



Report of the Director of Place

Equalities & Future Generations Policy Development Committee
17 December 2019

Update on Progress to Council Notice of Motion relating to Climate Change Emergency

1. Introduction

1.1 The Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation and Director of Place attended the PDC on the 22nd October to provide an initial response to the Notice of Motion for Climate Change Emergency.

1.2 This update report outlines the action taken since this date.

2. Progress to Date

2.1 **Climate Change Charter.** An initial draft was circulated to the PDC. Comments were received at the meeting and subsequently. These changes were made and the final draft approved. Due to the current Purdah (pre-election) period it is recommended that the Council waits until after the 12th December to maximise the visibility of commitment which also allows the initiative to be promoted seeking maximum buy in.

2.2 **Scope and Baselineing.** The Committee were provided with some outline of the potential scope for assessing how the Council would assess its current scope of Carbon Emissions allowing it to build its action plan with the intention of achieving zero carbon by 2030.

Since the meeting constructive discussions have taken place with Welsh Government officials who have outlined the current proposed methodology for setting a standard “scope” for the public sector with the intention of circulating guidance and piloting the approach early in 2020. Swansea has volunteered to participate in this pilot. The key emerging principles are:-

- Inclusion of direct emissions for buildings, street lighting, Council fleet;
- Likely inclusion of indirect emissions e.g. Grey fleet;
- Still debating inclusion of wider land use (as this might bring such things like Council farms in) and assets leased in and out. The current thinking is they will include those assets which are “within the direct control” of the Council;
- WG would like procurement to be included in scope but are still trying to develop a methodology for doing so;

- WG are also looking for some aligned policy proposals and guidance e.g. decarbonisation of housing, sustainable transport, procurement and foundational economy to influence behaviour change but not included in the proposed measurement.

Based on this initial feedback it is proposed that the Council base any initial work on these assumptions and develop its scope in line with the emerging WG guidance. It may be that once this is clear the Council could choose to add additional actions once the implications are clear. Work has commenced in drawing together the relevant data to inform the baseline.

- 2.3 **Stakeholder Forum.** The PDC endorsed the proposal to approach the Swansea Environmental Forum to act as the stakeholder forum for the Climate Change work. The Director of Place attended their meeting on the 21st November.

The SEF was very supportive of the work the Council is carrying out and accepted the offer to engage as a stakeholder forum to assist the Council in developing its action plan.

Further meeting has taken place with VocalEyes with a view to exploring the opportunities for public engagement.

- 2.4 **Internal Council Forum.** As previously outlined the Council currently has a Biodiversity Working Group set up but during the recent discussions it is clear that this should be widened to include the Climate Emergency work and also expand its membership to include the wider Council.

- 2.5 **Procurement.** Council approved the amended Contract Procedure Rules at their November Council and the Council has also been successful in its foundational economy bid to Welsh Government to promote local supply chains. This allows the selection of “local” suppliers and contractors for tender for a range of contracts.

- 2.6 **Policy Review.** Work has begun on reviewing the relevant Council policies and how they align including its energy strategy which it is proposed and listed for a future PDC. The PDC is also due to review the Sustainable Development Policy and discussions have taken place to ensure these are aligned.

3.0 **Financial Implications**

No financial implications at present but any implications arising from future piloting and policy changes will need to be accommodated within existing budget and have due regard to availability of constrained future resources set out in the Council Medium Term Financial Plan.

4.0 **Legal Implications**

No legal implications at present.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – Swansea Climate Change Charter

Swansea Climate Change Charter

We, the Signatories to Swansea Charter on Climate Action, affirm our commitment on behalf of our company/organisation to work towards becoming net carbon neutral by 2030 and in doing so commit to the following:

WHAT WE AIM TO DO

- Within 1 year of signing, review our organisations current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change and Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency.
- Fully align our actions with our wellbeing and biodiversity obligations to ensure our actions and commitments meet the requirements of our future generations and the need to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity.
- Provide constructive challenge and proposals to Welsh and UK Governments and seek the relevant powers and resources to deliver against our action plan and Commitments
- Facilitate and partner with experts, businesses, investors, environmental advocates and other stakeholders to develop and implement a decarbonisation strategy for the region, including by developing a work programme, tools and resources necessary to achieve the agreed emission reduction targets;
- Maximise the use of renewals, and the reduction of energy use and loss both within our own energy consumption and in relation to utilising our assets for renewable energy generation
- Review our procurement methodologies and criteria to align with our emerging principle of what constitutes “value for money” to ensure appropriate inclusion of climate change and biodiversity is an appropriate part of any award criteria

HOW WE AIM TO DO IT

- Working collaboratively with others through seeking the help of local partners including public, private and voluntary sectors to, produce our own response to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.

MONITORING PROGRESS & KEEPING ALL PARTIES INFORMED

- Utilise our formal reporting mechanisms to place in the public domain how we are performing against our committed actions
- Fully engage with children and young people in line with the core principles of the UNCRC
- Quantify, track and publicly report our carbon emissions, consistent with standards and best practices of measurement and transparency

GETTING MESSAGE ACROSS

- Above all communicate a shared vision and understanding through the development of a common strategy and messaging, including by championing

climate action within our sectors through an enhanced and trust-building dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

Signed by Organisational Champion..... Date.....