



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Homes, Energy and Service Transformation

Cabinet – 19 November 2020

### Climate Emergency Declaration Policy Review and Proposed Action Plan

<b>Purpose:</b>	To update Cabinet on the progress since the Notice of Motion on Climate Change Emergency presented to Council on 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Notice of Motion declaring a Climate Emergency to Council on 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Cabinet:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Notes the progress to date.</li><li>2) Agrees to sign up to the Climate Change Charter.</li><li>3) Endorses the action plan set out at paragraphs 3 to 6 for Swansea Council to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 for its own “in scope” emissions.</li><li>4) Agrees to undertake further work in developing the longer term Climate Change Strategy and striving towards net zero carbon by 2050 for Swansea.</li><li>5) That a further report will be presented following the public consultation.</li></ol>
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Following the Notice of Motion on Climate Change Emergency presented to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Authority was committed to:

1. *Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030.*
2. *Publicise climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population.*
3. *Work with relevant experts in research and development to:*
  - a. *Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change.*
  - b. *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.*
  - c. *Seek the help of local partners such as Swansea University and other research bodies to, within one year, produce a report to share with the community, explaining work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.*
4. *Update on further work undertaken by the Council in this area on an annual basis through the Council Annual Review of Performance Report section on corporate objective - Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity. (See Appendix 1 – Notice of Motion)*

1.2 Initial progress over the first few months following the Notice of Motion was positive although it is safe to say that since the start of the Covid pandemic this progress stalled but actions have continued wherever it has been possible.

1.3 This report sets out the progress made and recommendations to take the work programme forward in a timely manner. In reviewing progress to date it seems logical to split the activity into two distinct work streams as outlined below.

1.4 As a result of work to date it is recommended that the commitment to addressing climate change is broken down into two clearly defined work streams.

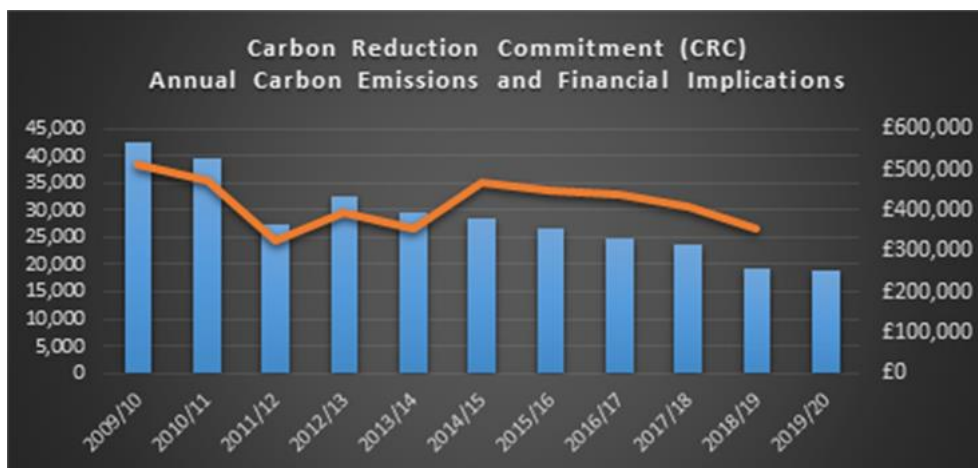
**Work stream 1.** Swansea Council striving for net zero carbon by 2030 on its own in scope emissions.

**Work stream 2.** How the City and County of Swansea, its major employers, its citizens and businesses can achieve net zero carbon by 2050.

Since the notice of motion work has continued on both these work streams although greater progress has been made on the “internal” emissions due to the challenges and logistics of public and stakeholder engagement over the last few months. However this does allow the Council to set the standard and lead by example and not ask others to do something that it isn’t already undertaking. Further detailed work with partners, major employers and Public Service Board will follow the approval of this report by Cabinet.

## 2. Progress to Date - Reducing our impact on Climate Change since 2010.

2.1 It is worth stating that the Council has always taken climate change and the reduction of emission seriously and acted accordingly. There is no better way to display that than to refer to the fact that since 2009/10 (baseline year – 42,532 t/CO<sub>2</sub>), the Council has been a participant under the mandatory UK-wide Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme. This Scheme was abolished following the 2018/19 compliance year, however the CRC cost will not disappear as the Climate Change Levy will be raised to compensate. Welsh Government is to consult on options for a successor to the CRC Scheme (Policy 19, ‘Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales’). 2019/20 carbon emissions was 18,757 t/CO<sub>2</sub>, a carbon reduction of 23,775 t/CO<sub>2</sub> against the baseline year (reduction of 55.9%). This is a considerable achievement but further reduction become increasing difficult to achieve.



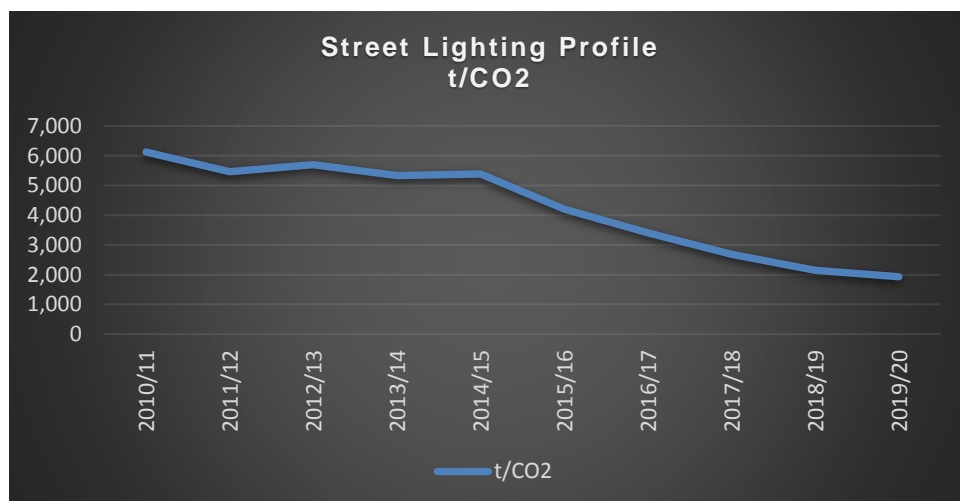
Work has continued on a range of key strands with some examples as follows:

2.1.1 The City & County of Swansea Pension Fund is one of the first Pension Fund’s in the UK to adopt an Environmental, Social & Governance policy which commits the pension fund to reduce its already low exposure to carbon based fossil fuel investments by up to 50% over the next 4 years. In doing so, it accepts that investing in new green energy, infrastructure and socially responsible investments offers the best sustainable financial return for members of the pension fund over the long term. Progress is

reported on an annual basis and a further report will be presented to Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

- 2.1.2 The Council has made representation to Welsh Government on various themes including decarbonisation of housing stock, the delivery of Dragon Energy Island renewables project, the use of green energy provision of electric vehicle charge points and in doing so has set out its ambitions for net carbon zero. In addition it has also written to UK government where these powers or possible funding reside nationally such as Dragon Energy Island.
- 2.1.3 The Council continues to deliver insulation and energy efficiency measures to benefit council housing tenants.
- 2.1.4 Promoting Welsh & UK Government campaigns and programmes to increase energy efficiency amongst private tenants and home owners, reducing fuel poverty and reducing emissions.
- 2.1.5 Progressing work towards a world-leading Tidal Lagoon, supporting community owned renewable energy schemes, like SCEES, to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings.
- 2.1.6 Working with others nationally to urge Welsh Government to develop electric car charging infrastructure.
- 2.1.7 Being leaders of good practice in Wales through having Sustainable Development policies and approaches pre-dating the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.
- 2.1.8 Building the first council housing in a generation here in Swansea to Passivhaus standard, and begun building new council housing to a super-energy-efficient "Swansea Standard" that will enable all components to be procured locally and reducing emissions using solar battery storage and air source heat pumps.
- 2.1.9 Using innovation in construction for flagship projects such as Pentrehafod School, showcasing waste minimisation and sustainability.
- 2.1.10 Winning investment for innovative green technology, such as "Homes as Power Stations", as part of the City Region Deal.
- 2.1.11 Securing funding for a vast increase in Active Travel (walking and cycling) routes throughout the county and supported Swansea University's community cycle scheme.
- 2.1.12 Implementing agile working so that the workforce may reduce unnecessary travel.
- 2.1.13 Developing local procurement practices to reduce carbon footprint.

- 2.1.14 In Education, Swansea is an early joiner of the international EcoSchools programmes which encourages schools to promote recycling and reduce energy and water consumption.
- 2.1.15 Encouragement of Foundation Phase pupils to learn outdoors ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and eco-systems.
- 2.1.16 At KS4, developing partnerships with Universities to establish STEM workshops including the impact of climate change.
- 2.1.17 Recently incorporating care for the natural environment into the corporate plan as a new priority, recognising the hugely important contribution made by the extensive work of our Nature Conservation Team.
- 2.1.18 Working with Swansea Public Services Board to improve local services. The four statutory members of the Board are Swansea Bay University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales, the Fire and Rescue Service and the council who will continue to work collectively to improve local social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. For this part the focus will be on a Greener Wales.
- 2.1.19 Street lighting have upgraded 21,053 street lights to LED, along with the installation of City Touch, Central Management System commissioned to control the street light output around Swansea ring road (financial and carbon savings) has reduced street lighting carbon emissions since 2010/11 by 4,194 t/CO2.



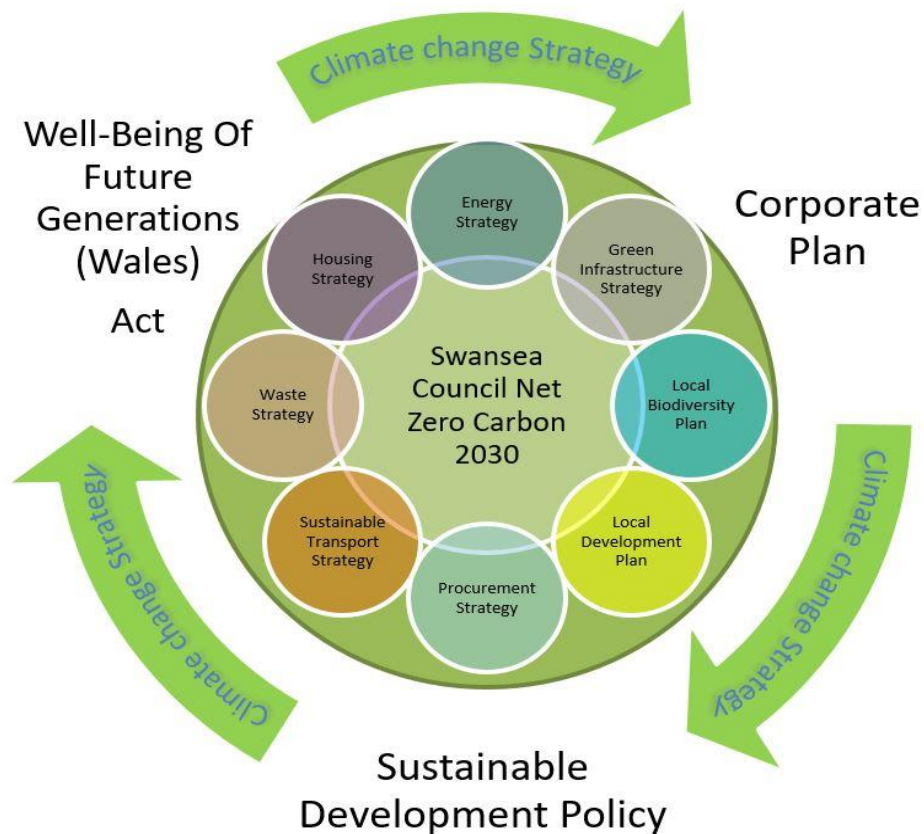
- 2.1.20 12 Council car parks have had electric vehicle charge points installed. A total of 16 dual-headed charge points have been installed, serving 32 recharging bays. With the exception of the two Park & Ride sites, the charge points provide 22kW 'fast' charging capabilities. The Park & Ride sites feature 7-22kW charge points (load balancing depending on how many vehicles are plugged-in at the same time). All charge points provide 100% renewable electricity to users. Users can access the charge points through an App or by calling a 24/7 customer service line (bi-lingual).

2.1.21 Active Travel. The total network has increased in length by 25% in the past three years, with over £12million of investment made in active travel infrastructure. Of the 72,000 households in Swansea, 60% now live within 500m of a dedicated off-road cycle route.

### 3. Policy Review

3.1 To enable the Council to continue to make progress one of the key actions from the NoM was to review the current policy framework and how this could contribute to the achieve achievement of net zero carbon and climate emergency response.

3.1.1 Therefore it has been necessary to review over 100 Council policies that contribute to this agenda and try and distil these down to 8 key themes as outlines in the pictogram below.



3.1.2 In grouping the key policies into a framework it appears that the Council has many of the underlying strands already in place and it also helps to identify where any “gaps” are.

3.1.3 The graphic also hopefully shows that these policies overlap to firstly feed into the core short term target of net zero carbon for the council emissions by 2030 and the longer term goal of achieving a similar aim for the whole of the city by 2050. These polices are then intrinsically wrapped up in the overarching requirements of the Corporate Plan, Sustainable

Development Policy and Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

3.2 To demonstrate how these policies contribute to both ambitions detailed below is a short overview of the current position with each of these policies and examples of progress made.

3.2.1 **Work Stream 1 – Swansea Council Net Zero Carbon by 2030**

**i. Energy Strategy**

Swansea Council recognise and understand the importance of effective energy and carbon management and the implications and risks of climate change, rising energy costs and the preservation of finite energy sources. The preservation of our natural environment on a regional and national level and safeguarding of the wellbeing of our communities for current and future generations is a vital aim of the Authority.

It is within this context that the Energy and Carbon Management Strategic Plan was developed. The Energy and Carbon Management Plan provides a co-ordinated approach which will identify and analyse energy and carbon emissions from the delivery of the Authority's operational service deliveries and will:

- Provide an overarching programme that will align and integrate all legislations and policies that relate to energy, carbon management and climate change
- Clearly define Swansea Council's strategic ambition and intent for addressing energy and carbon management
- Quantify the Authority's baseline carbon emissions from its service property activities.
- Identify and evaluate energy saving projects towards reducing energy costs.
- Adaptable to the new Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon Reporting requirements.
- Adapt a low carbon / renewable technology way of working, reducing the dependency on conventional energy supplies.

**ii. Green Infrastructure Strategy**

This strategy considers how green infrastructure can be increased in area and quality in the central area of Swansea in order to make it better adapted to climate change and better for people and wildlife. Green infrastructure is a term used to describe all the greenspace, soil, vegetation and water (ranging from parks to roof gardens) that provide the ecosystem services that make our cities liveable.

This strategy sets out a vision for the central area in Swansea to be much greener, creating green spaces and using a combination of street-level features like street trees and rain gardens as well as vegetation on buildings, including green roofs and green walls. The intention is to

double the amount of green infrastructure (with the exception of open water) within 10 years.

The focus will be to create a green infrastructure network, centred on a Green Artery that will connect Swansea Station in the north, with the beach and marina in the south and the wider area, via existing, improved greenspaces including churchyards and Castle Square. Green infrastructure will be planned and designed to be multi-functional and will involve a partnership approach, using innovative solutions, including Supplementary Planning Guidance for green infrastructure and a Green Space Factor tool (GSF). Swansea Council is committed to using the GSF tool, designed for the Swansea Central Area, as a measure for the quantity and functionality of green space in development.

### iii. Local Biodiversity Plan

Promoting Swansea's Natural Environment is a strategy and action plan for the protection, management, enhancement and promotion of Swansea's outstanding natural environment and biodiversity. It outlines a number of strategic actions required for the conservation of the wider biodiversity resource together with a set of detailed actions for the protection of priority habitats and species.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBAP) has three key parts:

**Part 1 Strategy** This part provides a background to the biodiversity action planning process, identifies key issues affecting biodiversity in Swansea and priorities for future work. It proposes a number of broad actions to meet these priorities, and outlines procedures for measuring progress.

**Part 2 Audit** This part provides an overview of Swansea's biodiversity resource and contains information on protected habitats and species present in the County, together with draft proposals for the identification of a network of non-statutory Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation or candidate SINC.s.

**Part 3 Habitat and species action plans** This part provides detailed action plans for priority habitats and species which occur in the County in accordance with UK and Welsh Assembly Government Guidance. At the time of printing 23 Habitat Action Plans (HAP.s) and 98 Species Action Plans (SAP's) have been included. There are plans to add additional HAP's and SAP's in due course.

### iv. Local Development Plan

The 2010-2025 Plan provides a clear planning framework to address key issues facing the County, providing certainty and the basis for efficient planning decisions. Its policies and proposals will enable the delivery of sustainable development, and ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being goals are all suitably balanced in



the decision making process so that the right development occurs in the right place.

The Plan is underpinned by an extensive and up to date evidence base which, in combination with extensive public and stakeholder engagement undertaken during Plan preparation, has been used to identify the key opportunities, land use requirements, and issues for the County over the Plan period.

#### **v. Procurement Strategy**

Swansea Council procurement is underpinned by maximising the economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits that may be obtained from buying power. Best value can be viewed as the optimum combination of whole-life costs in terms of not only generating savings and good quality outcomes for the organisation, but also benefit to society and the economy.

Procurement activity strives to deliver the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act through a holistic approach to procurement processes and including where relevant specific provisions within the procurement documents. There is commitment to strive to ensure that carbon reduction ambitions that underpin the sustainable development principle are integrated within procurement practice as appropriate.

#### **vi. Sustainable Transport Strategy (working Title)**

A great deal of positive work has been carried out in this area to date but the recommendation is that the various aspects are integrated into a single sustainable travel and transport strategy. This would include how the council deals with its Council fleet, the grey fleet (personal mileage by employees), its emissions from street lighting, the continued promotion of active travel and the development of a local and regional sustainable public transport system.

Some specifics include:

- Continuation of planning for, and improving the active travel network. Refresh of the current Active Travel maps and consult on potential new routes for development, though a new Active Travel Network Map in 2021.
- Increase levels of active travel though promotion, engagement and encouragement of active travel with the general public, businesses, communities and educational establishments, through a behaviour change campaign, Swansea Bayways.
- Further roll out of EV charging infrastructure.
- Continue to deliver a 5 % year on year reduction in council fleet emission via its green fleet strategy.
- Seek to embed the reductions in grey fleet mileage which achieved 50% and 1 million miles less in 2020/21 to date.

### **South West Wales Metro**

- Continue the development of business cases for investment in active travel, bus and rail projects across the region.
- Investigate low-emission public transport alternatives through work with partners, such as Transport for Wales and First Cymru to establish how vehicle emissions could be reduced in the future.

### **vii. Waste Strategy**

The Council's existing strategy was aligned to Welsh Government's recycling targets which aimed to achieve 64% recycling levels by 19/20 and this was achieved by Swansea. This target increases to 70% by 24/25 and the council is reviewing its option to achieve these increased levels.

In the meantime as part of the overall Climate change plan it will develop a new Waste Strategy which it will seek to align with the overarching Welsh Government plans over the coming 12 to 18 months.

### **viii. Housing Strategy (Decarbonisation)**

Following the publication of the report, Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World (BHBWBW), Welsh Government set up a working group made up of the Welsh School of Architecture (WSA) and selected social landlords to further develop decarbonisation targets and prepare guidance for social landlords on decarbonising their housing stock.

Officers from the Housing Service have participated in the development of the study document and so are included in regular update meetings with Welsh Government's Decarbonisation Team and academics from WSA on latest developments.

Welsh Government has taken a view that a retrofit decarbonisation programme can be delivered as an extension to the existing Welsh Housing Quality Programme due for completion at the end of 2020. The revised WHQS programme that will commence in April 2021 will set a target achieving EPC A/SAP 92 to 231,000 socially owned properties by 2030, which represents almost 17% of the entire housing stock in Wales.

The next stage for Swansea will be to develop a long term Decarbonisation Strategy alongside the excellent work that is already being undertaken. Examples include:

New Homes 'Swansea Standard' are currently being developed as HAPS at Parc y Helyg, Birchgrove, Colliers Ways, Penplas development 1 and 2 and Hillview Crescent, Clase. The properties will not have a traditional gas supply, but will generate, store and then release their own electricity.

Homes as Power Stations (HAPS): The Council has retrofitted and transformed into HAPS 6 bungalows at Ffordd Ellen, Craig Cefn Parc which include external wall insulation, Ground Source Heat Pumps

(GSHP), Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery unit (MVHRs), PV solar roofs and Tesla battery storage.

### 3.2.2 **Work Stream 2 – County wide Net Zero Carbon by 2050**

In addition to the 2030 actions required to reduce direct emissions the second work stream requires the Council to engage the wider Swansea community, which will be supported by the development of a full **Climate Change Strategy which should be developed over the next 12 months**. This will be underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals and ways of working, the Corporate Plan Priorities and the Sustainable Development Policy actions.

- i. **The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015** This legislation places a duty on the Council to carry out sustainable development improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being. It sets out the sustainable development principle's five ways of working and seven national well-being goals.
- ii. **Sustainable Development Policy-** This sets out how the Council can ensure it meets present needs while ensuring future generations can meet their needs too. It guides services and decision makers in applying the five ways of working and maximising their contribution to Swansea's well-being.
- iii. **Corporate Plan-** This details how the Council will improve well-being in practice. It lays out priorities for action in six well-being objectives and the steps to achieve them in line with the sustainable development principle.

All activities will align to create a long term Climate Change Strategy and demonstrate the commitment asked of the Notice of Motion.

Future governance will need to take account of Regional, Welsh, National and European directive alongside the additional policies and strategies sitting at Council level that will support delivery.

This approach not only aligns with the council's pledged to "Act in Response to the Climate Emergency" within its Corporate Plan 2020-23, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030, but also the study of a range of other Policy forums including the APSE research entitled "*So You've Declared a Climate Emergency, What Next?*" a summary of which is shown in Appendix 2.

### 3.2.3 **Climate Change Charter**

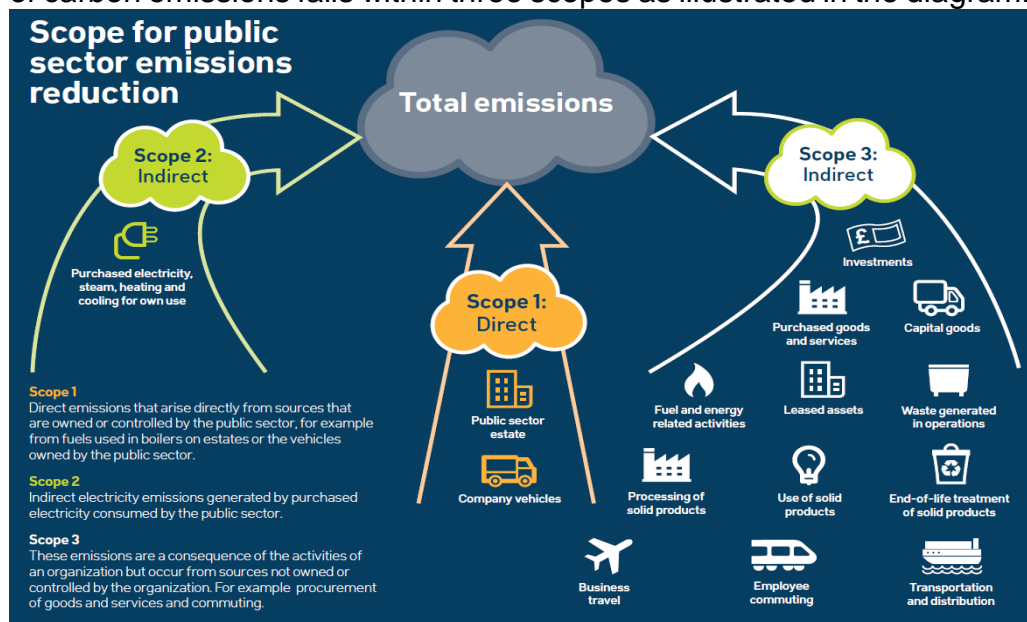
There will be a continued commitment to engage with local people, groups and businesses and help them be smarter and better prepared for the impacts of climate change. This will be enhanced by the introduction of the Climate Change Charter. (See Appendix 2)

Swansea Council recognises that it must lead by example and use its 'Sphere of Influence' to reach out to as many citizens and businesses as possible. The intention is to endorse the strategy and charter through the approval of this report for signature by the Leader supported by Cabinet Members and to report to full council for wider visibility and to invite group leaders to sign up to the Charter and this will then be used as one of the mechanisms to seek wider buy in across the whole city and county for businesses and public sector partners alike.

#### 4. Achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2030

Whilst the above gives a clear policy framework to assist the council in moving towards net carbon neutral, the authority will need to confirm the detailed actions and the key areas that the Council will require to commit to deliver directly include aligning departments with a carbon reporting requirement into its governance, infrastructure, strategies and policies.

It is proposed that the Energy Strategy Action Plan aligns its carbon emissions reporting with the widely used international reporting tool, the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Protocol which categories Greenhouse gas emissions into three Scopes as illustrated in the diagram below. The delayed publication of the Welsh Government Carbon emissions reporting requirements is anticipated to follow this approach. Reporting of carbon emissions falls within three scopes as illustrated in the diagram.



The Council has already adopted proactive programmes to reduce its carbon emissions over a number of years. Some of these were outlined in the opening section of the report but in addition the following action linked to the above scope are highlighted:

##### 4.1 Scope 1 (Direct Emissions)

- Refit Low Carbon Programme - Swansea Council is participating in the Welsh Government supported Re:fit Low Carbon Programme in order to implement energy efficiency saving opportunities in non-

domestic buildings. A £1.3 million interest free loan has been secured from Welsh Government Wales Funding Programme (Salix) to deliver a Re:fit Cymru (Energy Efficiency) Phase 1 project comprising over 18 buildings which is projected to save an estimated 400 tCO<sub>2</sub>e every year. Quantifying the energy savings delivered by the Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) will be validated using the Measurement and Verification (M&V) process.

- Carbon Reduction Retrofit: Potential to develop long-term retrofit Phase 2 and Phase 3 projects (such as decarbonisation of the heat network).
- Swansea Council have been working in collaboration with EGNi Co-op, and have recently (Sept 20) installed 220kW of rooftop Solar PV on three comprehensive schools Pentrehafod, Gowerton and Pontardulais.
- Solar Farm Projects - Collaborating with Welsh Government Energy Services on model size scenarios and financial appraisal assumptions towards the development of a 3MW Ground Mounted Solar PV farm. The projected finance model is currently being evaluated, it is predicted over the asset lifespan (35 years; assuming no downtime) that 101,302,731 kWh of renewable energy will be generated or 3,189,600 kWh/year (projected as the electricity generated by a PV module decreases over time), equating to 688 t/CO<sub>2</sub> year. This represents 3.6% renewable generation against 2019/20 carbon emissions of 18,757 t/CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Supporting community owned renewable energy schemes to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and communities, such as Swansea Community Energy Enterprise Scheme (SCEES) who have installed 360kW Solar PV and more recently EGNi Co-op with 220kW Solar PV, with additional scope to progress with further installations.
- Continuing to seek opportunities to add to our corporate fleet of Electric Vehicles, currently with Electric Vans (40); Electric car (1).
- Between the reporting periods 2017/18 and 2018/19 a percentage reduction of 4.88% in diesel purchased was achieved through the adoption of new electric vehicles and the renewal cycle of fuel efficient vehicles.
- Progressing work towards a world-leading Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon, estimated electricity generation of 504,854 MWh, equating to carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **4.2 Scope 2 (Indirect Emissions)**

- Swansea Council procures its energy using Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreements, via the National Procurement

Service (NPS), for the vast majority of supplies. All electricity procured via the NPS framework is from 100% renewable energy sources; 41% sourced from Wales (Apr 20 – Mar 21); Gas – Total Gas and Power (TGP) procured as new gas supplier (Apr 21 – Mar 22); Green Gas tariffs - dependent on viability and cost impact; pricing option available with TGP later in the year.

#### **4.3 Scope 3 (Indirect Emissions)**

- This covers carbon emissions not controlled or owned by the authority and only has powers of influence/ support / engagement to seek the necessary changes and needs to be divided into two elements:
  - a. The authority's own work and the wider economy, for example engaging with procurement covering environmental impacts as part of contract of services; housing (i.e. sustainability); collaborating with Welsh Government / working with other public sector organisations (Swansea University / Health Service).
  - b. The second element of this strategy is to work with everyone else to achieve a significant Swansea change area wide, for example engaging with Low Carbon Swansea Bay & Swansea Environmental Forum / private sector.

The Council is already highly visible with regards to activity but further work to develop a full Climate Change Strategy must continue to increase momentum if the council is to be seen as the lead influencer within the area, aiming for net zero carbon by 2050 across the county. (Work stream 2).

#### **5. What does net zero carbon look like?**

- 5.1 As stated above the council appears to have a strong Policy framework and commitment to achieve its net zero carbon target on its own operations by 2030 and has the ability to significantly influence the future direction of the city and region.
- 5.2 However in this instance commitment isn't enough and it needs a clear and published plan and actions to allow it to reach these goals.
- 5.3 As stated above there is a lack of clear Welsh Government Guidance as to what constitutes net zero carbon on emissions so the council has determined the most appropriate measure is to capture those contained in scope 1 (direct emissions) and some of those contained within scope 2 (grey fleet) due to the direct link with its business.
- 5.4 As such the Council is developing its own measurement methodology as a "carbon calculator tool" to capture the key activities, target & reductions and the actions required to achieve these. This is a very high level summary and the details for each of these are contained within the individual strategies listed above. For example cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup>

November are due to consider an updated energy strategy which contains a detailed action plan.

- 5.5 The carbon calculator is a “live document that can be updated year on year and used to monitor progress and assist in its reporting on progress whilst also allowing targets to be flexed over the next 10 years to reflect the changing landscape.

## **6. How can Net Zero Carbon be achieved by 2030?**

- 6.1 Previous section of this report have outlined the significant progress made over the last 10 years.

- 6.2 However to essentially get to net zero by 2030 the council needs to reduce or offset its current total emissions which equate to 27,500TCo2 for 19/20.

- 6.3 **The following outlined the TOP TEN actions aimed at achieving this.**

### **6.3.1 Reducing Current Emissions:**

1. Accelerate the green fleet strategy – The Council through its green fleet strategy has made a commitment to reduce fleet emissions by 5% each year. Which would result in a 50% reduction to 2030, a saving of 2,350 t/CO2.
2. A reduction in grey fleet emissions by 50% would save 300 t/CO2 by reducing staff travel, developing an improved pool car/ car club scheme, and linking staff travel to wider public transport plans.
3. Council Buildings – The Energy Strategy and Carbon Management Action Plan, due to be approved by Cabinet on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020, proposes detailed initiatives to support the net zero carbon journey e.g. increase the pace and scale of the Re:Fit Cymru programme, with the provision of available resource and finance.
4. A commitment to construct and Build new schools and future civic buildings to net carbon zero. The combined effect of items 3 and 4 equates to a 20% reduction in emissions equivalent to 20% or 4000T Co2.
5. Street Lighting savings could be made delivered by the introduction of new technology, possibly by 20% over the next 10 years- 440 t/CO2.

### **6.3.2 Offsetting:**

**A range of offsetting measures are also being progressed and considered.**

**These proposals will need to be worked up in detail over the coming months but the key themes are as follows:**

1. The Council is pursuing an Energy aggregation model for PV and battery storage installed on its housing stock which can result in

cheaper energy bill for its tenants whilst also being counted towards its offsetting target.

2. The creation of solar farms and other renewable projects would help offset carbon emissions. One scheme has already been confirmed which will generate an offsetting of circa 960TCo<sub>2</sub> per annum and further schemes will be investigated.
3. The intention of increasing tree cover and other measures as part of its biodiversity plan.
4. Continue to progress the delivery of Dragon Energy Island which would deliver one of the largest integrated green energy projects in the world and **potentially generating carbon emission savings of 94,913 mT CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum.**
5. Welsh Government have yet to confirm how the purchase of green energy is treated but Swansea Council current purchases all its electricity is 100% renewable sources and it is intended that this is counted towards its overall emission target. In addition it is progressing the procurement of 100% “green gas” which would further positively impact on its overall emissions.

6.3.3 These top actions - 5 in terms of reductions and 5 in relation to offsetting are forecast to achieve a net carbon zero position by 2030. This will be backed up by a full communication and engagement plan aimed at maximising the buy in from all sources which will assist to moving towards the 2050 target for the whole of the City.

## 7. The Impact and conclusions

7.1 The mission across the eight priority areas will be long-term in scope and ambition, considering the drivers of change, the opportunities, the risks and resources required to deliver. The journey will take time and will be challenging. The proposal to align Council carbon emission related strategies, policies and governance structures, is believed to be the best approach to ensuring Swansea Council achieves net carbon zero by 2030. Once the method of recording emissions guidance has been released by Welsh Government then the new action plan can be implemented.





7.2 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the following commitments which are condensed into the two recommendations on the front cover of this report.

1. The programme of activity be divided into two work streams:
  - i. Swansea Council strives for net zero carbon by 2030 through the development and delivery of robust targets and action plans, pending Welsh Government guidance.
  - ii. The Council develops an overarching Climate Change Strategy, striving towards net zero carbon by 2050 for the whole county – citizens, businesses etc.

2. An eight pronged approach forms the basis of robust Climate Change governance for the first work stream going forward with the establishment of an overarching Working Group.

3. The WG/UK Gov. suggest **“Lobbying” to Welsh and UK Government** The NoM outline includes a requirement to Call upon the UK and Welsh governments to provide us with the necessary powers and resources to ensure Swansea becomes carbon neutral by 2030. In response the Council has written to WG ministers on the overarching agenda but also on individual strands contained within the strategy through consultation responses and specific projects.

In addition the Council has written to UK Government ministers where the strategy overlaps their powers and this includes lobbying for the delivery of the Dragon Energy Island renewals projects. Once the overarching strategy and charter have been approved further written approaches will take place linked with the agreed action plans.

4. A Sustainable Transport Strategy is developed, having identified the need to collate activity into one document – current projects already include Green Fleet Strategy, Business Travel Review and LED Lighting Replacement Programme.

5. The Carbon Calculator tool is used to determine project priority, and investment focus, whilst always considering impact on council policy. Note some policies may need to be rewritten in order to align with the net zero carbon challenge. The top 10 actions summarised in this report will be embedded in the future reporting mechanism.

6. An all-encompassing Climate Change Strategy and respective engagement and communication plans are developed and there is continued commitment to involve local people and businesses and help them be smarter and better prepared for the impacts of climate change. This will be enhanced by the introduction of the Climate Change Charter and will be governed via the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Development Policy.

## **8. Equality and Engagement Implications**

8.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

8.2 An EIA screening form (See Appendix 3) has been completed with the outcome that a full EIA report will not be required at this point. This is an overarching plan that when approved will be broken down into many projects. At this point EIA's will be undertaken for each of these individually.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report. Any decision to commit the council to additional expenditure as part of this strategy will be subject to the relevant due consideration in line with the Council constitution and financial procedure rules.

## **10. Legal Implications**

10.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Notion of Motion

Appendix 2 – Citizens Charter

Appendix 3 - EIA