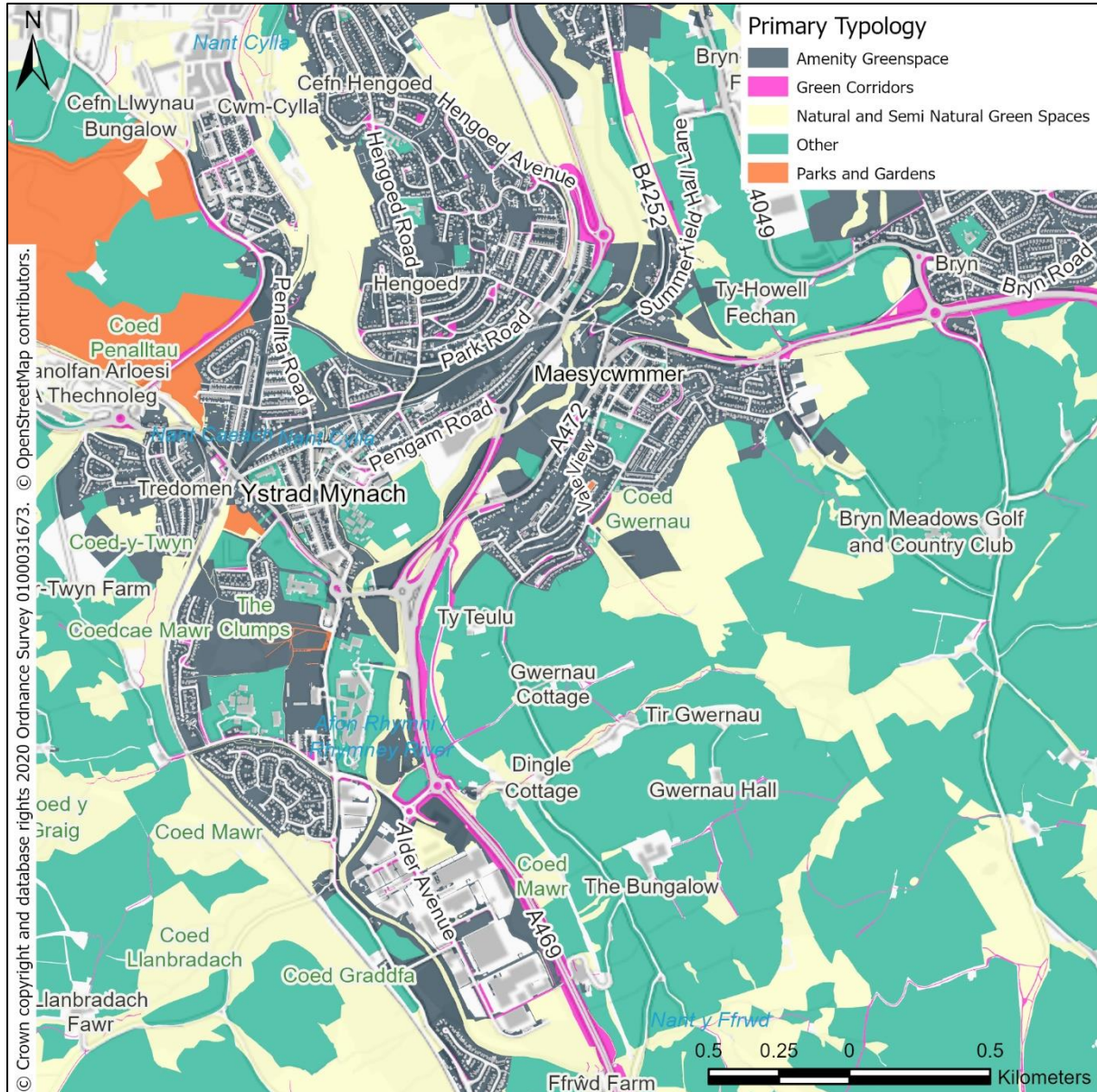


Figure 5 - GI Primary Typologies for Ystrad Mynach

By mapping the more detailed Secondary Typology, greater information is available to planners developing action plans. Figure 6 shows the potential insight offered by using the Secondary Typologies.

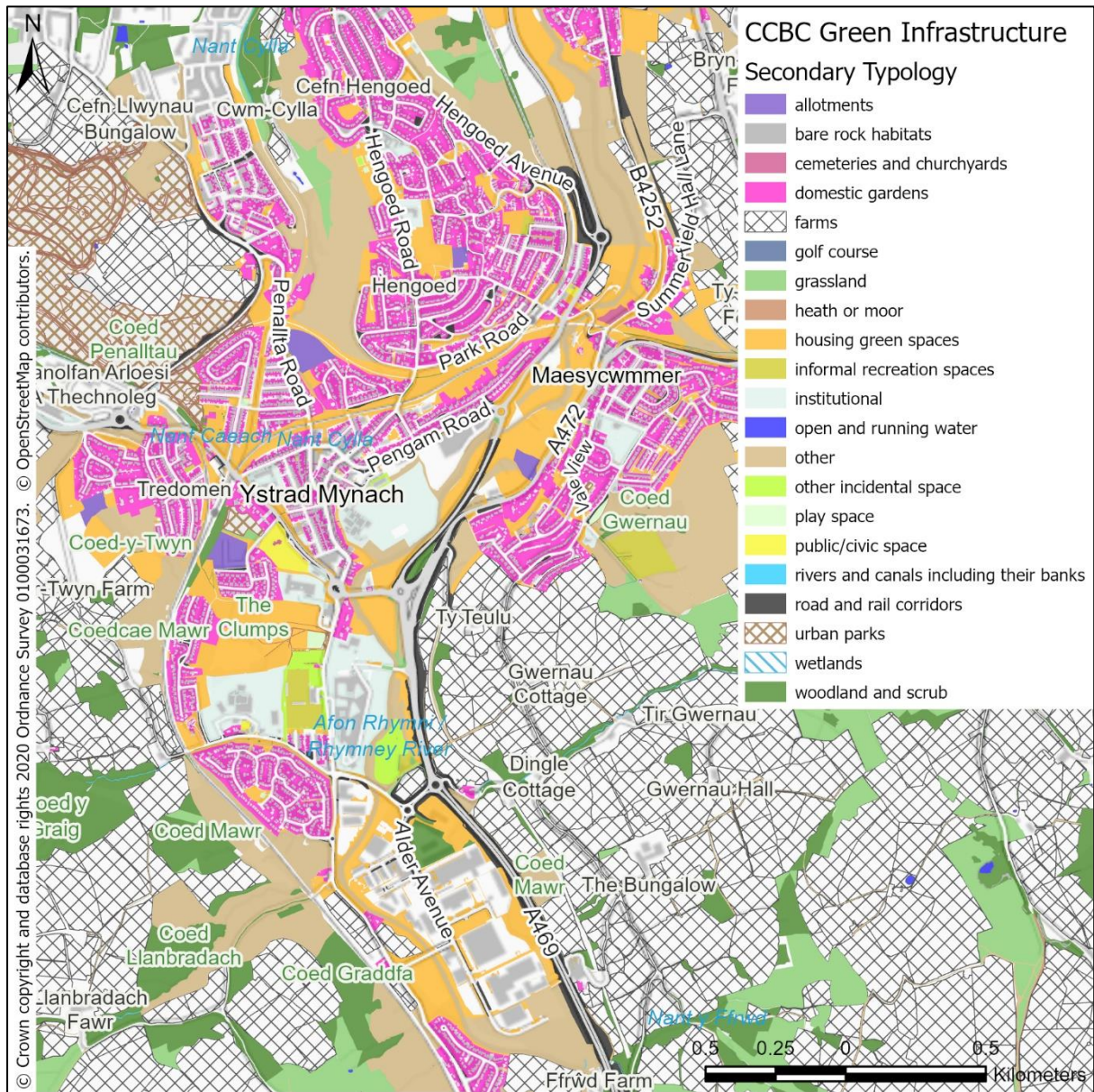


Figure 6 - GI Secondary Typologies for Ystrad Mynach

Table 2 details the proportion of CCBC covered by each of the Primary and Secondary Typologies.

Table 2 – GI Primary and Secondary Typologies and % of CCBC they cover

Primary Typology	Proportion of CCBC	Secondary Typology	Proportion of CCBC
Amenity Greenspace	9%	domestic gardens	4%
		housing green spaces	4%
		informal recreation spaces	0.4%
		other incidental space	0.2%
		play space	0.01%
Green Corridors	2%	other	1%
		rivers and canals including their banks	0.2%
		road and rail corridors	1%
Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces	39%	bare rock habitats	0.1%
		beach	0.0004%
		grassland	15%
		heath or moor	1%
		meadow	0.002%
		nature reserves	0.01%
		open and running water	0.3%
		other	5%
		rural commons	0.002%
		wetlands	0.3%
		woodland and scrub	18%
Other	37%	allotments	0.2%
		camping/caravan parks	0.003%
		cemeteries and churchyards	0.1%
		farms	34%
		golf course	1%
		institutional	1%
		orchard	0.003%
		other	1%
		public/civic space	0.1%
Parks and Gardens	2%	urban parks	2%
		TOTAL	88%

Where Secondary Typologies are not identified in CCBC – for example Country and regional parks - there could be a number of reasons (See Table 3 for a list of Secondary Typologies not identified in CCBC and an explanation why this is):

- a) the Secondary Typology does not exist in CCBC;
- b) the Secondary Typology relates more to a landscape designation and therefore, the landscape types are picked up by other Secondary Typologies (e.g. Sirhowy Valley Country Park contains a number of Secondary Typologies including bare rock habitats, farms, grassland, open and running water, rivers and canals including their banks and woodland and scrub); or,
- c) the combined datasets do not contain the detail required to map this Secondary Typology and the landscape type is therefore, picked up by another Secondary Typology or ‘other’.

Table 3 - GI Primary and Secondary Typologies not present in CCBC

Primary Typology	Secondary Typology	Notes
Parks and Gardens	<i>Country and regional parks</i>	The Secondary Typology relates more to a landscape designation and therefore, the landscape types are picked up by other Secondary Typologies.
	<i>Formal gardens</i>	
Amenity Greenspace	<i>Urban commons</i>	The Secondary Typology does not exist in CCBC.
	<i>Village greens</i>	
Green Corridors	<i>Hedgerows</i>	The combined datasets do not contain the detail required to map this Secondary Typology and the landscape type is therefore, picked up by another Secondary Typology or ‘other’.
	<i>Cycling routes</i>	The Secondary Typology relates more to a landscape designation and therefore, the landscape types are picked up by other Secondary Typologies.
	<i>Rights of way</i>	
	<i>Pedestrian paths</i>	

Of particular interest is the variation in amount of each Primary/Secondary Typology across CCBC. It is apparent that housing green spaces and domestic gardens (~8 % of CCBC) offer great potential to take GI forward, especially where the land is in public ownership which should help to facilitate any works. In contrast the largest Secondary Typology is farms which covers 34.4 % of CCBC and should be seen as offering large scale opportunities. Although land ownership may be a barrier to GI development, this is where the Multi-Function nature of GI comes into play; an obvious approach would be to promote and extend public access, which will help to promote well-being and health benefits. This could be further developed through the consideration of focusing on woodland and scrub (18% cover) and grassland (14% cover) dependent upon ownership.

3.4 Assessment

The development of a combined dataset is useful in identifying the location and Typology of GI across CCBC. However, in order to better assess GI's Importance, Provision of Function, Value and Need for Enhancement, a method for scoring is required. The Secondary Typology level has been chosen for this purpose as the greater degree of detail it offers with regards to GI Typology is important considering the extent of GI across CCBC. It should be used at the strategic level to aid the process of developing action plans alongside local and specialist knowledge.

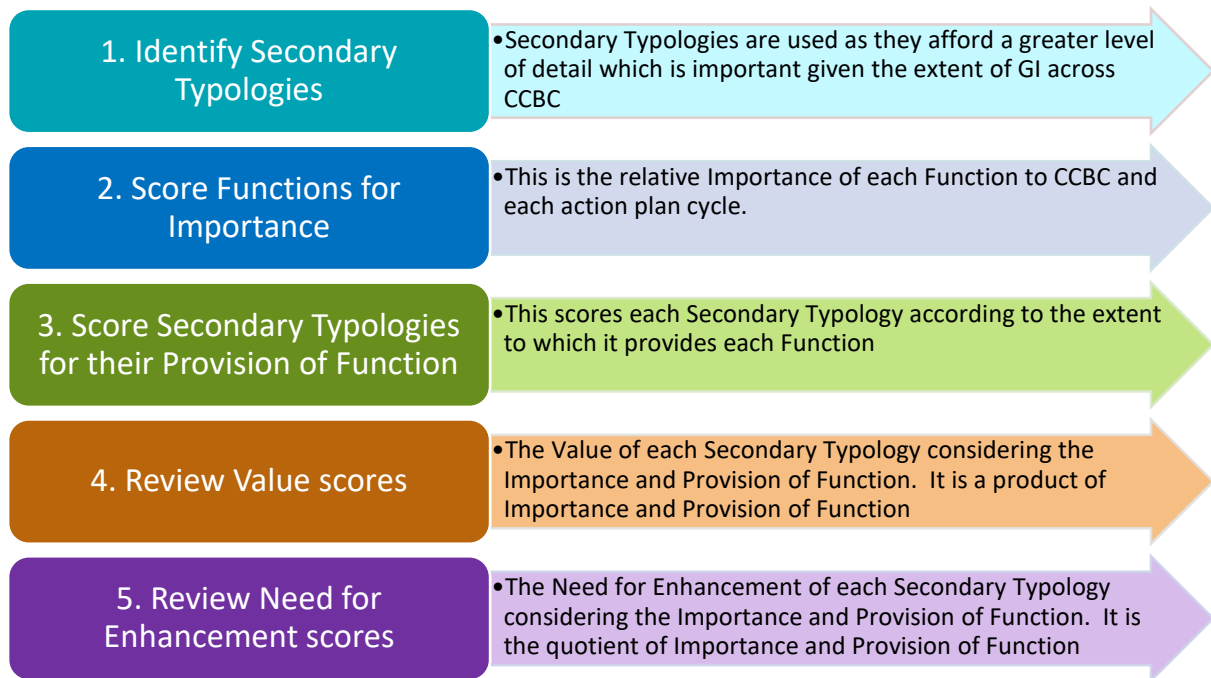
This scoring approach is mapped at the Multi-Function level and therefore is broad-brush. However, it is possible to map the scoring for specific functions (i.e. specifically biodiversity) and/or to develop settlement-specific scores if required. This provides a strategic map of GI across CCBC. By reviewing Provision of Function scores and updating them if necessary, success of the Strategy can be monitored and evaluated over time. It has been developed to facilitate the changing relative Importance of Functions over-time which can change depending on national, regional and local GI drivers.

Expanding on the definition of Function and Secondary Typology, the scoring method introduces the following additional terminology:

Table 4 - GI scoring terminology

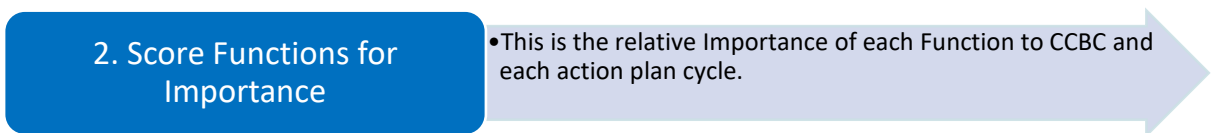
Term	Description
Importance	The relative importance of each Function to CCBC and each action plan cycle.
Provision of Function	To what extent each Secondary Typology provides each Function
Value	The Value of each Secondary Typology considering the Importance and Provision of Function. It is a product of Importance and Provision of Function
Need for Enhancement	The Need for Enhancement of each Secondary Typology considering the Importance and Provision of Function. It is the quotient of Importance and Provision of Function.

The following flow diagram lists the steps which should be followed to develop and apply the scores.



The process is outlined below and Ystrad Mynach has been used as an example to show how the process is applied to the County Borough. Additional example maps from across CCBC are included in Volume 2.

3.4.1 Importance



In order to accommodate changes to the relative Importance of Functions during the delivery of the GI Strategy, an Importance score is applied to each Function.










These changes might be led by a change in policy at national, regional or local level. Recent examples include the introduction of the ATWA and WFGA. The scores can be changed as required such as within plan cycles or changes in CCBC policy or objectives. The scores are defined as:

Table 5 - Definition of Importance scores

Importance	Numerical	Description
Very low	1	Relatively un-important compared to other Functions
Low	2	Integral to the delivery of non-statutory elements
Medium	3	Integral to the delivery of local policy
High	4	Integral to the delivery of regional policy
Very high	5	Integral to the delivery of national policy

Table 6 details the Importance scores which have been developed with CCBC. When reviewing these, local geographical and policy knowledge is required in order to ensure they are appropriate.

Table 6 - Importance scores

	Functions									
										
Importance	5	5	3	1	5	4	5	3	5	

3.4.2 Provision of Function

3. Score Secondary Typologies for their Provision of Function

• This scores each Secondary Typology according to the extent to which it provides each Function

In order to assess how each Secondary Typology achieves each Function, they are scored accordingly. The following scores should be applied to each Secondary Typology/Function, drawing on local and specialist knowledge:

Table 7 - Definition of Provision of Function scores

Provision of Function	Numerical	Description
Very low	1	Little or no GI resource available to the Function being assessed
Low	2	Poor GI resources available to the Function being assessed
Medium	3	Moderate GI resources available to the Function being assessed
High	4	Good GI resources available to the Function being assessed
Very high	5	Outstanding or excellent GI resources available to the Function being assessed

To demonstrate this process, a subset of Secondary Typologies and Provision of Function scores has been included in Table 8 below. For each Secondary Typology, a Multi-Function total is derived by totalling the individual Provision of Function scores. The higher the score, the greater the Provision of Function.

Table 8 – Subset of Provision of Function scores

	Functions									Σ
	Biodiversity	Access	Water Management	Tourism	Community Benefits	Regeneration	Health and Wellbeing	Education	Landscape Amenity	
Secondary typology	Provision of Function									
play space	1	1	1	1	5	3	5	3	2	22
heath or moor	5	4	5	3	3	2	3	3	5	33
farms	4	2	4	2	1	3	2	1	4	23

Figure 7 shows the Multi-Function total Provision of Function scores for Ystrad Mynach across all Secondary Typologies within its extent.

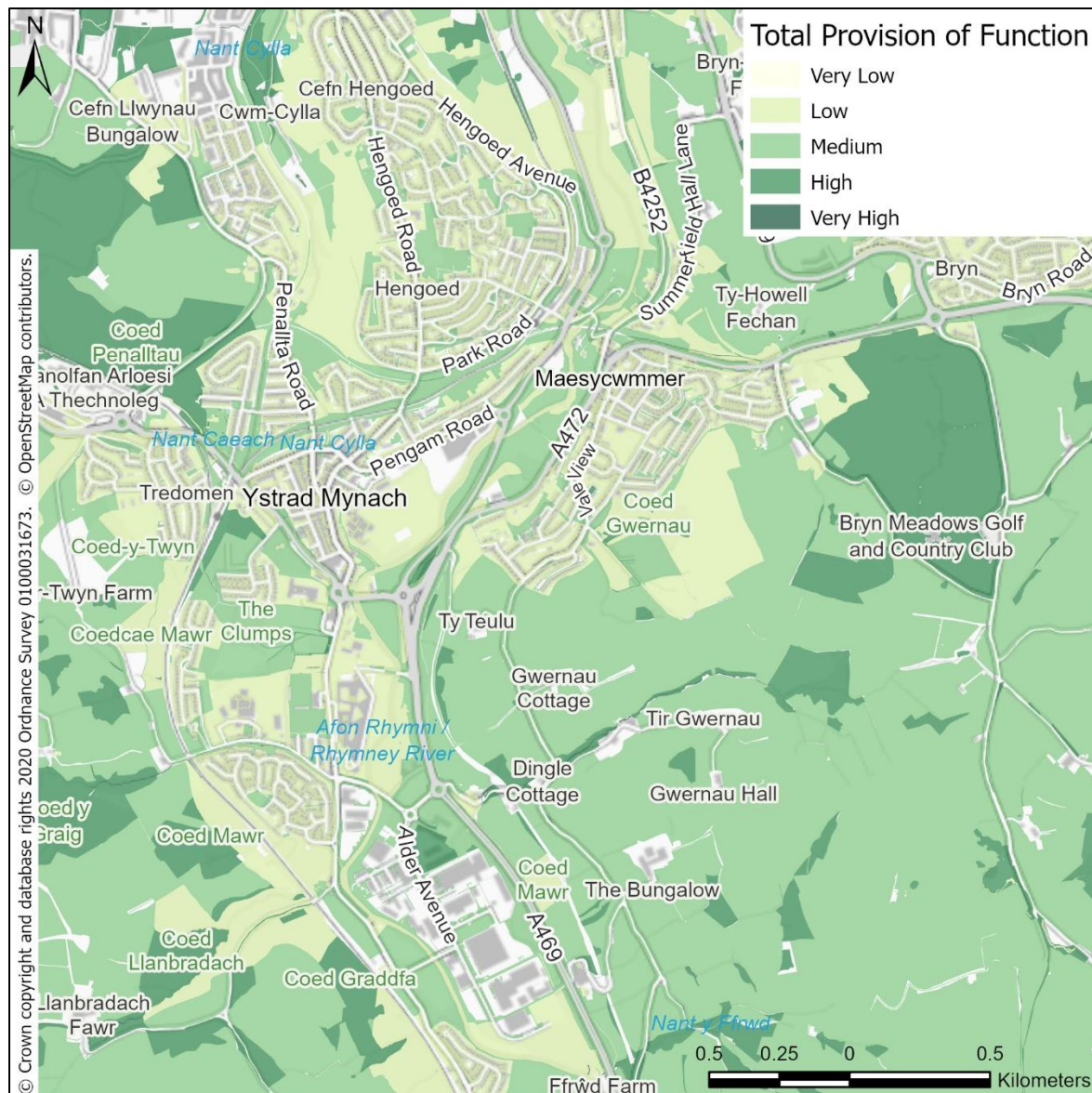


Figure 7 - Multi-Function total Provision of Function scores for Ystrad Mynach

3.4.3 Value

4. Review Value scores

- The Value of each Secondary Typology considering the Importance and Provision of Function. It is a product of Importance and Provision of Function

Value considers the relationship between Importance and Provision of Function. It works on the basis that a high level of Provision of Function and Importance to CCBC results in a more valuable element of GI. It is therefore, the product of Importance and Provision of Function:

$$Importance \times Provision\ of\ Function = Value$$

Using the same subset of Secondary Typologies, Table 9 below demonstrates this, along with Multi-Function totals derived by totalling the individual Value scores. The higher the score the greater the Value.

Table 9 - Example Value scores










	Functions										Σ
	 Biodiversity	 Access	 Water Management	 Tourism	 Community Benefits	 Regeneration	 Health and Wellbeing	 Education	 Landscape Amenity		
Importance	5	5	3	1	5	4	5	3	5		
Secondary typology	Value										
play space	5	5	3	1	25	12	25	9	10	95	
heath or moor	25	20	15	3	15	8	15	9	25	135	
farms	20	10	12	2	5	12	10	3	20	94	

Figure 8 shows the Multi-Function total Value scores for Ystrad Mynach across all Secondary Typologies within its extent.

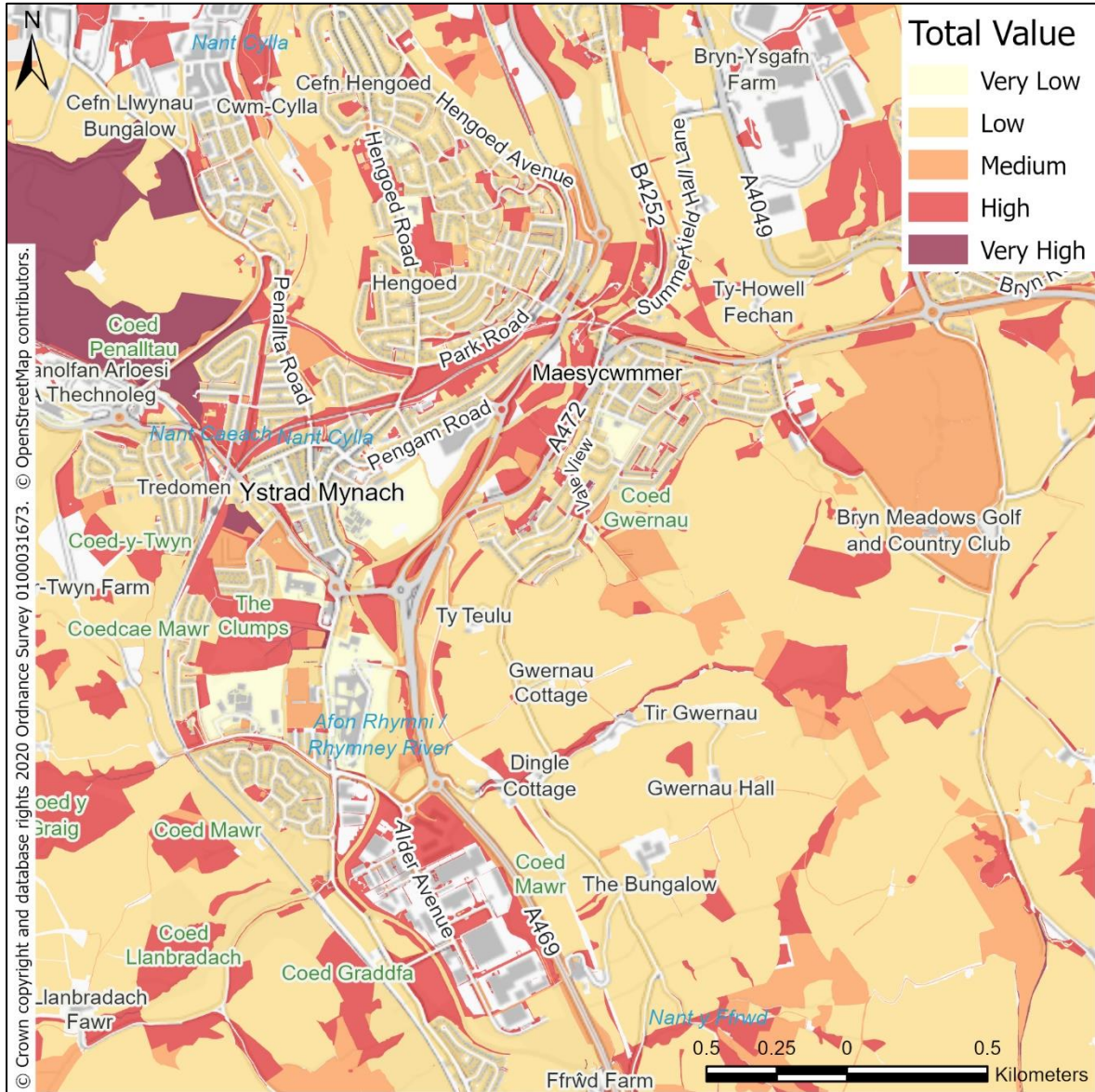


Figure 8 - Multi-Function total Value scores for Ystrad Mynach

3.4.4 Need for Enhancement

5. Review Need for Enhancement scores

- The Need for Enhancement of each Secondary Typology considering the Importance and Provision of Function. It is the quotient of Importance and Provision of Function

Need for Enhancement considers the inverse relationship between Importance and Provision of Function. It works on the basis that a low level of Provision of Function and high-level Importance to CCBC results in greater Need for Enhancement. It is therefore, the quotient of Importance and Provision of Function:

$$Importance \div Provision\ of\ Function = Need\ for\ Enhancement$$

Using the same subset of Secondary Typologies, Table 10 below demonstrates this, along with Multi-Function totals derived by totalling the individual Need for Enhancement scores. The higher the score, the greater the Need for Enhancement.

Table 10 - Example Need for Enhancement scores










	Functions										
	 Biodiversity	 Access	 Water Management	 Tourism	 Community Benefits	 Regeneration	 Health and Wellbeing	 Education	 Landscape Amenity		
Importance	5	5	3	1	5	4	5	3	5		
Secondary typology	Need for Enhancement										Σ
play space	5.0	5.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.0	2.5	20.83	
heath or moor	1.0	1.3	0.6	0.3	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.0	10.52	
farms	1.3	2.5	0.8	0.5	5.0	1.3	2.5	3.0	1.3	18.08	

Figure 9 shows the Multi-Function total Need for Enhancement scores for Ystrad Mynach across all Secondary Typologies within its extent.

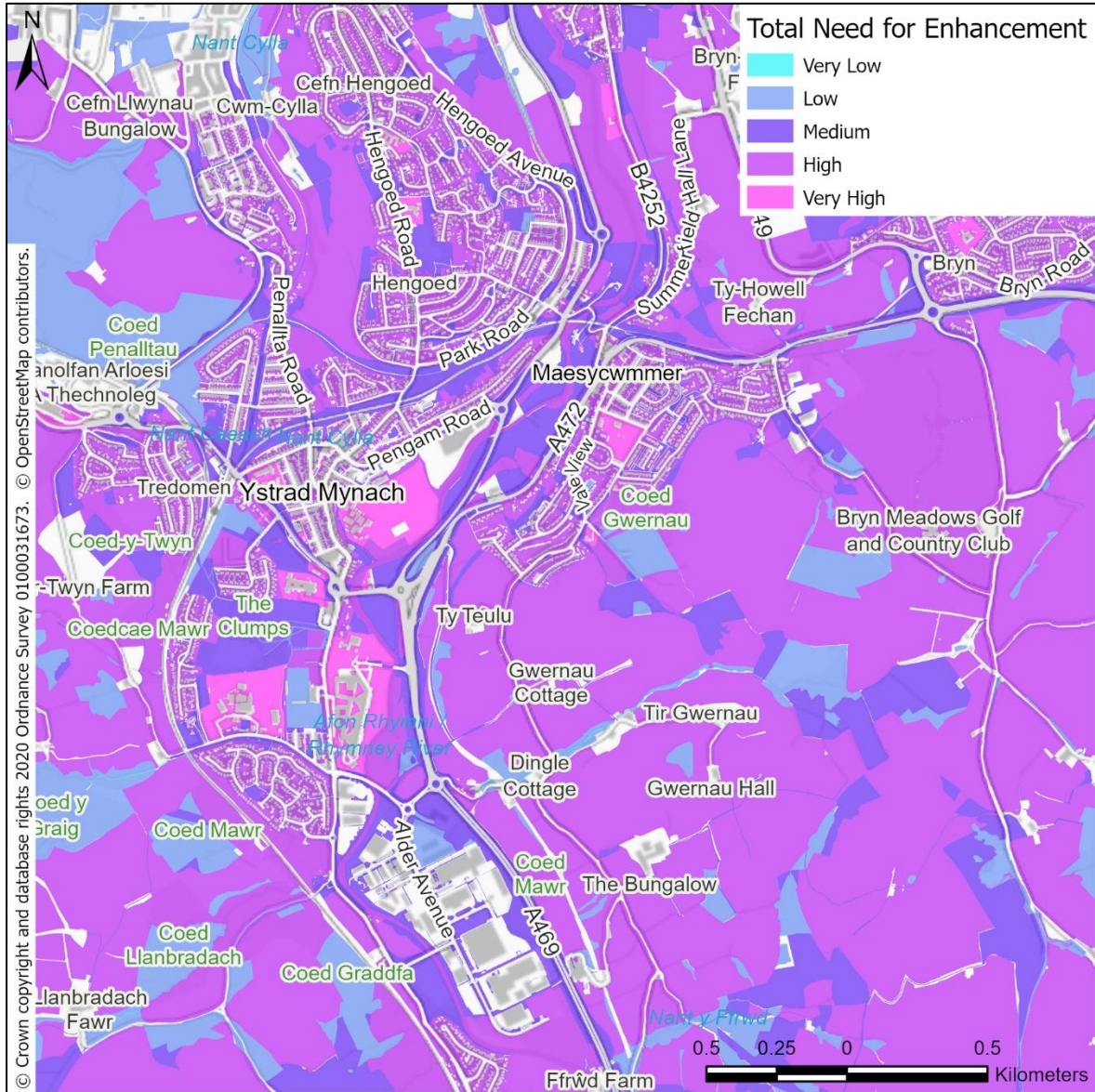


Figure 9 - Multi-Function total Need for Enhancement scores for Ystrad Mynach

4 STRATEGY




4.1 Principles







This Strategy does not include a detailed assessment of existing GI deficiencies and future needs, but it is apparent from the review and consultation exercise, there are both qualitative and quantitative limitations. This is not unexpected given the increased pressures being placed upon the environment, together with the reduction in resources to tackle these issues. This underpins the need for a strategic framework for the future implementation of GI throughout CCBC. Within this, it is important to ensure that existing GI is protected and both augmented and enhanced as an overarching principle to support GI. Improvements to the GI network can be delivered through:



- The protection, restoration and enhancement of existing GI, increasing the Multi-Function nature of it
- The creation of new GI, in particular within the urban edge where there is considerable pressure on existing GI resources and where its benefits could be extended to a wider section of the community.
- The delivery process will operate at specific scales; strategically the WG’s policy framework will be critical. The development of PPW with its specific reference to GI is key, as is the implementation of the WFGA. These will be administered locally through the LDP and the PSBs respectively. The latter will become more important over time as they are a key component of the implementation of the WFGA. Of particular relevance will be the environment sub-group as this will be closely linked to the delivery of GI.

Whatever scale GI is delivered at, there are some basic principles for delivery to be considered:

Table 11 - Strategy Principles

Principle	Description	
Local planning framework	It is important that a strong policy base is established to promote GI within the development plan framework. It is considered key to the success of GI and specific policy should be included in the emerging replacement LDP. If required, this should be supported by SPG.	
New development	New developments can provide both opportunities and constraints for GI. Early integration of GI into the planning process (such as pre-application advice) will ensure it is properly planned in advance of development and/or delivered on a phased basis. An important development in 2019 was the introduction of the requirement for surface water drainage for new developments to comply with mandatory national standards for SuDS and be approved by a SAB, which in this instance will be CCBC.	

Principle	Description	
Reflect local character	GI should reflect local characteristics including landscape, habitats, vernacular and sense of place. The work undertaken through the Countryside Strategy, emerging South Caerphilly Strategy and LANDMAP will be an important source of this information and guidance.	
Enhancement and restoration	Focus on improvements to the quality and robustness of GI, where opportunities exist, and create new resources to enhance integrity.	
Multi-Function	One of the most important facets of GI. Wherever possible, GI should be designed and managed as Multi-Function resources, delivering the widest range of linked environmental and social benefits. The understanding of this is key to its longer-term development and implementation.	
Linkages	New sites and habitats should be created for people and wildlife to complement existing projects and GI. This strengthens and reinforces networks and enhances connectivity. It can also promote public access to GI and contribute to active travel.	
Understanding existing networks	An understanding is needed of existing networks. This relates to organisational information (such as that provided by NRW) as well as physical networks such as paths, trails, waterways and roads. It also assists in understanding the character of the area and where there may be needs and deficiencies.	
Retrofitting opportunities	Investigate opportunities for retro-fitting GI, such as green roofs, traffic calming, street scape, new tree planting and de-canalisation of river corridors. These elements offer potential to integrate features within contemporary GI schemes.	

Principle	Description
Working with partners	<p>The role of partners is key to the successful implementation of GI and its longer-term sustainability. Within CCBC, the impetus will increasingly fall on the PSBs. It should also encompass other CCBC departments so as to focus resource allocations together with wider non-statutory and community groups. This will foster ownership and involvement. It should also involve working with partners at the regional scale such as other local authorities in initiatives including the 3G, as well as national partners such as NRW.</p> 
Funding mechanisms	<p>All opportunities should be followed up drawing down on national, regional and local initiatives, lottery and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.</p> 

4.2 Action Plans

The initial output to support the Strategy is the identification of elements for a series of Action Plans. The Action Plans – one for each Function (see section 3.1) - are the vehicles for implementing the Strategy’s objectives and will be prepared by CCBC Officers for delivery over the five-year rolling programmes for the next 20-year period.

The Action Plans draw on the extensive range of existing national, regional and local policy. Whilst each of these have their own objectives, their wider application to GI will ensure that benefits are optimised. In doing so it will help the PSB resource relevant actions and increase their involvement within CCBC’s activities.

Each Action Plan should detail the following (see Table 12 for an example structure):

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Number | 7. Other Stakeholders |
| 2. Function | 8. Five-year Cost |
| 3. Action (Aim) | 9. Funding |
| 4. Criteria for Success (Objectives) | 10. Risks |
| 5. Relevant Policy | 11. Opportunities |
| 6. Lead Stakeholder | 12. Monitoring Regime |

Table 12 - Example Action Plan structure

Number	Function	Action (Aim)	Criteria for Success (Objectives)	Relevant Policy	Lead Stakeholder	Other Stakeholders	Five-year Cost	Funding	Risks	Opportunities	Monitoring Regime

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

It is important that the success or failure the Strategy are properly identified. A monitoring and evaluation plan will need to be put into place. It will use indicators that are relevant to the Strategy and readily understood by all parties. This should operate at two discrete, yet interrelated levels:

- **Strategic Level** – this would include a review of how far GI had been incorporated within other policies and programmes including CCBC policy (such as the Corporate Plan and LDP) and national policy. The following should be used to measure success:
 - a review of the allocation of resources to GI through the operation of the PSB and its functions for resource use.
 - Development and implementation of action plans
 - Update GI mapping to review change in areas
 - Update Importance of Functions and Provision of Functions scores and recreate Value and Need for Enhancement maps (these can be compared visually or quantitatively in a GIS)
- **Local Level** – here, reference should be made to individual actions, such as the SuDS requirements, landscape works, improved access to the countryside. These should be measured against the economic, social and environmental benefits accrued. For example:
 - *social benefits* will include evidence of improved health and wellbeing, improvements in air quality and increased recreational activities with associated increase in new and improved pathways.
 - *environmental benefits* would include the increase in scale and diversity of habitats, area of new tree and shrub planting and enhancement of existing facilities, such as country parks.
 - *economic benefits* will include the provision of new jobs through increased investment in regeneration associated with the increase in GI.

5 SUMMARY

This Strategy has been developed to recognise the comprehensive policy framework that already exists at a national, regional and local level. It will help CCBC to deliver on the commitments they have made in their Council Corporate Plan and LDP along with many of the strategies which support these. National policy such as PPW, the WFGA and the Environment (Wales) Act are also addressed; through its delivery, the Strategy will help CCBC towards achieving their requirements under these national policies. At a more regional level, its alignment to the 3G project will help enhance the delivery of GI across the historic region of Gwent and strengthen partnerships with CCBC’s neighbouring local authorities.

A strategic and holistic approach to identifying, classifying and assessing GI across CCBC has been developed with input from a range of CCBC departments and external stakeholders. This has led to a more comprehensive understanding of GI across CCBC and established an important baseline for the Strategy’s success to be monitored and evaluated against.

The Strategy includes a set of Principles which when followed should lead to the development of new, and the enhancement of existing, GI. These should be delivered through a series of Actions Plans; one for each of the GI Functions identified during the process of classifying existing GI.



Figure 10 - Summary of Strategy Principles

The Strategy now requires the development of these Action Plans, a task which will be delivered by CCBC. It is important that these are underpinned by the Strategy’s Principles, are aligned to its policy framework and build on its evidence base. Local knowledge and expertise should be capitalised on during this process, especially when identifying the details of each Action Plan and reviewing the GI scoring system.

The delivery of the Strategy via these Action Plans requires the involvement of the PSB and in particular, the environment subgroup. The multi-discipline nature of the PSB will help promote a Multi-Function approach to delivering GI across CCBC. Furthermore, the PSB’s importance at a local and regional level, will help enhance the Strategy’s integration into relevant policy.

To facilitate feedback on the benefits accrued from GI and its longer-term role in health and wellbeing, community involvement in the development of the Action Plans should be promoted. Community

feedback will also help in monitoring the wider application of GI to promote community cohesion and connections with nature and recreation.

There are a wide range of funding opportunities which should be explored. These include direct funds from the planning process, such as the CIL and Section 106 Agreements. Other funding sources include the WG's range of grant schemes, the National Lottery and Aggregate Tax.

Key to understanding the Strategy's success and directing any changes in approach will be the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation programme. This will assess the success of the Strategy at both a strategic and local level. It aims to ensure the Strategy remains integrated into CCBC's local policy and that tangible, on-the-ground results are being realised.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

GI Workshop (CCBC) and Presentation (PSB)

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP (CCBC) AND PRESENTATION (PSB)

CCBC GI Workshop – 4th July 2018

TACP delivered this workshop to develop the GI Typologies and Scoring. Attendees included:

Department	Name	Role
Active Travel	Liz Gibby	Senior Assistant Engineer
Allotments and Cemeteries	Alun Jones	Area Officer – Cemeteries and Allotments
Community Regen	Tina McMahon	Community Regeneration Manager
Community Safety	Paul Wallen	Community Safety Warden Supervisor
Country Parks/Countryside	Jon Hole	Chief Countryside Ranger
Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Michael Owen	Cwmcarn Forest Drive Project Manager
Drainage (Engineers)	Michelle Johnson	Senior Engineer
Ecology	Alison Jones	Principal Ecologist
Economic Development	Antony Bolter	Group Manager Strategy Funding and Support
Education	Keri Cole	Chief Education Officer
Environmental Health	Lyndon Ross	Senior Environmental Health Officer
Green Spaces Strategy	Dewi Thomas	Countryside Planning Assistant
Green Spaces Strategy	Philip Griffiths	Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager
Highways	Gavin Barry	Senior Assistant Engineer
Housing/WHQS	Mark Jennings	Housing Strategy Officer
Landscape	Richard Bryan	Principal Landscape Architect
Leisure	Bob Keep	Outdoor Education Manager
Parks	Simon Beecham	Senior Parks Officer
Planning Policy	Dave Lucas	Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning
Policy	Paul Cooke	Senior Policy Officer
RDP	Owen Ashton	RDP Delivery Manager
Tourism	Paul Hudson	Marketing and Events Manager
Trees	Paul Harris	Senior Arboricultural officer
Urban Renewal	Ryland Llywellyn	Senior Planner
Waste	Rhodri Lloyd	Special Projects Officer

PSB GI Presentation – 19th July 2018

TACP presented the developing GI Strategy to the PSB, answered questions and noted suggestions.

APPENDIX B

GI Mapping and Scoring Method



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE MAPPING AND SCORING METHOD

In order to understand the extent of GI across CCBC, three datasets have been reviewed and combined - these include:

1. **OpenStreetMap** – four of the data's fields contain information relating to GI:
 - a. leisure
 - b. amenity
 - c. land use
 - d. natural
2. **Ordnance Survey MasterMap**
3. **Ordnance Survey Green Space**

An ArcGIS Pro model has been developed to combine the three datasets – there are five main stages to this (numbers in square brackets indicate the number of geoprocessing tools per stage - a total of 85):

1. **Input data preparation [4]**
2. **Joining primary and secondary typologies [27]**
3. **Data cleaning [19]**
4. **Unions [2]** to combine the three datasets:
 - a. OpenStreetMap + Ordnance Survey MasterMap = 'OSM + OSMM'
 - b. 'OSM + OSMM' + Ordnance Survey Green Space = 'Final GI'
5. **Populating final primary and secondary typology fields [31]** with values from the source data in order of their influence (i.e. Ordnance Survey Green Space takes priority over Ordnance Survey MasterMap which takes priority over OpenStreetMap)
6. **Scores are applied [2]** according to typology

An ArcGIS Pro Layer File has been developed to symbolise the following layers from the model's single 'Final GI' output:

1. Source
2. Primary Typology
3. Secondary Typology
4. Provision of Function
5. Value
6. Need for Enhancement

The ArcGIS Pro model and ArcGIS Pro Layer Files have been provided to Caerphilly County Borough Council as part of the delivery of this Strategy.





TACP

10 Park Grove
Cardiff CF10 3BN
T: 029 2022 8966
E: admin@tacp.co.uk
www.tacp.co.uk



CABINET – 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

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

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The attached report outlines the Decarbonisation Strategy which is the main tool to achieve the Council's decarbonisation objectives. This strategy is supported by an 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 these goals. This report was considered by the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 13th October 2020 and the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 27th October 2020. The report sought the views of Members prior to its presentation to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Members were advised that it was the goal of Caerphilly County Borough Council to be net carbon neutral by 2030. It was outlined to Members that the proposals set out within the Decarbonisation Action Plan would require extensive financial support. Also, that the planned introduction of a Decarbonisation Officer will ensure that the Plan responds to external influences such as new legislation from the Welsh Government and UK Government.

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

3.1 This report came before the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 13th October 2020. The Chair wanted to know how much the Council paid in Carbon Tax as one of the purposes of the strategy was to decrease this tax burden. The Energy and Water Officer outlined that the predominant Carbon Tax was via the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme and was in the region of £240,000 per year. The last payment was for 2018/19 when the scheme ended. Members were advised that Welsh Government were yet to announce a replacement for the commitment scheme, but it was likely to be an additional tax on Utility Bills. One Member requested an update on developing future wind and solar farms. The Regeneration Services Manager advised Members that the Council was working closely with the Welsh Government Energy Service on an assessment of Council-owned land. Five sites had been identified as

potential locations for solar farms but there were potential commercial challenges around connecting to the National Grid. During the course of the ensuing debate, Members made enquiries about the inclusion of solar panels on new homes and suggested that there was potential for their inclusion in future planning requirements.

- 3.2 One Member asked why the Council did not fit LED lighting in buildings leased to community groups such as Community Centres. Officers advised that low operating hours in Community Centres meant that it was not economical in terms of the payback rates. But those leasing buildings could approach their energy provider directly about LED lighting options. Members then discussed the preference of purchasing energy from carbon neutral providers and the feasibility and cost of the Council meeting the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Officers outlined that projects were currently at the feasibility stage so did not have definitive costings, and the Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise advised that eventually each project would have a specific business case before going before the Regeneration Project Board. The Regeneration Services Manager advised that he would commence dialogue with Cllr R. Owen and Cllr A. Whitcombe on the allocation of capital to some of the projects as per point 11.2 under the Financial Implications section of the report.
- 3.3 This report came before the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on 27th October 2020. The report was introduced by the Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, Cllr Sean Morgan. The Cabinet Member advised Members that the purpose of the report was to update the Committee on the work undertaken since June 11th, 2019 when the Committee was presented with a report setting out the Council's intention to develop a Carbon Reduction Plan that would be a roadmap for the Council to follow to achieve the objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It was outlined that as this report is a strategy document it hasn't been fully costed at this stage, but that eventually each project highlighted would have an individual Business Case before any decision was made on whether or not to proceed. One Member asked if the Council had identified any parcels of land for future renewable energy projects. The Regeneration Services Manager advised that the Council had been working with the Welsh Government Energy Service to assess land assets and that approximately five sites had been identified as being suitable for solar farms but that nothing was finalised at this stage. One Member had concerns about the Bryn Group featuring prominently in the report because of recent negative reports in the media which were the subject of an investigation by Natural Resources Wales. The Member believed that the Council should seek an alternative source for its electricity supply. The Interim Corporate Director of Communities advised Members that seeking electricity from another supplier would not help the Council meet its carbon reduction objectives and that currently there was no update on the NRW investigation raised by the Member.
- 3.4 One Member wished to know if the Council received an energy subsidy from the Bryn Group in exchange for providing food waste for the group's Anaerobic Digestion plant. The Interim Corporate Director of Communities advised that the financial deal in terms of receiving food waste was factored into the gate fee which was part of a competitive process. It was advertised, tendered for and the Bryn Group proved to be the most competitive party. During the course of the ensuing debate, Members also discussed planning new projects, the contractual obligations of future partners and ensuring that the Council prioritised putting actual costs against the projects outlined in the report. One Member asked about the influence of Section 106 Agreements as a source of finance for the Council. The Interim Corporate Director of Communities outlined how Section 106 Agreements had been largely replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy which was introduced in 2015/16 and that the Council had received in the region of £2M from the Levy. The member was also advised that the new Sustainable Drainage legislation (SAB) introduced a new regime of Commuted Sums from its

commencement in January 2019. One Member wanted to know the current number of electric/ hybrid vehicles from the Council's transport fleet. The Regeneration Services Manager advised that he would provide Members with this figure outside of the meeting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Following consideration and discussion the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee by a majority present, and in noting in that there were no abstentions and no votes against, recommend to Cabinet that:

i) The views of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents be noted.

ii) Cabinet notes that the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee acknowledges the milestones for adoption of this document by the Council.

iii) Cabinet notes that the Committee acknowledges the wide and diverse range of activities that the Council will need to implement to achieve the Decarbonisation objectives.

iv) Cabinet notes that the Committee recognises 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, that it will be necessary to react to changing legislation from Welsh Government and Central Government.

v) Cabinet notes that the Committee 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.

4.2 Following consideration and discussion the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee by a majority present, and in noting in that there was one abstention and one vote against, recommend to Cabinet that:

i) The views of the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee on the draft Decarbonisation Strategy and supporting documents be noted.

ii) Cabinet notes that the Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee acknowledges the milestones for adoption of this document by the Council.

iii) Cabinet notes that the Committee acknowledges the wide and diverse range of activities that the Council will need to implement to achieve the Decarbonisation objectives.

iv) Cabinet notes that the Committee recognises 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, that it will be necessary to react to changing legislation from Welsh Government and Central Government.

v) Cabinet notes that the Committee 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.

4.3 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and the comments made by both Scrutiny Committees.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer – jacqu@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy (A Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan for Caerphilly County Borough Council).

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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 11th 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 11th 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 its 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 11th June 2019 and Cabinet on the 26th 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 11th 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 – 13th October 2020

Environment and Sustainability Scrutiny Committee – 27th October 2020

Cabinet – 25th 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





EV charging point, Council Offices, Penallta House

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...

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.

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.



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

Caerphilly County Borough Council

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.

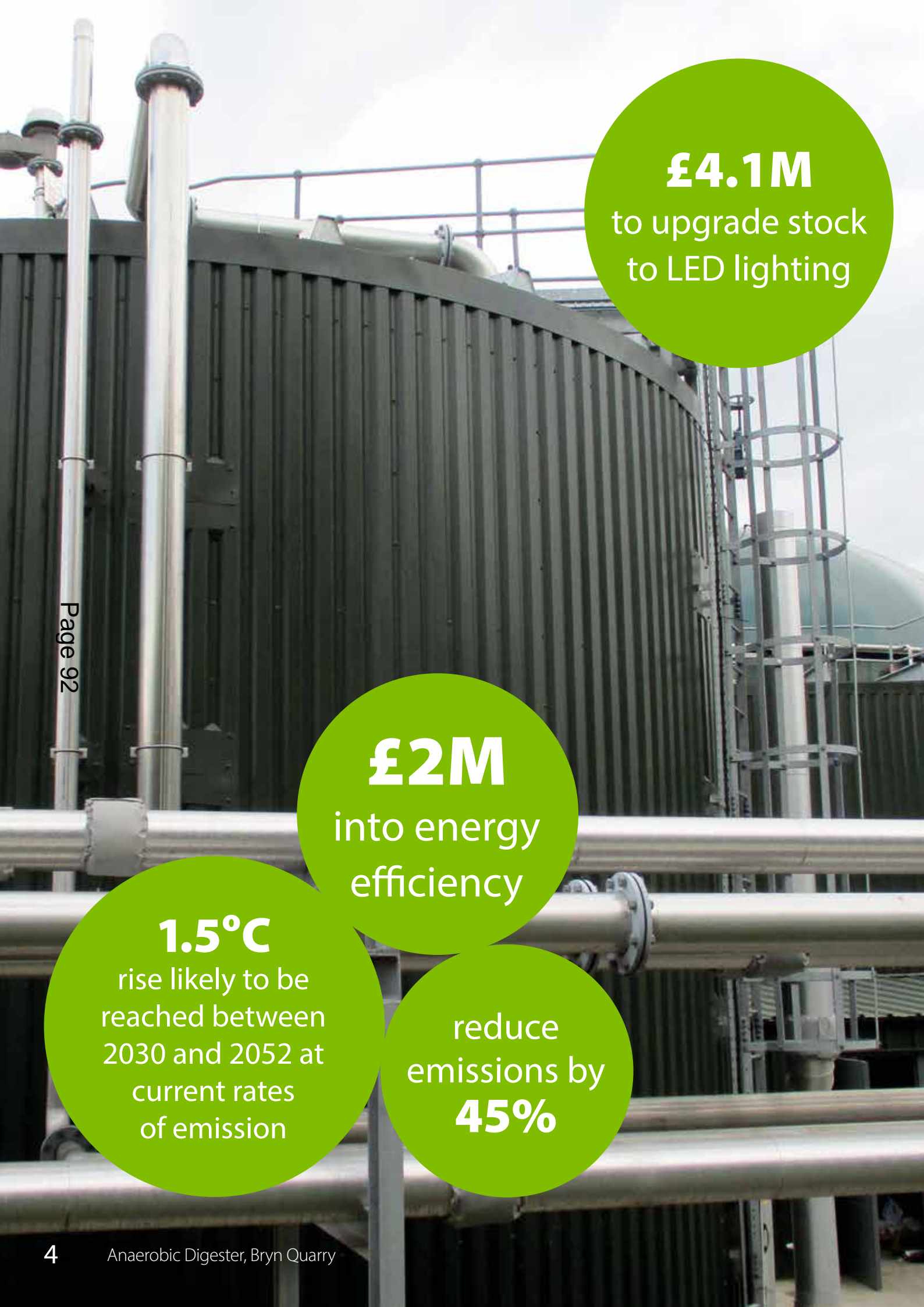
2.6 The overriding warning from the IPCC is that any rise in temperature should be avoided, however an increase by 2°C would result in far harsher environmental impacts than if the temperature increase can be kept to 1.5°C or lower.

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.

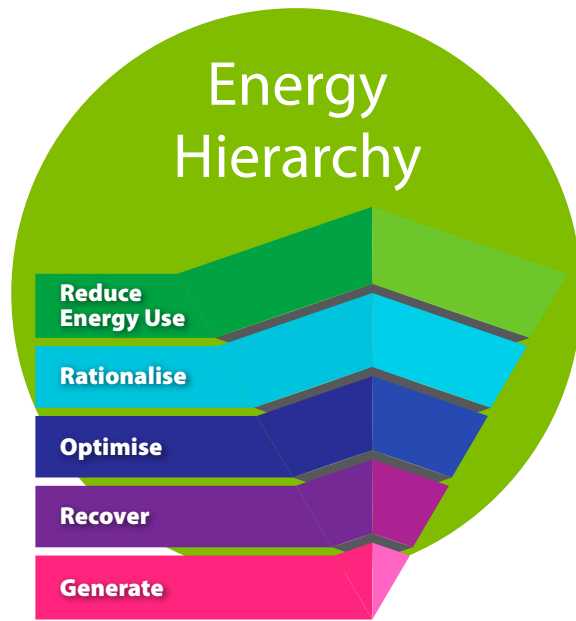
2.14 Covid-19 has made a massive impact on people's working, commuting and living habits and it is conceivable that some aspects of society will be permanently altered and this will undoubtedly impact on decarbonisation. Opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes, for example through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



3.5 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 £4.1 million 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.

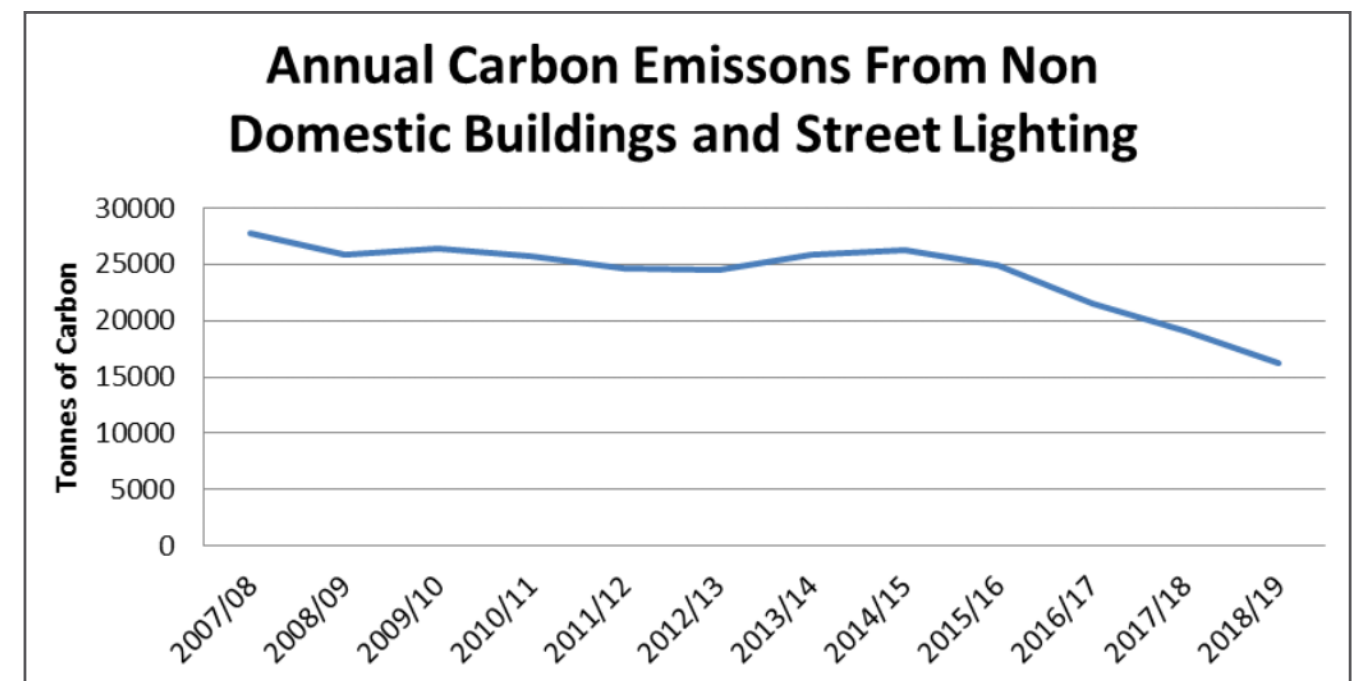
3.3 Adhering to this hierarchy over the last 10 years has helped the authority to: reduce its carbon emissions through good housekeeping techniques; make good investment in technologies; ensure efficient use of assets such as buildings; and embrace renewable technologies. This has shaped some of the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

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

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

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



4. Notice Of Motion Declaring A Climate Emergency

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

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



Cycle Path, Maesycwmmmer

5. Vision Statement

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

Objectives

5.2 Over the next 10 years:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



6. A New Approach

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

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

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

Welsh Government Mandate

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

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

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

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

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

Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy

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

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

The CCR vision is:

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

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

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

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



7. Establishing An Emissions Baseline

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

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



Green House Gasses (GHG)

7.2 The main GHG in terms of the quantity of emissions and the overall warming impact for the Welsh Public Sector is carbon dioxide. However there are other GHG such as methane (CH4) and nitrous oxide (N2O). These additional gases are often expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO2e), which is the equivalent amount of CO2 that would produce the same amount of global warming over a 100 year timescale.

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



Baseline Carbon Assessment

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

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

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

Greenhouse Gas Protocol

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

Scope 1 – Direct Emissions straight to atmosphere

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

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

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

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

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

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

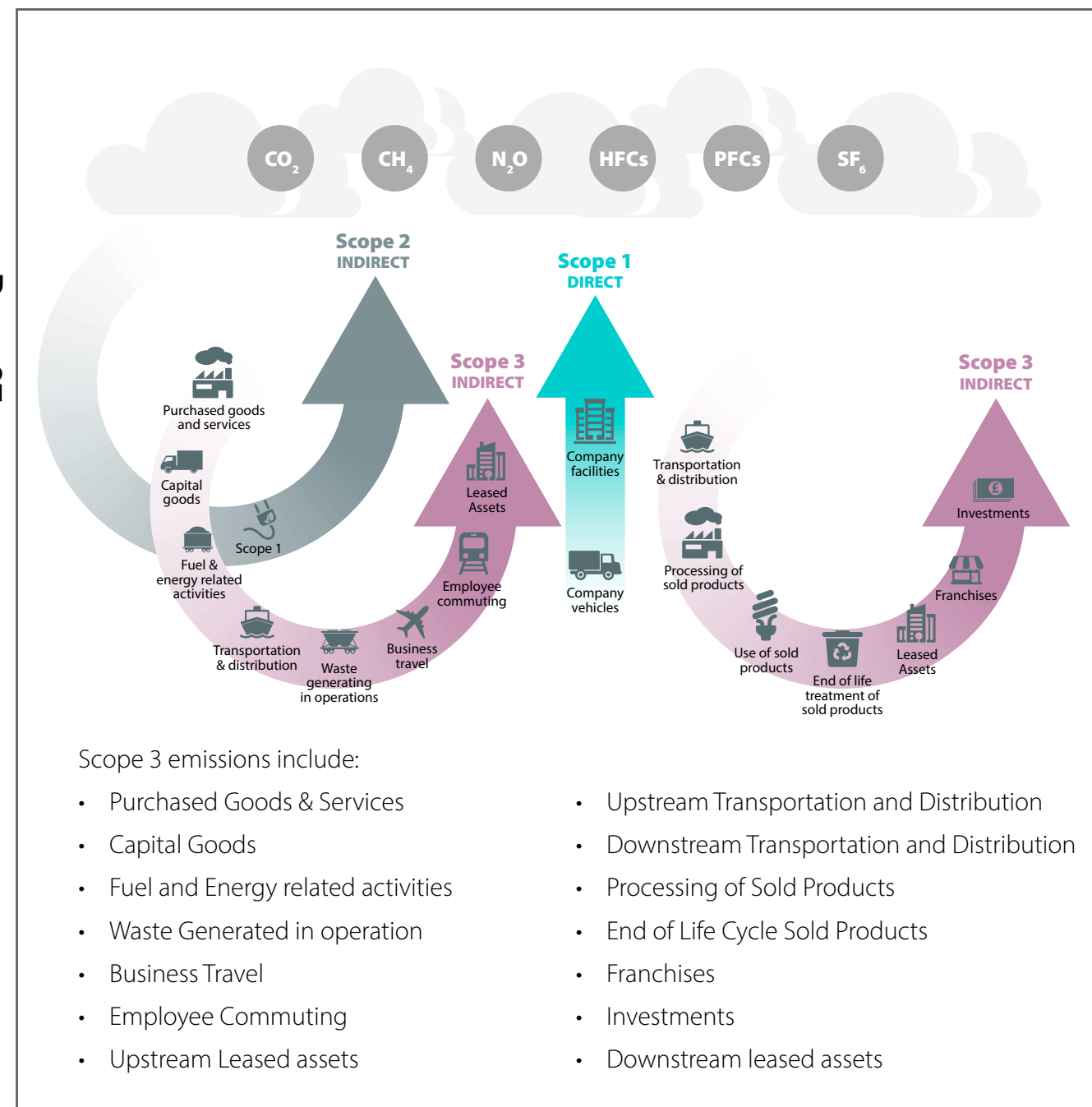
Scope 3 – Indirect emissions that are a consequence of Caerphilly CBC actions

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

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

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

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



8. Decarbonisation Strategy:

REDUCE - PRODUCE - OFFSET - BUY

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

REDUCE

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

Existing Corporate Buildings

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

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

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

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

Corporate New Build

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

Housing - Existing Stock

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

Housing - New Build Programme

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

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

Street Lighting

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

Travel and Transport

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

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

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

Resource Use/Waste Management

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

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

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

PRODUCE

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

Solar and Wind

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

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

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

Hydro Electric

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

Anaerobic Digester

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



Solar Panel Installation

OFFSET

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

Existing Woodland

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



Wind Turbine Installation

Tree planting

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

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

Wetland Rewilding and sustainable drainage solutions

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



Tree Planting

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.

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.

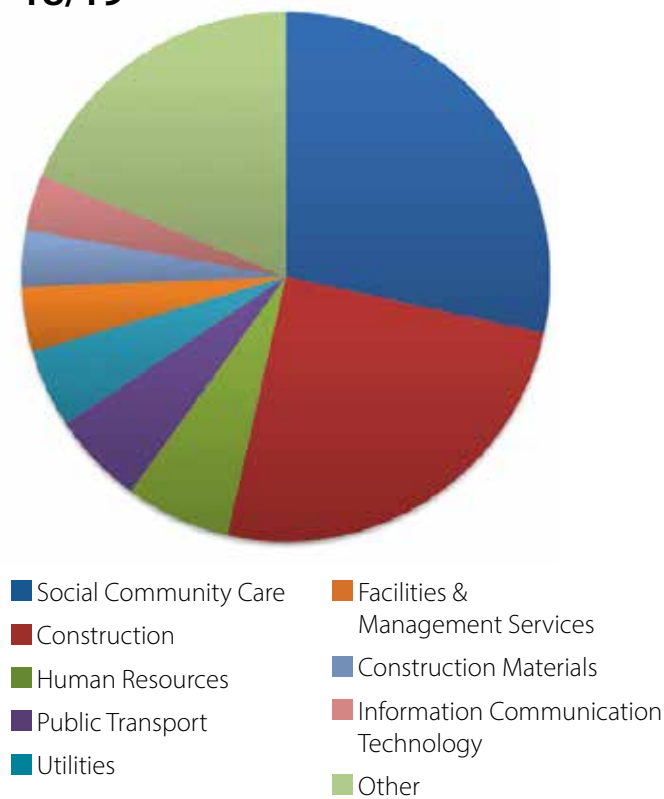
8.33 Construction currently accounts for 25% of Council spend. Materials used in construction such as steel and aggregates are carbon intensive to produce and manufacture. Substituting steel for timber products would not only reduce energy demand at source, a Scope 2 emission, it would also lock carbon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

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.

Graph 1 - Total Authority Spend 18/19



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



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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 105	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
	EXISTING NON DOMESTIC BUILDINGS			
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
	EXISTING HOUSING STOCK			
R9	Deliver fabric improvements to reduce energy consumption and deliver cost savings, considering a whole house retrofit approach where possible in existing CCBC owned Council housing stock.	Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the completion of the boiler replacement programme to introduce energy efficient condensing boilers to all our stock.	Housing	Short/Medium
R10		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the completion of the external wall insulation programme on non-traditional build properties.	Housing	Short

R11		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the continued implementation of the external/internal wall insulation programme on traditional build dwellings.	Housing	Short/Medium
R12		Improve energy efficiency of Council owned domestic properties through the UPVc window replacement programme that will introduce high spec energy efficient glazing.	Housing	Short/Medium
R13		Survey all CCBC owned homes to establish their energy rating and to identify least energy efficient stock. Identify an Energy Budget to act as match and support to national energy efficiency schemes and programmes to target these properties.	Housing	Short
R14	Introduce pilot projects to investigate hybrid heating systems on existing stock.	Complete hybrid gas and air source pilot on 20 flats at Martins Field, Newbridge.	Housing	Short
NEW DEVELOPMENT – HOUSING				
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 nd 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

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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
NEW DEVELOPMENT – NON DOMESTIC				
R29	Update Building Regulations Part L.	Lobby to review central Building Control legislation so that it introduces more stringent controls on new builds and conversions to ensure improved energy efficiency in both residential and commercial buildings.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
R30	Promote and encourage carbon friendly construction methods and a reduction in energy consumption in all new development.	Provide a policy framework within the 2 nd Replacement LDP that presumes in favour of such constructions where appropriately located.	Planning & Regeneration	Medium
TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT				
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 nd 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
	INFRASTRUCTURE			
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
	WASTE MANAGEMENT			
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
	MISCELLANEOUS			
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
	GREEN ENERGY PRODUCTION			
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 nd 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 nd 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 nd 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 nd 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 nd Replacement LDP relating to repowering existing assets at the end of their current planning consent period.	Planning & Regeneration	Short/Medium
MISCELLANEOUS				
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
	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE			
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
	FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT			
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
	SEQUESTRATION			
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 nd 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
	PROCUREMENT			
B1	Assist with quantifying the authority carbon baseline.	Map the procurement categories in Spike Cavell (central IT system which captures data on public sector spend) to the carbon emission factors proposed by Welsh Government and report to Welsh Government.	Procurement	Short/Medium
B2	Develop a carbon benefits toolkit	Introduce green clause to contractors acting for the Council or offering a service to the Council.	Property Services/ Procurement	Short
B3	Purchase 'locally' where possible.	Use local suppliers to reduce carbon footprint. Procurement of goods from local producers or co-operatives where possible		Short
B4	Prioritise the purchase carbon neutral/lower carbon products.	Identify where such opportunities exist and consider switching.		Short
B5	Monitor and manage purchases likely to have a significant impact on energy consumption.	Review purchase of major equipment e.g. Boiler or multiple purchase computer monitors, to ensure energy efficiency.	Procurement/Property services	Long
B6	Introduce recycled materials where possible.	Introduce recycled materials to reduce production of new products from non-renewable resources.	Corporate approach	Short
B7	Ensure an effective and efficient mechanism in measuring, recording and monitoring social value and community benefits utilising Theme's, Outcomes, Measures (TOMs) via a Social Value Measurement Framework.	Introduce innovative measures to promote local skills and employment to be built into contract - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc.	Procurement	Short/Medium
B8		Introduce innovative measures to enable healthier, safer and more resilient communities to be delivered on contracts - these could be e.g. co-designed with stakeholders or communities, or aiming at delivering benefits while minimising carbon footprint from initiatives, etc	Procurement	Short/Medium
B9		Create more opportunities for local micro, small and medium enterprises to respond to tenders for de-carbonisation work on contracts	Procurement	Short/Medium
B10		Introduce innovative measures to promote and support responsible business be built into contract - these could be e.g.	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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A greener place
Man gwyrdach

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Introduction

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

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

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

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



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

Complementary Work

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

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



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

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

Covid-19

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

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

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

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



Solar Power Generation

Timescale: Medium (24-60 months)

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

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



Anaerobic Digester

Timescale: Short (0-24 Months)

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

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



FACT FILE:

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

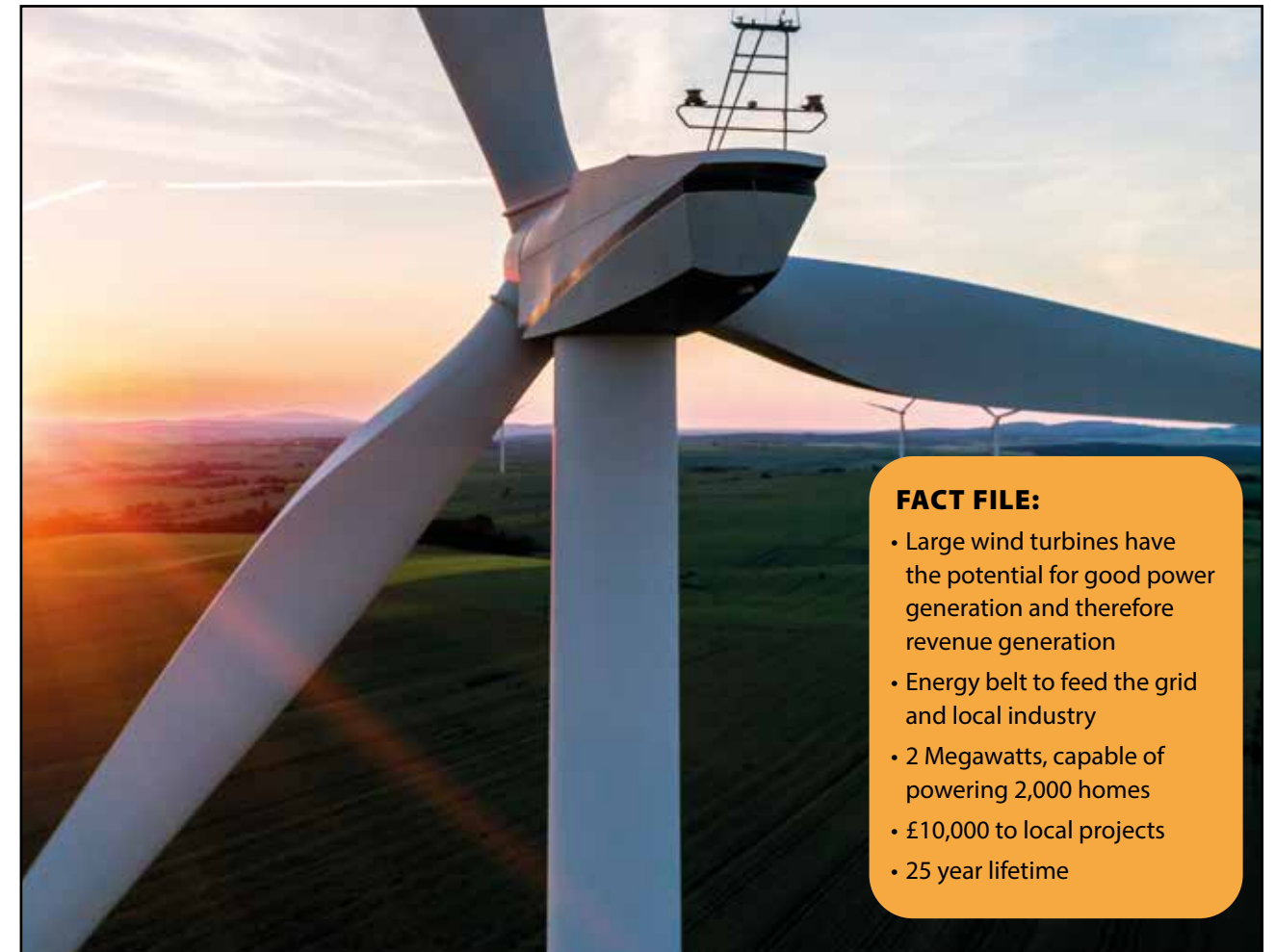
Wind Turbines

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

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

The 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



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

www.caerphilly.gov.uk

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CABINET 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

SUBJECT: GWENT HEALTHY TRAVEL CHARTER

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to allow Cabinet to consider the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter, which has been developed by public sector organisations in Gwent and led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- 1.2 The Charter follows a model, originally developed in the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) area, to encourage staff and visitors to sites to use healthy modes of transport and provide a focus for a consistent approach to sustainable travel.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter has been developed by the Gwent Sustainable Travel Group, led by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. All public sector bodies in Gwent and a number of other publicly funded organisations have been given the opportunity to sign up to the Charter.
- 2.2 The Charter was formally launched during Wales Climate Week, 2nd to 6th November 2020, and Caerphilly CBC indicated their willingness to be part of the launch. The purpose of this report is to introduce the Charter more fully to Cabinet and allow consideration of the commitments and targets and how they might apply to the activity of the local authority.
- 2.3 The Charter sets out a number of commitments and four targets for the period 2020-2023. This timeline is the same as the Caerphilly PSB well-being plan and the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 2.4 Partners across Gwent worked in collaboration to develop the commitments, which cover the following areas:
 - Communication & leadership
 - Walking, cycling & public transport
 - Agile working
 - Ultra-low emission vehicles

2.5 A baseline survey of staff working in the Gwent region took place in February this year with 669 responses given by Caerphilly employees, out of 4,373 across the region. The baseline survey was used to set four targets:

- **Reduce** the proportion of journeys commuting to and from work made by car from 87% to 77%.
- **Increase** the proportion of staff who use public transport to travel to and from work from 3% to 8%.
- **Increase** the proportion of staff who work from home 1 or more days per week from 14% to 25%
- **Increase** the proportion of vehicles used during the day which are ultra-low emission from <1% to 5%
-

The intention is that the survey will be repeated annually to measure progress.

2.6 Caerphilly CBC has a long commitment to sustainable transport initiatives and staff travel and has already put in place many of the actions set out in the Charter. Most recently Cabinet have committed to providing an electric vehicle charging infrastructure for Council fleet vehicles. Staff work patterns have significantly altered due to the current pandemic with increasing use of teleconferencing, more staff working away from offices and reduced travel to and from meetings. As the targets were developed at the start of this year they may need alter to reflect changed working patterns, however this should not prevent the local authority's commitment to the principles of the Charter

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter is adopted by Caerphilly County Borough Council and that the local authority supports the commitments and targets.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To demonstrate Caerphilly County Borough Council's ongoing commitment to healthy and sustainable travel.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Caerphilly CBC already has a strong track record in implementing sustainable transport initiatives, and already has in place many of the actions set out in the Charter, most notably:

- Cycle to work scheme established in 2010
- Car share scheme established in 2009
- Designated car share spaces at main sites since 2010
- Pool bike scheme established in 2008
- Electric pool bike at Ty Penallta since 2019
- Showers, secure cycle storage and lockers at main sites
- Mileage rates for cycling to meetings since 2010
- Mileage rates for car sharing to meetings
- Salary sacrifice scheme for ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) in 2011
- Cycle maps project in partnership with Sustrans, 2014

- Development of Active Travel routes with partners
- Review of Council fleet to develop greater use of electric vehicles
- Programme for Procurement 2018-2023 Environment Strategic Theme- sustainability risk assessments 2018
- Numerous sustainable travel events and promotions including cycle training for staff, cycle to work promotional days, promotion of active travel routes, promotion of ULEV lease vehicles for staff etc.

5.3 The current pandemic has significantly impacted on staff work and travel patterns, much of this positively in terms of staff travel. This has included increasing use and availability of videoconferencing, increasing numbers of staff working in an agile way, currently from home, and reduced staff travel to and from meetings.

5.4 It is acknowledged that under usual conditions that vast majority of staff still travel to work singly in cars and despite the initiatives above, changing this behaviour has been very difficult. Actual journeys to work have reduced significantly due to the pandemic, the increase in agile working is unlikely to see a return to pre-COVID levels, however as the target to reduce travel to work by car is a proportional one it may be difficult to reduce.

5.5 Increasing the numbers of staff who use public transport will be difficult in the short term and difficult to predict beyond that. However, increasing the proportion of staff who work from home should be easy to achieve given changing travel patterns. The promotion of agile working longer term has been aided by the significant uptake in supportive technology over the past few months.

5.6 The Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan should make the target to increase the proportion of ULEVs used during the day possible. The targets in the Charter are aspirational and at a Gwent level, the intention being that each signatory will contribute to the targets by their individual actions. For this reason the targets should be supported.

5.7 **Conclusion**

The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter continues the longstanding commitment the local authority has to sustainable travel. Initiatives have been regularly implemented since 2008, when the first pool bike scheme came into being. Becoming a signatory alongside other regional partners will allow the sharing of best practice in sustainable travel and the development of further activity in collaboration with other partners working to the same aim.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 An assumption is made that staff and visitor travel and working patterns will remain relatively stable over the 3-year timeline of the Charter commitments and targets. Targets may need to be revised by the Gwent Sustainable Travel Group, particularly in the light of changing travel patterns during the current pandemic and changes to working practices that have brought benefits to the Charter organisations, for example agile working and less use of offices as fixed locations.

7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

The Gwent Healthy Travel Charter contributes towards the Corporate Well-being Objectives in the following ways:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all- promotion and communication around health and sustainable travel will continue under the Charter commitments

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

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- directly supports this Objective in terms of vehicle emissions, stewardship of the natural environment and its use for active travel, and greater physical activity.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The report contributes to the following Well-being Goals: -

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A globally responsible Wales

The report is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act:

- Long Term – protecting the environment through healthy and sustainable travel improves health and protects natural resources
- Prevention – greater physical activity by staff protects physical and mental health
- Integration – integrating activity with partners such as Sustrans, Natural Resources Wales and Public Health Wales supports their organisational objectives.
- Collaboration – the Gwent Healthy Travel Charter is working across a range of originations, see background papers.
- Involvement – staff communication has been and will continue to be a part of healthy travel initiatives.

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 There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Work is currently underway to enhance the Cycle to Work Scheme to increase the choice available to employees enabling them to gain access to a wider choice of cycles. Part of this will be an increase in limits to allow electric cycles to be considered. A further report will be provided to Cabinet.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 The report has been sent to the consultees listed below and all comments received have been included in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 Local Government Act 1972
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Author: Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager, peter@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise
Cllr John Ridgewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Mark S Williams, Interim Corporate Director- Communities
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning, Strategy and Finance
Liz Lucas, Head of Customer and Digital Services
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Clive Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manger
Mike Headington, Green Spaces and Transport Services Manager
Sarena Ford, Senior Communications Officer
Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer

Background Papers: <https://www.healthytravel.wales/gwent>

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Gwent Healthy Travel Charter

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Gwent Healthy Travel Charter

Gwent Public Sector Commitments 2020-23

Working together, for our sites in Gwent, we commit to...



Teithio Llesol

Gwent

Healthy Travel

Gwent

Communication and Leadership

Establish a network of sustainable travel champions, including senior staff and managers who routinely promote and model active and sustainable travel behaviour

Agree and use consistent communications messages with the public, visitors and staff on healthy travel and reducing unnecessary travel

Promote and consider healthy travel options and benefits across wider functions, such as: procurement, conferences, and when advertising roles in our organisations

Review together our travel expenses policies, to encourage uptake of sustainable travel

Collaborate with partners and provide strategic leadership and planning on healthy and sustainable travel

Public Transport

Explore discounts for staff on Transport for Wales rail services and with local transport providers

Walking, cycling and public transport

Contribute to an interactive map showing all walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport links for our main public sector sites in Gwent

Cycling

Offer the cycle to work scheme to all staff (including e-bikes)

Assess and provide as appropriate secure cycle storage and showers at all main sites

Improve access to bicycles at work where appropriate, e.g. pool bikes and hire bikes

Explore and promote cycle training and maintenance sessions

Agile working

Increase availability and uptake of tele- and video-conferencing for meetings where appropriate

Improve flexible working options, including home working, and develop a culture of agile working across public sector sites

Ultra low emission vehicles

Review the current and future need for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure on our sites

Review our fleet and procurement arrangements (where applicable) for introduction of ultra-low emission vehicles

Between us, we will...

Reduce the proportion of journeys commuting to and from work made by car from 87% to 77%

Increase the proportion of staff who use public transport to travel to and from work from 3% to 8%

Increase the proportion of staff who work from home 1 or more days per week from 14% to 25%

Increase the proportion of vehicles used during the day which are ultra-low emission from <1% to 5%

We are organisations across Gwent committed to sustainable travel

For the latest list of signatories and to read more about the Charter please visit

www.healthytravel.wales/gwent

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CABINET- 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CRESCENT RD CAR PARK,
CAERPHILLY**

REPORT BY: INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report recommends the sale of land at Crescent Rd car park, Caerphilly to developers in order to facilitate the development of a residential scheme aimed at the over 55's at the derelict Llys Ifor site. The development will include a mixture of one and two bedded flats plus a coach drivers rest/welfare facility and space for retail/restaurant use on the ground floor. The land requested to be released comprises circa 268m².

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report requests Cabinet approval to release council owned land located at the eastern edge of Crescent Rd car park Caerphilly (See Appendix 1), to developers who own adjacent land at Llys Ifor. They require the land to accommodate sufficient car parking to allow the proposed development at Llys Ifor to proceed.
- 2.2 The current owners of the Llys Ifor building wish to demolish it and replace it with a new open market sale older persons housing development. Through discussions with the Council, the developer is prepared to provide a small coach drivers' facility in the new complex and possibly space for an A3 café/retail on the ground floor of the development, facing the castle.
- 2.3 The developer is keen to proceed with this development but require the Council owned land in order to provide the necessary car parking associated with the scheme

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet:
- i) Approve the disposal of land (268m²) at the eastern edge of Crescent Rd car park Caerphilly to accommodate the wider re-development of the Llys Ifor building. (See Appendix 1)

- ii) Approve that detailed terms of disposal be delegated to the Head of Property Services and the Head of Regeneration and Planning in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The land requested by the developer comprises the site of the former recycling bins plus 6 car parking spaces. The recycling bins have been removed so this area is currently underutilised.
- 4.2 Paragraph 8.1(iv) of the Disposal Procedure in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution states that Cabinet approval will be obtained before direct negotiations are opened with a single party where it is possible to market a property but where the Head of Property Service is of the opinion that this course of action may not be in the best financial or service interests of the Authority
- 4.3 The disposal will help unlock a site for residential development and will bolster the town's visitor economy through the provision of a coach drivers' facility and possibly an A3 café on the edge of Crescent Road Car Park and close to Caerphilly Castle.

5. THE REPORT

Background

- 5.1 Llys Ifor is an office building located at the entrance to Crescent Road car park, Caerphilly. It has stood empty for over 6 years and even though it is being marketed by local commercial letting agents there has been little or no interest in it for commercial use.
- 5.2 The site has in the past been investigated for social rented accommodation, but the new owner now wishes to demolish the current empty building and build a 4 storey 29 unit (mix of one and two bed) residential development aimed at open market sale to over 55's.
- 5.3 Initial discussions have taken place between the developer with the Council's Planning, Housing and Regeneration Departments. Through the formal planning pre-application process and wider discussion, it has also been established that the scheme will require circa 14 no. car parking spaces to comply with the Council's current car parking guidance for this type of development. In order to accommodate this number of car parking spaces the developer has informally approached the Council to request that land in the adjacent council owned Crescent Rd car park be sold to them.
- 5.4 In separate discussions with the Council's Regeneration Department, the developer has discussed providing facilities within the Llys Ifor development that are aimed at bolstering the visitor offer within the town centre. The most recent plans submitted to the Local Planning Authority provide for a coach drivers welfare facility within the new scheme. An A3 café on the north eastern corner of the ground floor of the development. is also being discussed.
- 5.5 The Council's Housing Department concluded at the time of planning pre-app that there was insufficient evidence to support a 100% social housing older persons scheme at this site. Their primary evidence base (2018 Local Housing Market Assessment) did not support the need for more older persons' housing. They informed

the zoned HA's that they would not support the scheme for social housing but that they would re-evaluate this decision once an analysis of lettings to Cwrt Pen Capel (former Magistrates Court) had been completed and the LHMA had been revised. Linc Cymru did then investigate the option of changing the scheme to single persons but found that this didn't stack up – one of the reasons being that it wouldn't have been able to comply with car parking requirements, which would be greater than for older persons.

- 5.6 The owner now wishes to pursue an open market sales development for older persons without the input of any registered social landlord and has recently submitted a planning application to this effect.
- 5.7 It is worth noting that Cadw have developed a masterplan for Caerphilly Castle and are looking to invest heavily over the next 3-5 years to elevate the Castle to a Tier One tourist attraction. Their goal is to double visitor numbers and officers are currently working with them to ensure that the infrastructure of the town will be able to accommodate this increase and that the town itself offers opportunities for visitors to extend their visit. The facilities proposed in this development on the ground floor will help towards improving the visitor offer and attracting more visitors by coach.

Current Position

- 5.8 The developer has now submitted a full planning application for this scheme and is now requesting that they can acquire sufficient land from the Council to accommodate 14 no. car parking spaces.
- 5.9 The land that the developer has expressed an interest in is shown in more detail at Appendix 1. It comprises the following:
- the site of the former local recycling facility, which is now laying dormant; and
 - 6 no. car parking spaces at the north eastern edge of the Crescent Rd car park.
- 5.10 The Council's Head of Infrastructure has agreed in principle to the release of this land and the associated loss of car parking, whilst Property Services have established that there is no operational requirement for this land from any other Council Service Area.
- 5.11 CCBC Housing would still consider social housing at this site if it could satisfy car parking requirements. However, they would need to carry out another assessment, because the current assessment looks at the need for older persons' provision and not general needs. They would have to look at this in the wider context and would need to look at the combined effect of all other social housing development being planned in and around Caerphilly town centre. It is worth noting that in order to accommodate general needs social housing then more of the council owned car park would be required to accommodate the necessary additional parking requirements. As outlined above the owner is keen to proceed with a private development and not work with the zoned housing associations at this moment in time.
- 5.12 There is a recognition within the Council's Regeneration Strategy that our town centres need to diversify to keep them vibrant and resilient to external pressures, such as the current demise of on-street retailing and the impact of Covid 19. The additional footfall in the town centre brought about by this development will help with footfall and local spend in town centre businesses.
- 5.13 The provision of a coach drivers' facility and possibly an A3 café will help to diversify the town centre and will bolster the visitor economy in and around Caerphilly Castle.

Cadw and the Council have been searching for ways to deliver a coach drivers' rest / welfare facility for some time. This facility is necessary to attract more coach parties and receive the "coach friendly town" accreditation. It will complement the proposed coach drop off points near the Castle entrance and collectively these interventions will help attract a larger coach market to the town.

- 5.14 The developer will not look to manage the coach drivers' facility or the café, even though they will own the freehold interest in the property. The café space, if taken forward will be leased out whilst the management responsibility for the coach drivers' facility will rest with the Council through a licence/lease agreement. The details of this arrangement are yet to be finalised. Maintenance of the facility will be covered off from within the Regeneration Department's revenue budget.
- 5.15 The site is not designated or allocated for any specific use within the adopted LDP. Caerphilly is defined as the Principal Town Centre in the Southern Connections Corridor in the LDP. It accommodates major retailers, employers, providers of services, such as banks, building societies, the town library and also provides the main hospitality and shopping provision for visitors to the area. It has a unique tourism offer which helps to drive visitor footfall to the town centre.
- 5.16 Caerphilly has been identified as a strategic hub for growth and this scheme will help the town centre diversify. This is particularly relevant with Covid and the realisation that town centres can no longer rely on a retail offer. This is a key principle of the emerging Caerphilly 2035 Place Plan for Caerphilly and the adopted Caerphilly Basin Masterplan as is the desire to improve the visitor offer within the town.

Next Steps

- 5.17 The report recommends that the detailed terms of disposal be delegated to the Head of Property Services and the Head of Regeneration and Planning in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure. If the principle of accommodating this development through the sale of Council land is endorsed by Cabinet, the Council's Property Services Section will lead on negotiations with the developer to agree acceptable terms for the disposal of the land. The developer has indicated that they are willing to build the coach drivers' welfare facility in lieu of paying a capital receipt for the land. This option will be explored further but may not be palatable to the Council.
- 5.18 Through consultation on this proposal a local elected Member has voiced some concerns about the development being aimed at open market sales for the over 55's. Although they support the creation of a coach drivers facility and café which will help to improve opportunities for visitor access to the town and add value to their overall experience, they believe specifying over 55's for open market sale does not address the issues the Council has with the demand for young single persons accommodation in the Caerphilly basin area.

Conclusion

- 5.19 This land disposal will aid residential development in the heart of the town, helping it diversify and become more resilient to external economic factors that are forcing towns to reimagine themselves. The scheme will also help bolster the visitor economy.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 It is assumed that the loss of 6 no. car parking spaces at Crescent Rd will not have a detrimental effect on the overall car parking provision there. The car park has 184 spaces in total so the loss of circa 3% of the spaces and £1500 per annum revenue will be manageable.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The proposal is relevant to the following council's policies:

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The report recommendations contribute towards or impacts predominantly on the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 2 - Enabling employment.

Objective 3 - Address the supply, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

7.3 Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021:

The proposal also aligns with the key aims within the Council's LDP, specifically:

Developing the prosperity of our Principal town centres.

Identifying opportunities for new housing in areas of demand.

To increase the economic prosperity of the people and communities of the County Borough.

7.4 A Foundation for Success 2018-2023:

The proposal contributes towards the following key priorities of the Council's Regeneration Strategy - A Foundation for Success:

Priority SQL5: Improve the delivery of new housing and diversify housing across all tenures.

Priority SQL7: Refocus on town centres to serve the needs of residents and business.

Priority SQL4: Maximise the tourism potential of the County Borough to become an established tourism destination.

Priority SB1: Building a more resilient & diversified economy – supporting the growth of local companies.

Priority CCP3: Promote place-making development around key transport hubs and nodes – promote economic development at key locations on the transport network to realise significant place making change.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The proposals outlined in this report contribute to the Well-being Goals. As such it aligns with the following:

- A Prosperous Wales – Providing more jobs and accommodation in the area will create more wealth for the local population.
- A Resilient Wales – Providing additional and more diverse housing and employment opportunities will make the area more resilient to external economic factors.
- A Wales of Cohesive Communities – providing local housing and employment opportunities will help to stabilise and develop local communities and prevent outmigration as people seek work.

8.2 The report recommendations are consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:

- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs;
- Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring, or getting worse, may help public bodies meet their objectives;
- Integration – Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies;
- Collaboration – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives;
- Involvement – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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 The Council will expect to get market value and will receive a capital receipt for the site. However, the value of the site is yet to be determined and could take the form of the provision of a coach drivers' facility in the Llys Ifor complex in lieu, or as part payment, of a monetary amount.

10.2 The Council currently charges for parking at Crescent Rd car park. The six spaces identified for sale currently generate an income to the Council. The spaces are located

in the short stay designated area and are charged at the following rates.

1 hr – 70p
2hr - £1.00
3hr - £1.40
4hr - £2.20
Day - £3.70

- 10.3 Please note that any loss of car parking spaces will lead to a loss of revenue income to the Council. Examining the trend from 2015/16 to 2018/19 (not 19/20 as income dropped at year end due to Covid) income per space averaged £194. As the Council increased prices in 19/20, the estimated average income per space on a normal year would be around £200. This would increase to circa £250 per space per year for the short stay car parking spaces.
- 10.4 So the sale of the 6 spaces would see the income from the car park reduce by circa £1500 per annum.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Local Government Act 1972, and the Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (Wales) 2003. This is a Cabinet Function.

Author: Allan Dallimore, Regeneration Services Manager (dallia@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Cllr Sean Morgan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise
Cllr John Ridgewell, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure
Christina Harrhy – Chief Executive
Mark S. Williams, Interim Corporate Director Communities
Stephen Harris, Head of Business Improvement Services and Section 151 Officer
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rhian Kyte, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Marcus Lloyd, Head of Infrastructure
Clive Campbell, Transport Engineering Manager
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property
Timothy Broadhurst, Property Services Manager

Paul Hudson, Business, Enterprise and Renewal Team Manager
Dave Roberts, Principal Accountant, Corporate Finance
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language
Cllr Shayne Cook, Morgan Jones ward
Cllr James Pritchard, Morgan Jones ward
Cllr Colin Elsbury, St Martins ward
Cllr James Fussell, St Martins ward
Cllr Steve Kent, St Martins ward

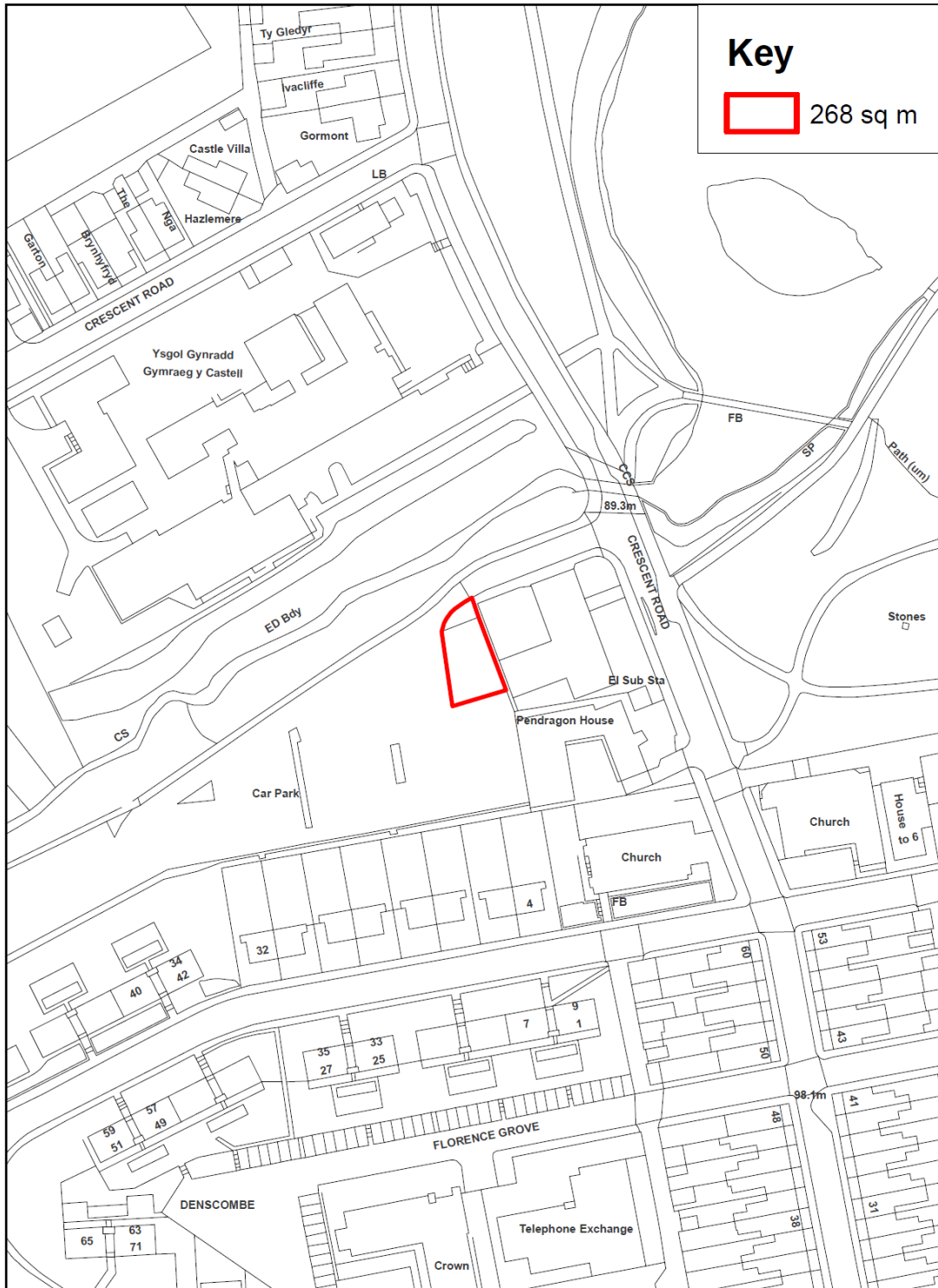
Appendices:

Appendix 1 Site Location Plan

APPENDIX 1

Crescent Road Caerphilly

1:1,25



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