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(Tel: 01443 864243 Email: kaucz@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 20th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Sustainable Development Advisory Panel** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Thursday, 28th May, 2015** at **5.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM 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 this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.	
To approve and sign the following minutes: -	
3 Sustainable Development Advisory Panel held on 26th February 2015.	1 - 4
To receive and consider the following reports/presentations: -	

A greener place Man gwyrdach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



- 4 Volunteering in Caerphilly County Borough. (A presentation by Keri Williams, Volunteering Information Officer, GAVO).
- 5 Sustainable Development Staff Survey, March 2015. (A report by Paul Cooke, Team Leader Sustainable Development & Living Environment). 5 - 22
- 6 Climate Change Adaptation Plan April 2015. (A report by Paul Cooke, Team Leader Sustainable Development & Living Environment). 23 - 28

Circulation:

Councillors M.A. Adams, H.A. Andrews, Mrs A. Blackman, K. Dawson, C. Elsbury, D. Havard (Vice Chair), K. James (Chair), S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, C.P. Mann and J.A. Pritchard

And Appropriate Officers



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
ON THURSDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Havard - Vice Chair (Presiding)

Councillors:

M. Adams, Mrs P. Cook, C. Elsbury, S. Kent, C.P. Mann, J.A. Pritchard, P. Leonard.

Together with:

P. Cooke (Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment), S. Martin (Principal Contracts Officer (Energy)), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. Dawson and K. James.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel meeting held on 6th November 2014 were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. MAES YR ONN FARM - HOW IS IT PERFORMING?

The Panel welcomed Simon Lannon, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, to the meeting to present a case study that had been undertaken by Solcer/LCBE on the off-grid Maes Yr Onn project at Manmoel.

Maes Yr Onn incorporates a range of green technologies that include solar photovoltaic panels, a biomass boiler, thermal store, rainwater harvesting and battery bank to store surplus energy. The project aims not only to provide a full off-grid energy and heat supply to the family who live there but also to prove the efficiency of the systems and how well they work on off grid conditions without the back up help of the electrical, gas and water grid. Since moving

into the property the family have been monitoring their energy use so that data can be gathered on behaviour and lifestyle changes required for the effective transition from grid to off grid living.

The systems installed include a 2.88 kWp capacity solar pv array across the south facing roof; a lead acid battery bank; diesel generator for back up electricity and to maintain battery charge levels when required; 20kW biomass boiler fed from the family's own woodland and a 1,200 litre combined capacity thermal store serving an innovative skirting radiator system. Rainwater is harvested from the main house as well as adjacent barns. A 5,500 litre water tank is passed through a UV purifier lamp and filters.

Detailed graphs showing the results of monthly and daily totals and averages of energy and water usage at the property were provided. It was noted that PV is the dominant energy source for over half the year. Appliance use in the house on average is 2.0 kWh per day – the BRE report quotes a figure of 6.7 kWh per day. The house monitoring has not included the services parasitic load including the water purification energy demand. The occupant is adapting the system to protect the batteries.

It was noted that during discussions with members of the project team the family had indicated that they did not feel as though they had had to make any significant changes to adapt to the new way of living. They were satisfied with the design of the house and had confidence in the pv, solar thermal installations. Their only concern was that of water consumption, particularly if a dry summer led to a period of drought.

Following the update on the Maes Yr Onn project, details were received of examples of retrofits of five different dwellings. Before and after pictures were shown of houses that had undergone retrofits, ranging from a pre 1919 solid wall end of terrace typical Welsh valley house to a 3 bedroom, semi-detached house built in the 2000s. Details were provided of energy consumption, costs and CO2 emissions before and after the retrofits. Pre and post test surveys examined fabric performance; occupant perceptions; appliance use diaries; monitoring of construction costs; measurement of thermal comfort; indoor air quality; local weather conditions and energy demand, supply and storage.

During the course of the ensuing discussion Members sought further information on various issues relating in particular to the renewable technologies used in the Maes Yr Onn project. The Chair thanked Mr Lannon for attending the meeting and for the very interesting presentation.

5. CYD CYMRU COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCHING SCHEME

Steve Martin, Principal Contracts Officer (Energy), presented the report which sought Cabinet approval to sign up to the Cyd Cymru Charter “A Collective Energy Scheme for Domestic Homes in Wales”. The report was presented to the Panel for information following Cabinet’s decision on 21st January 2015 to sign up to the Charter.

Cyd Cymru is a collective energy switching scheme developed to offer people in Wales an opportunity to save money by coming together to buy fuel “in bulk”. The scheme was developed in 2013 by Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, with support from Welsh Government’s Regional Collaboration Fund. The scheme is being delivered in partnership with Energy Saving Trust Wales, a social enterprise with a charitable foundation.

Currently, for each household that switches its supplier through Cyd Cymru, a fee is paid by the energy provider into a community fund. This fund is redistributed to local authorities across Wales based on the number of fuel switches in each area. The fund should be donated to local charities and in this respect a further report would be presented to Cabinet following the end of the financial year to determine how and which local charities would benefit.

Members were advised that officers were busy distributing leaflets and erecting posters to promote the scheme amongst staff and residents in the best way possible.

Following consideration and discussion members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel noted the report and the decision taken by Cabinet to sign up to the Charter.

6. ENERGY GRANTS – PRESENTATION

The Panel received a presentation from Steve Martin, Principal Contracts Officer (Energy), on Energy Grant provision and the relevant projects that have been undertaken within the County Borough.

Details were received of Arbed projects that had been undertaken as part of the Phase 2 scheme. Arbed, which is in its final year, is a Welsh Government project which aims to reduce the amount of energy we use in our homes and to reduce energy bills whilst making homes warmer and more comfortable. Successful Arbed projects had been undertaken at Fochriw, Hollybush, Markham and Phillipstown (which was also part funded by ECO funding).

There is potentially £35m available from the Welsh Government ECO fund. Bids are requested from Welsh Government periodically and a collaborative approach is sought. Bids are assessed against a Welsh Government scoring matrix. There are three obligations under the ECO i.e. Home Heating cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO); Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) and Carbon Savings Communities Obligation (CSCO).

The NEST scheme is available to private and private rented homes which are classed as hard to treat i.e. F and G rated. Someone in the household has to be on a means tested benefit.

Green Deals aim to make energy saving improvements to homes. Typical measures include solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, heating, draught proofing, double glazing and renewable energy generation. The Green Deal Home Improvement Fund is available for home owners in England and Wales. A Green Deal Advice Report or an EPC less than 2 years old will be required. £30m of vouchers are released on a quarterly basis and currently there is up to £5,600 available per household.

Reference was then made to solar photo-voltaic energy and the feed-in tariff earned for each kwh of electricity generated by the system. Finally, the Panel were provided with details of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, which is a government financial incentive to promote the uptake of renewable heating among domestic consumers. It is targeted at but not limited to, homes off the gas grid. Those without mains gas have the most potential to save on fuel bills and decrease carbon emissions.

Following the informative presentation, Mr Martin responded to questions from members of the Panel on the issues raised.

The meeting closed at 6.37 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments being recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2015.

CHAIR

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 28TH MAY 2015

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STAFF SURVEY, MARCH 2015

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To make Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Panel aware of the findings of the staff survey of sustainable development, health and wellbeing, undertaken between November 2014 and January 2015.

2. SUMMARY

The staff survey was sent out electronically to all staff with access to e mail. Additional work was done to ensure that employees in depots, canteens and in service where they did not have access to the intranet were engaged in the process. In total 1,014 people responded to the survey.

2.1 Sustainable Development Indicators

Overall the average level of understanding of sustainable development was 2.37. This was down from 2.5 in 2008 and further down from 2.6 in October 2007.

78% of respondents said that they travelled to work in a car on their own.

Only 3% of the respondents in 2014/15 said that took part in vigorous physical activity (sport, running, cycling) at least 5 times per week.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The staff survey provides data to monitor the sustainable development .

3.2 The work of the sustainable development team supports the following strategies:

- “Living Better, Using Less”, Sustainable Development Strategy, 2008.
- “Caerphilly Delivers” Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017.
- Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship Strategy, 2009.
- CCBC Corporate Improvement Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The staff SD, health and wellbeing survey was developed by the SD and Health Improvement Teams to update indicators that both teams use to monitor understanding and progress in their areas. It was agreed that a combined questionnaire providing information for the Employee Health & Wellbeing Group would be the best use of resources and provide the best response rate. Questionnaires were sent electronically to all staff with access to the intranet. Additional work was done to ensure that employees in depots, canteens and in service where they did not have access to the intranet were engaged in the process. This was done by using the team meeting structures or by visiting depots to talk directly to staff.

This report looks at the SD indicators. A separate assessment will be undertaken to look at the responses to the health related questions

- 4.2 In total 1,014 responses to the 2014/15 survey were received. Of the respondent 7% were school based and 51% mostly office based.

The staff survey undertaken in November 2008 was sent out in the post to the homes of 1,000 staff randomly selected using the payroll system. 248 responses were received to that survey. In the 2008 survey 52.8% of respondents were based within a school, 25.7% were mostly office based.

The staff survey undertaken in October 2007 was sent out to all staff using the payroll system. Out of the 9,000 employees, 8.6% of staff (777 employees) completed and returned the survey. Of these 23% were based within a school and 55% mostly office based.

Reorganisation of Services has also taken place. Leisure Services have moved from Education to Community & Leisure, Corporate Services and Chief Executives have combined.

This difference in the break down of the groups of respondents from the 3 surveys may mean that it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from direct comparisons of responses. The changes to the structure make it difficult to compare the results from the 3 surveys by Directorate.

4.3 Sustainable Development Indicators

As part of the survey, questions were included to obtain data on 4 SD indicators.

Level of understanding of sustainable development

To assess levels of understanding of SD, respondents were asked to identify their level (1 – 5) using a flow chart (see Appendix 1). The higher the level the greater the understanding. Level 1 indicates that they have never heard of the term sustainable development. Level 5 indicates that the respondent understands the term, and the implication on their life.

- Overall the average level of understanding of sustainable development from the 14/15 survey was 2.37. This was down from 2.5 in 2008 and further down from 2.6 in October 2007.

Levels of understanding by Directorate

Directorate	Number of responses	Average level of understanding of SD
Corporate Services	269	2.61
Education & Lifelong Learning	198	1.98
Social Services	160	2.11
The Environment	293	2.59
Caerphilly County Borough Council	920	2.37

The percentage of staff that drive to work in a car on their own

In 2014/15, 78% of respondents said that they travelled to work in a car on their own. This compares to 66.9% of respondents in 2008 and 79% in Oct 2007.

- 7% car share compared to 10.4% in 2008 and 7.2% in October 2007.
- 18% walk to work compared to 17% in 2008 and 10% in October 2007.

The percentage of staff who take 30 minutes or more of exercise 5 or more times per week

Thirty minutes of exercise 5 times per week is the recommended minimum amount of exercise to remain fit and healthy. Vigorous physical activity is more beneficial.

- Only 3% of the respondents in 2014/15 said that took part in 30 minutes or more of vigorous physical activity (sport, running, cycling) at least 5 times per week. 10% said that took part in moderate physical activity at least 5 times each week.
- 22.5% of respondents in 2008 took part in 30 minutes or more of exercise 5 or more times per week up from 18% in October 2007.
- 60% in 2014/15 never took part in any vigorous physical activity. 44% never took part in moderate physical activity and 16% never took part in light physical activity.
- Of those surveyed in 2014/15, 65% felt that they were physically active.

The percentage of staff who engage in voluntary activity in their local area

- In 2014/15, 8% engaged in voluntary activity between 1 and 3 hours per month compared to 10% in 2008.
- In 2014/15, 5% volunteered more than 10 hours per month compared to 9% in 2008.
- In 2014/15, 69% never volunteered, compared to 67% in 2008.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 See list below.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the panel note the findings of the survey set out in this report.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 As set out in the report.

Author Paul Cooke, Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment
cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk

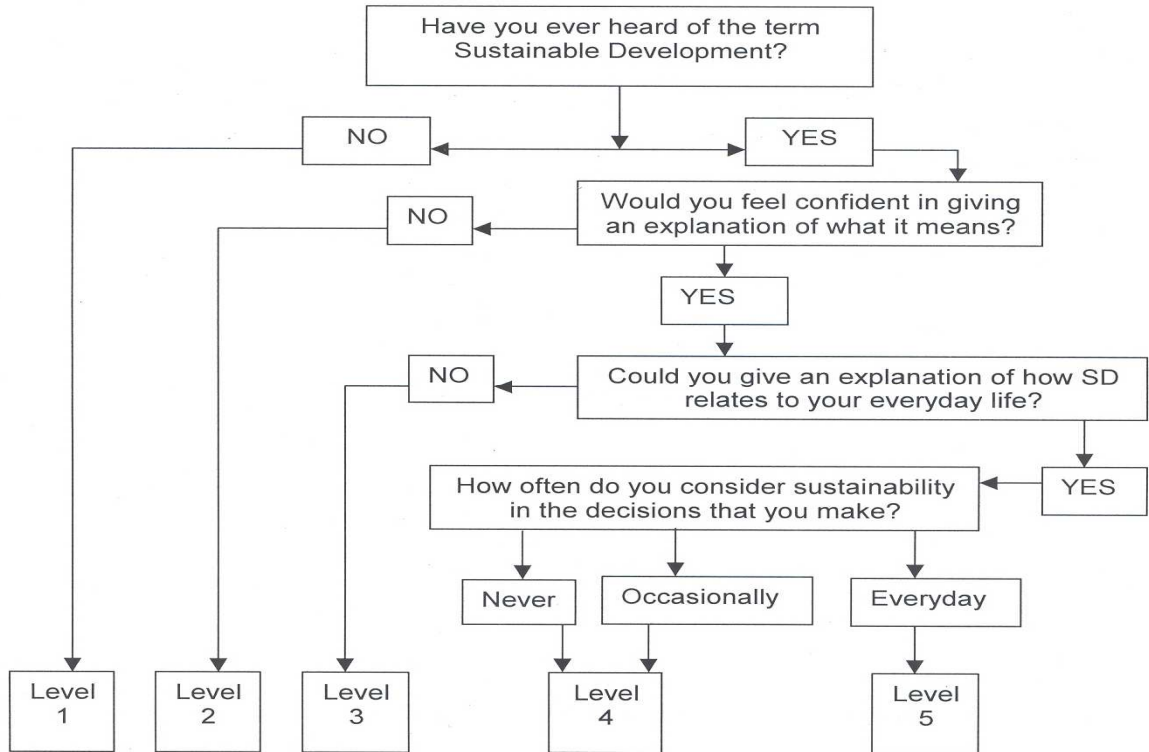
Consultees: Cllr Ken James - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable
Development
Cllr Derek Havard - Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
Chris Burns – Interim Chief Executive
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning
Paul Rossiter – Energy & Water Conservation Officer
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator
Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.
Tracy Evans – Education for Sustainable Development Officer
Ian Raymond – Performance Management Unit
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator.
Natasha Ford – Supplier Relationship Officer Procurement Svcs.
Steve Martin – Principal Contracts Officer (Energy)

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Flow Chart for level of understanding of sustainable Development

Appendix 2: Staff survey responses

Appendix 1: Flow Chart for level of understanding of sustainable Development

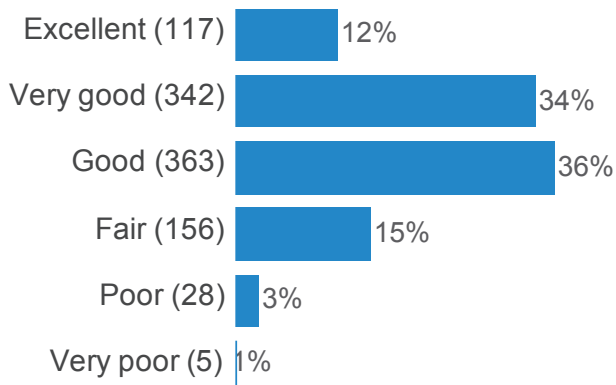


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Employee Sustainable Development, Health & Well-being Questionnaire November 2014

This report was generated on 04/03/15, giving the results for 1014 respondents.

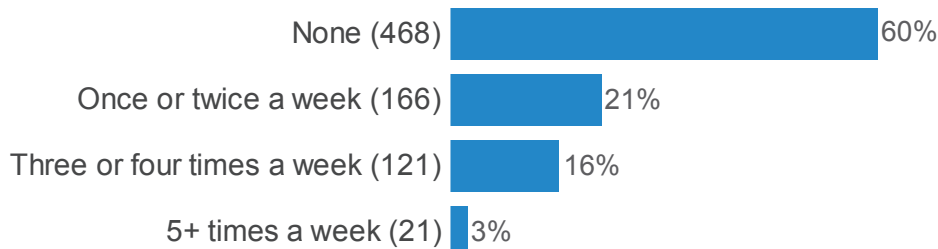
In general, would you say that your health is: (please tick only one)



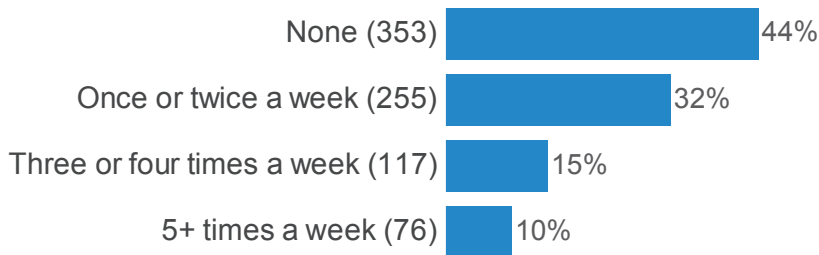
Do you think you are physically active in your life at present? (please tick only one)



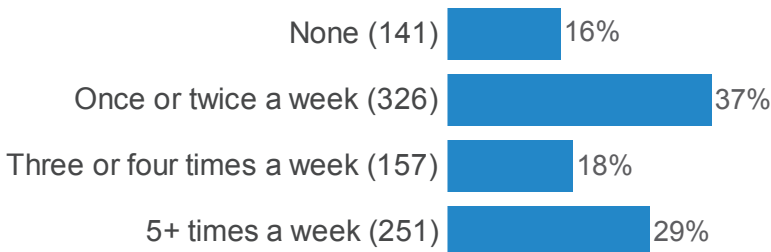
In an average week, how many times do you participate in the following activities for at least 30 minutes... (please tick as appropriate) (Vigorous physical activity (e.g. football, running, cycling))



In an average week, how many times do you participate in the following activities for at least 30 minutes... (please tick as appropriate) (Moderate physical activity (jogging, hill walking, heavy gardening))



In an average week, how many times do you participate in the following activities for at least 30 minutes... (please tick as appropriate) (Light physical activity (yoga, walking))



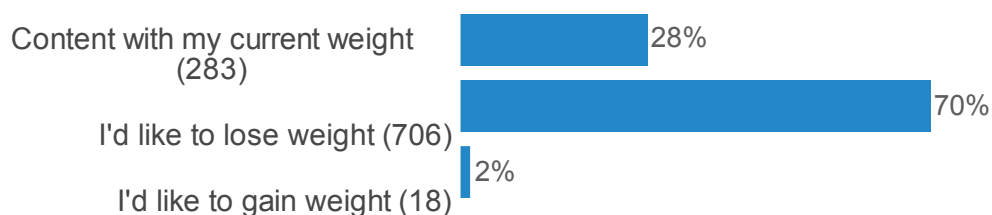
Has the availability of activities for employees improved your physical activity levels in the past 12 months?

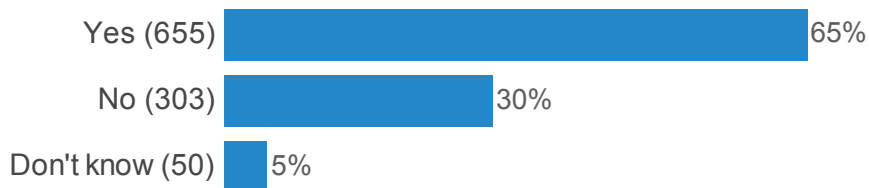
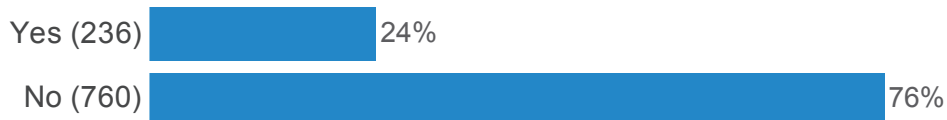
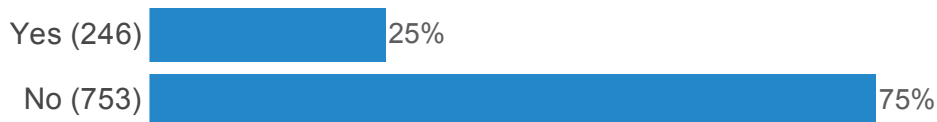
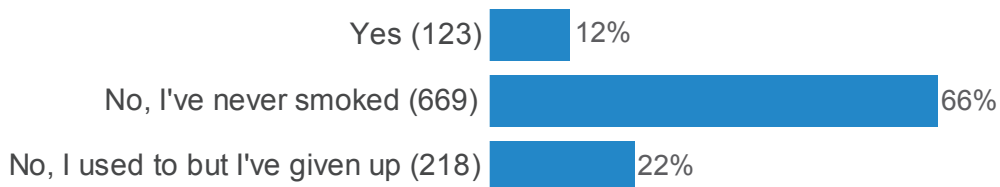
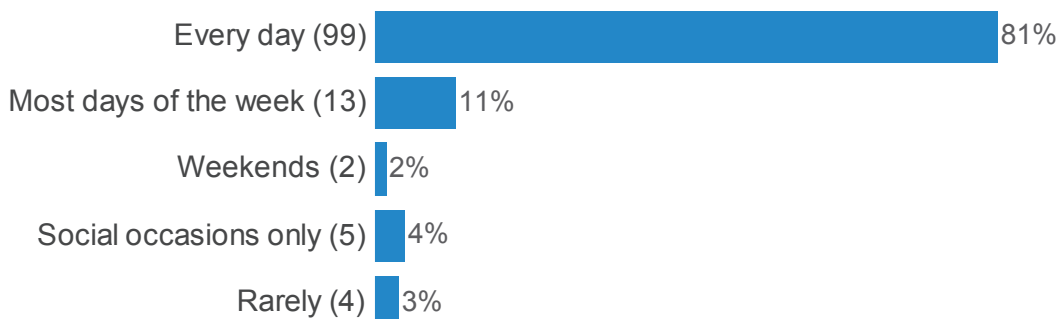


Has the provision of information to employees improved your physical activity levels in the past 12 months?

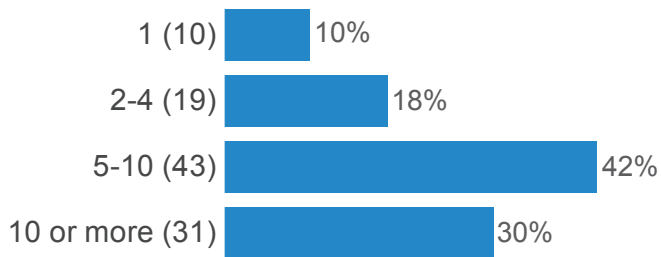


Are you happy with what you currently weigh? (please tick only one)

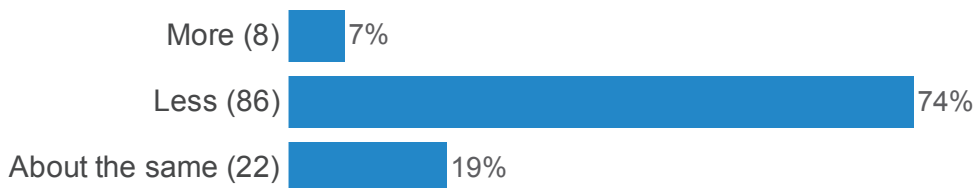


Do you think you eat a balanced and healthy diet? (please tick only one)**Has the availability of healthy options in work helped you to eat more healthily?****Has the information on healthy eating in work helped you to eat more healthily?****Do you currently smoke? (please tick only one)****How often do you smoke? (please tick only one)**

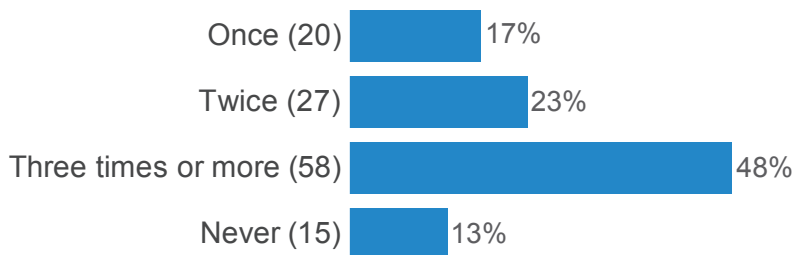
**If you smoke during the working day, on average, how many cigarettes do you smoke?
(please tick only one)**



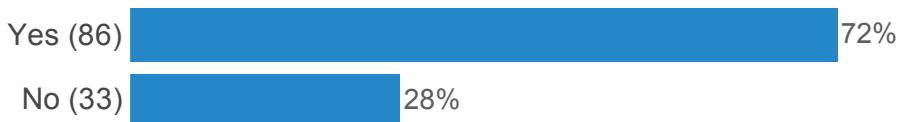
Would you say you smoke more or less during your working day, compared with weekends and evenings? (please tick only one)



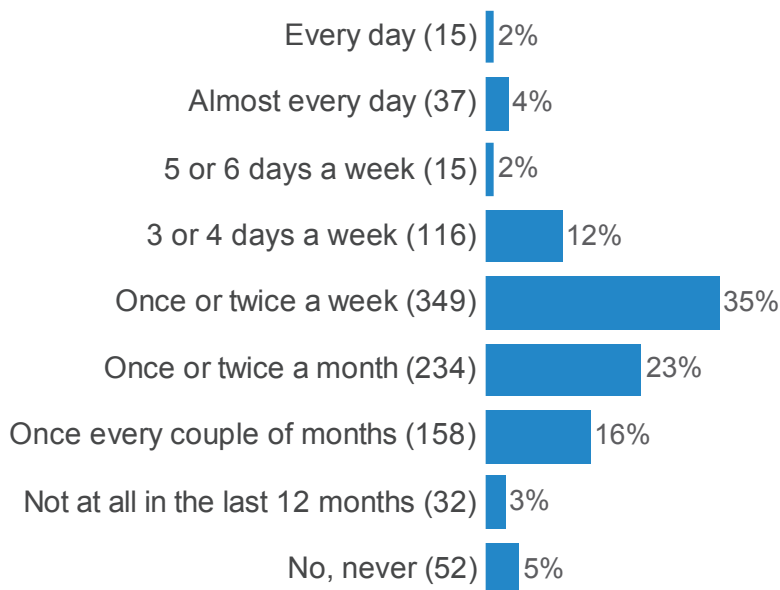
Have you tried to give up smoking? (please tick only one)



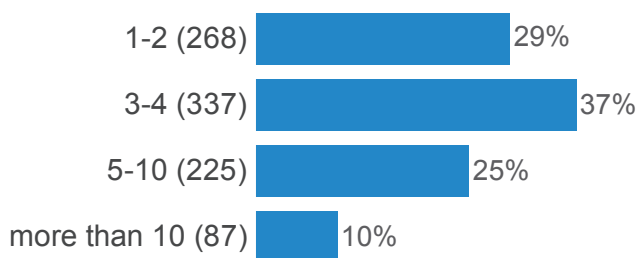
Would you like to give up smoking? (please tick only one)



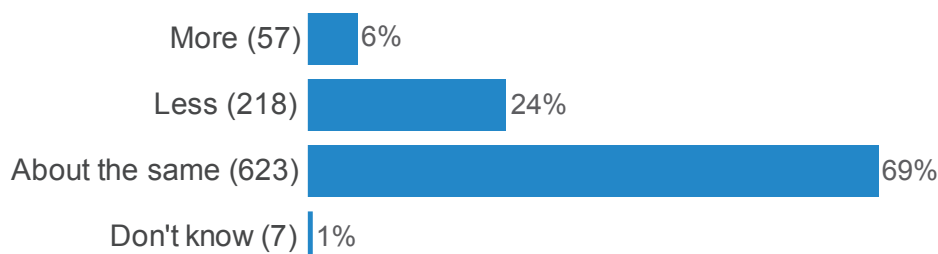
Do you drink alcohol? (please tick only one)



On average, how many units of alcohol do you consume each time you drink? (1 unit of alcohol = 1 pub measure spirits OR 1 shot, 2 units of alcohol = 1 small glass wine OR 1 pint ordinary strenght lager)



Compared with this time last year, would you say you were drinking more, less or about the same amount of alcohol? (please tick only one)



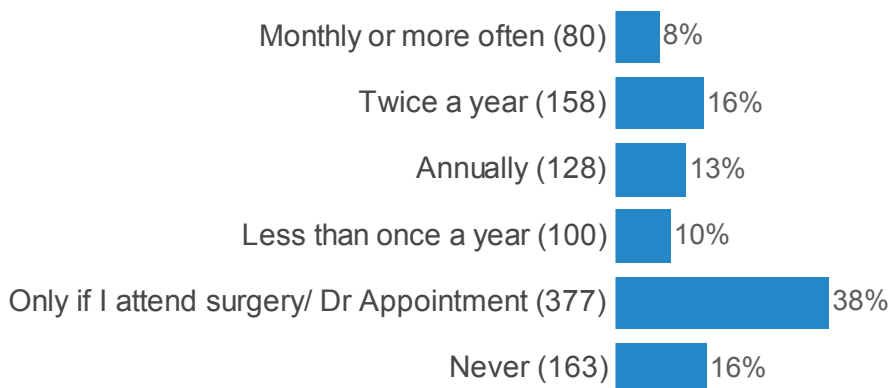
In the past 12 months, have you taken time off work because you are feeling under too much pressure at work? (please tick only one)



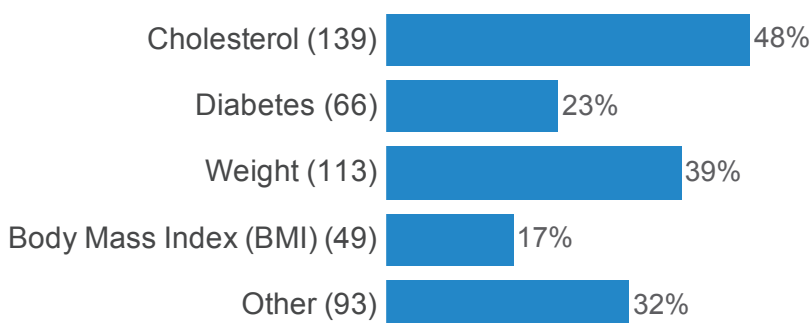
In the past 12 months, have you taken time off work because you are feeling under too much pressure outside of work? (please tick only one)

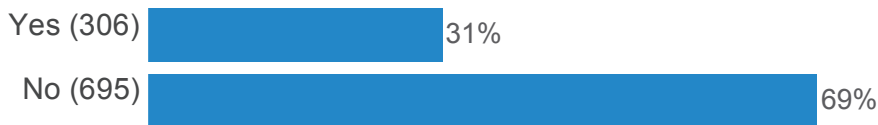
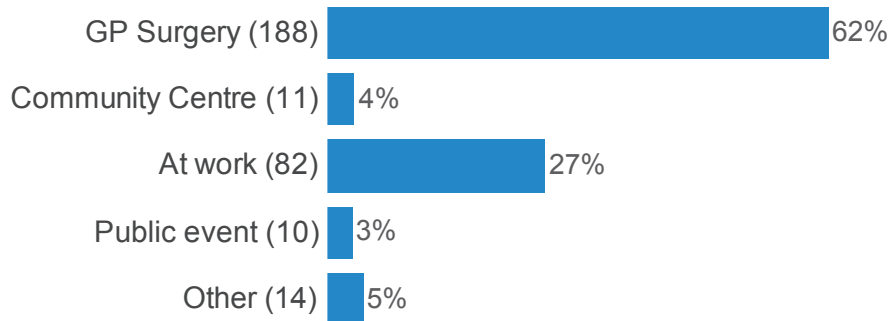
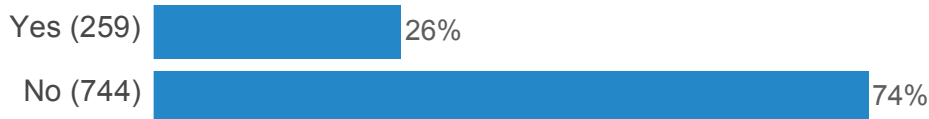
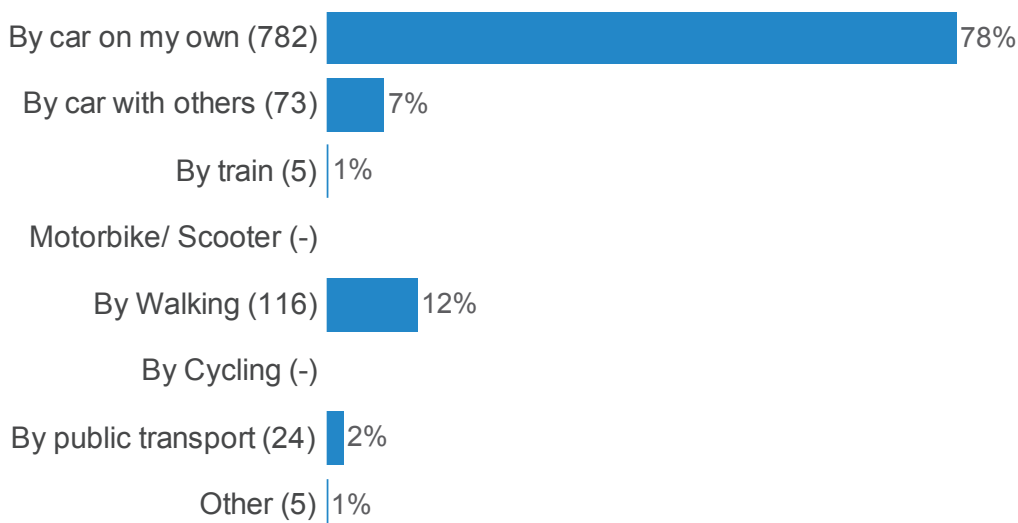


How often do you have your blood pressure checked? (please tick only one)

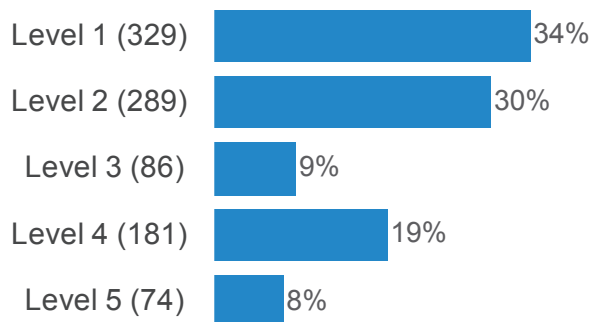


Do you have regular (for example annually, six monthly or more frequent) checks for any of the following (please tick all that apply)

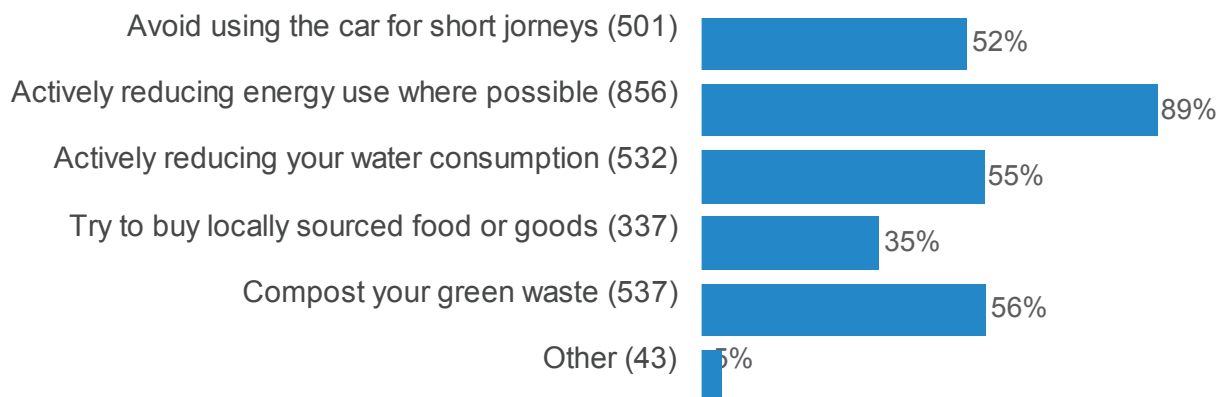


Have you ever attended a Health 'MOT' (i.e. lifestyle screening - blood pressure, cholesterol, height, weight etc)? (please tick only one)**If yes, please tell us where you attended your last Health 'MOT' (please tick only one)****Would you be prepared to pay a monthly amount for private health care?****How do you normally travel to work? (please tick only one)**

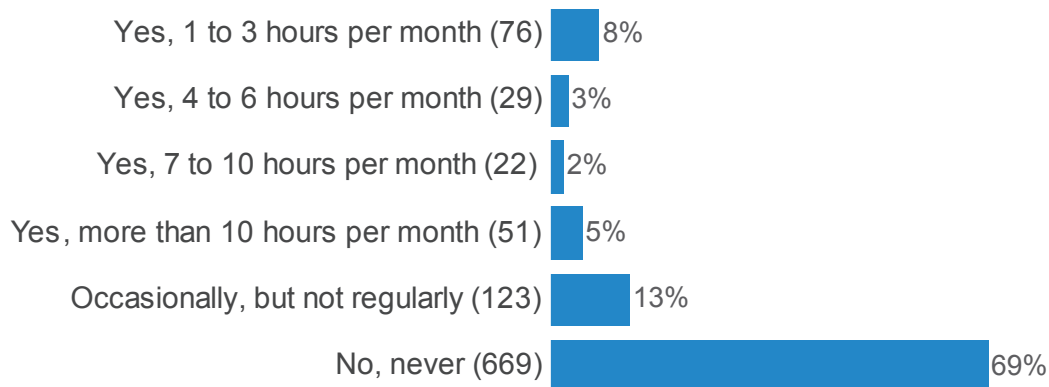
Using the flowchart below, please indicate your level of understanding of sustainable development



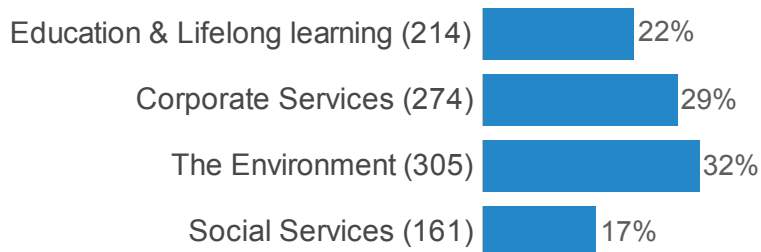
At home, do you...? (please tick as many as appropriate)



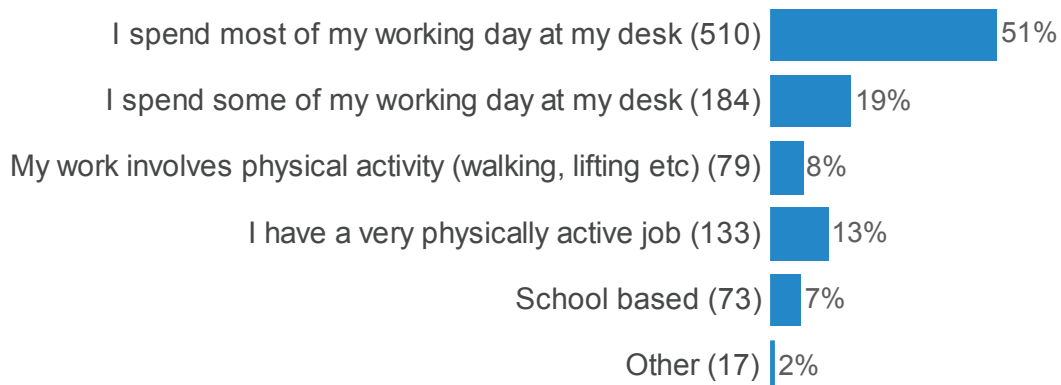
Do you engage in any voluntary activity in your local area? If yes, how many hours do you do on average per month?



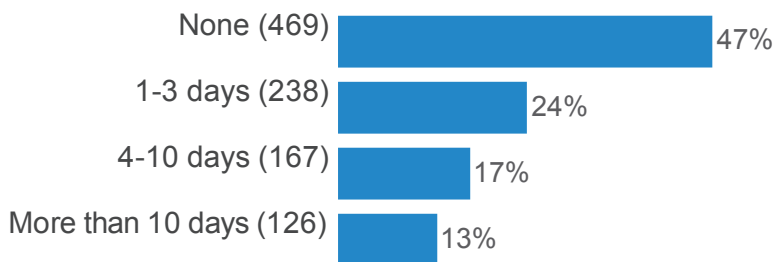
Which Directorate do you work for?



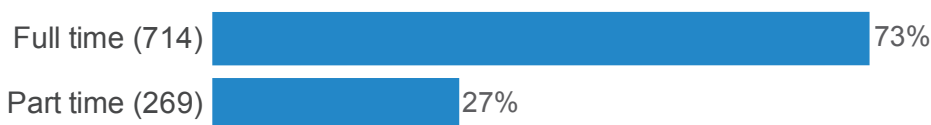
How would you describe your job? (please tick only one)



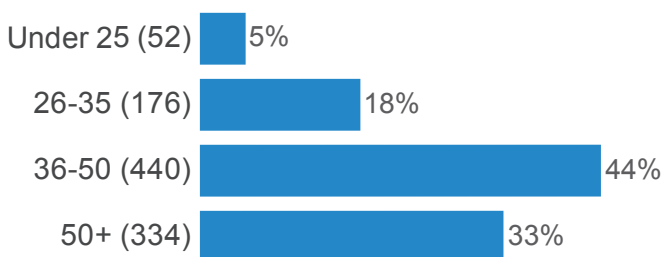
In the last year, please specify how many days you have lost due to ill health. (please tick only one)



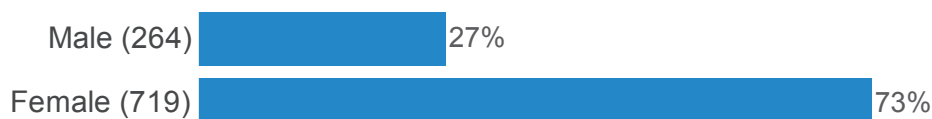
What is your work pattern?



Which age group are you in?

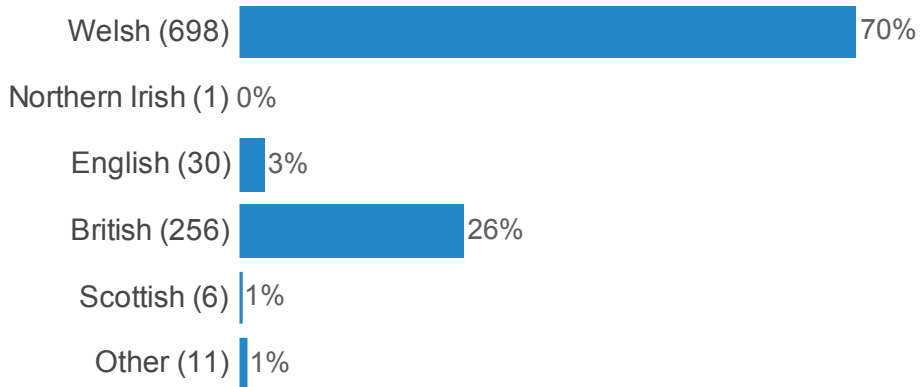
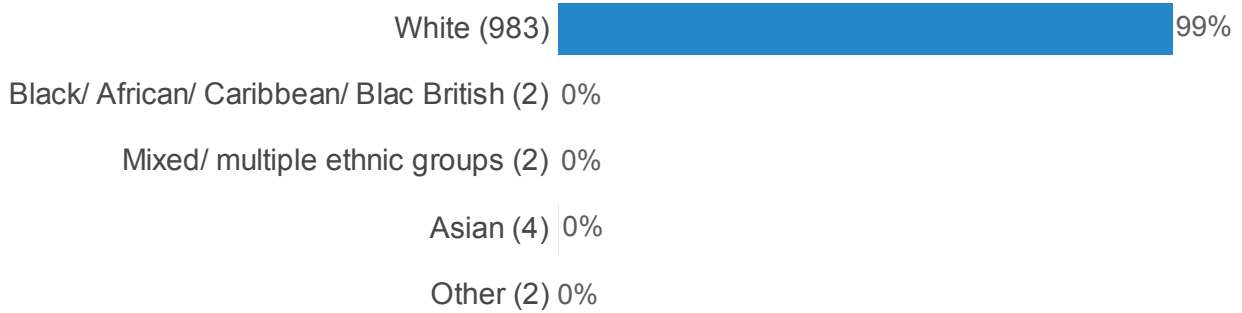


Are you?



Do you have a disability?



How would you describe your national identity? (please tick all that apply)**What is your ethnic group? (please tick only one)**

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 28TH MAY 2015

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN REPORT APRIL 2015

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make the Panel aware of progress by the Authority on the work on climate change adaptation as required under the Climate Change Act 2008.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Under the Climate Change Act statutory guidance, the Authority is required to report annually on the progress it is making in adapting to climate change.
- 2.2 Meetings have been undertaken with 43 senior officers covering each of the 18 Service within the Authority. One hundred and twenty eight impacts were identified, of which 33 were rated as a high priority for further assessment.
- 2.3 Work is being undertaken to finalise a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which will mean that the work in line with Part 1 of the statutory guidance will be complete.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Addressing climate change adaptation contributes to the delivery of the following key strategies:
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Welsh Government (2010);
 - Climate Adaptation Delivery Plan. Welsh Government (2010);
 - One Wales, One Planet (2009), the Sustainable Development Strategy for Wales;
 - Wales Environment Strategy (2006);
 - Caerphilly Delivers - Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan, 2013 – 2017;
 - Caerphilly Climate Change Strategy (2009);
 - Living Better, Using Less, the Sustainable Development Strategy (2008).

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 gave Welsh Ministers the power to issue guidance on climate change impacts and adaptation. It also gave them the power to issue a direction requesting bodies with public functions to prepare an adaptation report. Local authorities are included as 'reporting authorities' as are the Health Boards, Fire Services and others.

- 4.2 In January 2012 the Minister for Environment & Sustainable Development published new statutory guidance, setting out what is required of us. The guidance is in 5 parts.
- 4.3 The guidance identifies that efforts to reduce global emissions (mitigation) are vitally important if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. However, because of historic and current emissions, some degree of climate change over the next thirty or forty years is inevitable. It is the work that we need to do to adapt to these inevitable changes that is covered in the guidance.

The Welsh Government's guidance on climate adaptation follows a 5-stage, management-system styled approach:

- 4.4 **Part 1: Starting.** Sets out what is meant by 'preparing for a changing climate', and showing why it's important and worthwhile. It highlights some linkages with other work, for example with sustainable development, and suggests what good preparation might look like. It also involves learning about how the climate has already changed, how an organisation has been affected by weather in the past, and what we are already doing that counts as preparing for climate change.
- 4.5 **Part 2: Investigating.** This involves refining the climate change impacts identified in Part 1, and identifying levels of sensitivity and adaptive capacity. It also includes a climate change risk assessment that explores the likelihood and consequence of each impact and provides your organisation with a list of prioritised impacts to develop actions for in Part 3.
- 4.6 **Part 3: Planning.** This stage leads to an adaptation plan using information generated by previous investigations carried out in Part 2. It includes setting aims and objectives, identifying and prioritising adaptation options, and establishing baseline data and indicators, which help with monitoring and reviewing in Part 5.
- 4.7 **Part 4: Implementing.** Part 4 discusses implementation of the adaptation plan produced in Part 3. It also addresses the need to build the adaptive capacity of the organisation and partners through training and communication, as well as delivering and managing 'adaptation actions.
- 4.8 **Part 5: Reviewing.** The principal goal of Part 5 is to determine whether the aims and objectives set out in your adaptation plan are being achieved. Reviewing allows for new climate information and any lessons learned to be captured and fed into the process, which should be seen as ongoing.
- 4.9 Progress to date

The guidance identifies that undertaking a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) is a useful step in developing a Climate Change Adaptation approach.

LCLIP is defined in the UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP) as "*a resource that Local Authorities can compile so that they better understand their exposure to weather and climate. It is based on evidence of a locality's vulnerability to severe weather events and in particular how these events affected a local community as well as the authority's assets and capacity to deliver services*" (UKCIP 2008).

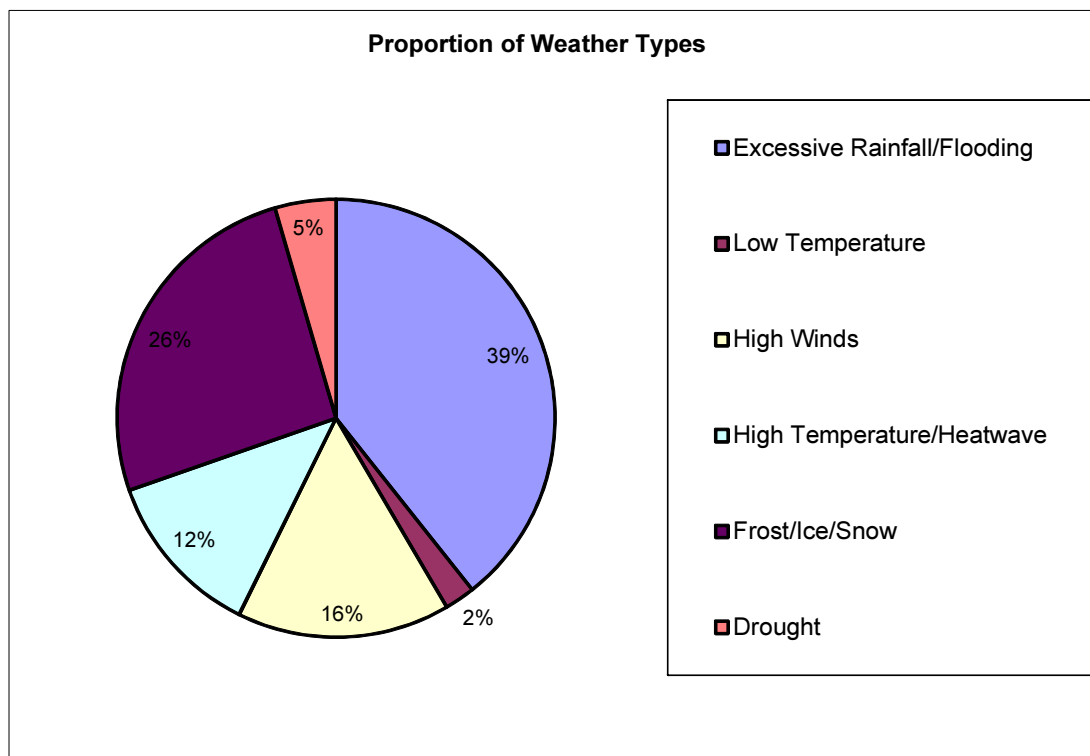
The main aim of the LCLIP is to ascertain whether weather events over the study period have had a serious impact on Council activities. The LCLIP findings should assist the Council in forecasting and planning for future disruptions to their activities resulting from future, possibly more severe, weather events (potentially linked to climate change).

- 4.10 The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of researching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events between 2003 and 2013 which impacted on life in Caerphilly and, therefore, on Caerphilly Council operations. The data extracted from the media reports was collated into the following 6 weather types:

1. High temperatures/Heatwave;
2. Drought;
3. Excessive rainfall/flooding;
4. Storm/High Wind;
5. Frost/ice/snow;
6. Low temperatures/cold spells.

4.11 The study identified 89 events of extreme weather:

- 35 excessive rainfall/flooding events;
- 23 frost/ice/snow events;
- 14 storm/high wind events;
- 11 Events of high temperatures/heatwave;
- 4 Events of drought;
- 2 Events of low temperatures/cold spells.



4.12 Data verification

The media typically report impacts of severe weather events on the public and do not usually link these to specific departments within a council. The next step is then to ascertain the “real” relationship between the media reported events and their impacts. Also, it could be expected that the media would only report the most sensational events. This could result in an omission of events perceived to be mundane by the media but of major consequence for the Council.

In order to do this a series of meetings has been undertaken with senior officers from each of the Authority’s 18 Services. In total 43 senior officers were interviewed and consulted.

These interviews were used to identify specific impacts of the extreme weather events on the Service, how the Service has/is responding and to identify the most significant events and impacts in order to prioritise and focus future actions.

4.13 A total of 128 impacts were identified of which 33 were rated as “high” priority.

	All weather	Excessive rainfall	Frost Ice Snow	Storm high winds	High temperature	Total
Total impacts identified	2	43	32	21	30	128
Rated as high priority	0	13	4	4	12	33

The interviews and follow up work has been compiled into individual reports for each Service which identified the main impacts and implications of extreme weather events for that Service. All these reports have been completed in draft and are being agreed with the relevant service area. Once agreed these Service reports will then contribute to the overall LCLIP report which will provide a picture across the whole Authority.

The work to compile the individual Service reports into the overall LCLIP report is well advanced and should be completed in May 2015.

4.14 Across the Authority existing systems are in place which compliment and enable adaptation work. These systems include Business Continuity, Emergency Planning, Corporate Risk Assessment, as well as the individual Service Plans.

The work has identified that there is a good understanding of climate change issues across the Authority. Services are aware that the climate is changing, with Services considering and planning to adapt to the changes they are seeing.

4.15 The study also identified that the Authority is subject to numerous changes being driven by a combination of the current financial climate and new legislation. These are driving changes at a quicker rate than the natural adaptation of the organisation to climate change. Many of the potential changes also provide an opportunity to make the organisation more resilient to climate change. The rationalisation of buildings, changes to HR policies to enable more flexible or home working all have the potential to enable us to deal better with severe weather events. Climate change adaptation issues are being factored into the overall change process that the Authority is currently going through.

4.16 The completion and approval of the LCLIP will mean that Part 1 of the statutory guidance will be complete. The next step, set out in Part 2, is for those impacts identified as being high priority, to go forward for further investigation, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment. This work will commence when the LCLIP report has been agreed and approved.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no initial financial implications associated with this report. There are likely to be financial considerations from the actions that Services decide to take to adapt to climate change, but these are not known at this time.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no initial personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 See list below.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Panel note the progress being made on Climate Change Adaptation within the Authority.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 In order to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Climate Change Act 2008.

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