

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 2024

REFERENCE FROM ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE: 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024

“148 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (CX) –

The report and Appendix A detailed the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continued to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. This included the RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan. Progress and key highlights from October 2023 to March 2024 was covered in the report. The report provided Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve. The report also provided updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies which was a priority in the PSB Well-being Plan. The report, at Appendix B, showed updated Performance Indicators for 2024/25 and also updated on the approach to programme management.

Following each relevant section of the report, Committee Members and others were offered the opportunity to provide comments or questions with regard to the relevant sections, which included the below.

The Chair queried the Draft Tree Strategy where she noted there had been good discussion about this previously at Committee and the consultation had ended in March in terms of the Strategy. It would be really helpful for the Committee to know what the response had been so far and when this would be finalised in order for it to begin to be acted upon operationally. In response the Director of Environment and Housing stated that there had been a positive response so far to the Tree Strategy, the first draft was currently in place but was not complete until some additional missing consultation responses had been provided. These entailed two substantial submissions from local groups and once these had been provided the draft would be forwarded to the relevant Cabinet Member and be considered in due course, but with the aim that a report would be finalised as soon as possible. On the implementation at an operational level, elements of the Tree Strategy pre finalisation were already being implemented such as the principles around increasing the tree canopy in urban areas which was embedded in most of the Council's processes as well as increases in the Capital Programme both for planting and for maintenance of trees. Finalisation of the Tree Strategy would mean that volunteer groups could then become involved in helping to implement the Strategy as well.

Councillor Penn referred to the Restore the Thaw scheme and whether the Council worked in this area to help improve water quality as well as other habitats. Also, regarding the Tree Strategy, would the Council accept crowdfunding to replace

relevant trees in town centres should that funding source be available. The Director of Place replied to the Restore the Thaw query by stating that this project intrinsically included the Thaw itself and was aimed at the habitat which included the Thaw valley as well as the river and therefore water quality would be a key issue as well as the planting and restoration of the habitat alongside. It was noted that a grant had been provided as part of this work around the Thaw which had been supplied by Natural Resources Wales with water quality and habitat restoration also key to their aims and objectives. The project had been extremely successful so far in achieving results with significant tree planting on a wider scale. On the crowd funding for trees, the Director of Environment and Housing stated that the Council would welcome crowd funding and assistance or engagement from local residents with this.

Councillor Drake also referred to the Tree Strategy and the monitoring of new tree diseases which were coming across to the United Kingdom, including Wales, and how the Council was addressing these. In response, the Director of Place stated that the Council had an ecologist who worked for the Council as well as an arboriculturist in the Neighbourhood Services Team who both monitored tree diseases which had increased due to various factors such as climate change and kept themselves abreast of any concerns around these or other emerging threats. These officers also worked with various networks in order to help monitor and address this issue.

Councillor Protheroe referred to Challenge 13 – 18 within the Climate Change Challenge Plan Progress appendix to the report, noting the apparent lack of progress in cutting emissions in the supply chain. She subsequently asked how the Council was addressing this issue. The Director of Place replied that the Council was currently working with Ardal in conjunction with the new procurement system, which was taking time to be bedded in however. The system would however help to feed through on emissions in due course and would tie in with new legislation that was coming out in October. Councillor Protheroe stated that although Ardal could help with tendering, the responsibility of putting a specification together and commissioning what it was that the Council would need as an authority to purchase would have to sit with the Council and with the service areas. Therefore, a firm strategy would be needed internally to address this. In response, the Director of Place stated that issues would be fed back, and work that had previously been done around the new procurement system had knocked back some of the other work which the Council would have liked to have done from an internal procurement standpoint, such as in terms of carbon reduction. However, this was an ongoing process which was being tackled across all departments. Subsequently, when putting together contracts and tenders the Council was working with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) in order to incorporate carbon reduction considerations into these.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services, with permission to speak, urged residents to use the re-use shop at the Atlantic Trading Estate, referred to the implementation of commercial recycling as well as residential, and the need to procure more items at a local level in order to reduce the impact of carbon emissions; although it was noted that due to procurement practices being fairly rigid, the Council still had to go through the correct process.

Councillor Hooper referred to the budget streams for Project Zero, which appeared to be inadequate in meeting the 2030 targets and enquired how these could be maximised. The Chair noted that a number of important initiatives were dependent upon time-limited funding and asked what steps were being taken to ensure the sustainability of that work. The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services responded by saying he agreed that the Project Zero agenda needed to be pushed more, noting that Wales was now ranked as the second-best country in the world for recycling, which had included the efforts of Vale residents in helping to achieve such targets. He would raise the comments made at the Committee to Cabinet for their consideration. Councillor Hooper added that it was important now to weight Project Zero as part of the Corporate Plan as one of the biggest challenges for the Council over the next five years. On time limited funding, it was explained that the Project Zero reserve was not time limited but a reserve that had been set up which could be accessed for related projects, as well as maximising the potential of the reserve by providing match funding of relevant projects which met the requirements of other funds such as the Shared Prosperity Fund, while satisfying Project Zero requirements as well. The Shared Prosperity Fund would be coming to an end in March 2025, however the hope was that it would be replaced by another iteration in due course. Due to this the Shared Prosperity Fund had been used for some projects ensuring that the capital part of the programmes had been delivered within the timescales and before the funding came to an end. One of these included the work on the longstanding network of footpaths and bridleways within the Vale and beyond. On budgetary restrictions, it was acknowledged that the Council was currently in a very difficult budgetary position which did not look likely to improve going forward but it was emphasised that climate change remained an absolute, key, part of the Corporate Plan for 2025-2030 and the declaration made by the Council in terms of the climate and biodiversity crises. The Programme Manager Project Zero (Climate Change) added that the Council was looking at various ways to maximise external funding and the utilisation of existing technologies and assets in order to help achieve Project Zero for the Council, as well as helping to achieve behavioural change.

The Chair referred to the slow progress with the work being done by the Public Services Board (PSB) and what was being done currently to strengthen this work, particularly around shared priorities. The Programme Manager Project Zero (Climate Change) explained that there were challenges in bringing all the relevant groups who were part of the PSB together. However, she was still confident that work would be on track and work with the PSB would continue around climate change and Project Zero with the Vale of Glamorgan Council involved.

Councillor Protheroe referred to work that was being undertaken with the PSB and local partners around procuring things more locally and whether any work connected to something similar to the Preston model or community wealth building in terms of buying local items had been considered. It was explained that currently for the Annual Report the PSB section was being pulled together and there would be a section in there on climate issues and some of the procurement work that was happening across different partners but currently the Programme Manager Project Zero (Climate Change) was not aware of any work along the lines of the Preston model or similar, but would come back to the Committee on that and feed back into the PSB group when they next met.

Councillor Hooper referred to the Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) and was disappointed to see that this had fallen back due to it fitting in well with the Tree Strategy and asked about the reasons why this had happened i.e. budgetary constraints. In response, the Director of Environment and Housing explained that due to legislation around the planning process for new developments, the Council was working on a set of documents to provide to the public to explain the situation more clearly and the relevant department had put in a cost pressure bid for extra staff resource but were unsuccessful because of the Council's budget challenges. Due to this, a resource would need to be found elsewhere in order to produce the relevant document on drainage. Furthermore, due to priorities around flood management, the work around SuDS had unfortunately had to be given less of a priority, but this would be tackled in due course.

Subsequently, it was

#### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board be noted.
- (2) T H A T the RAG rating of progress from October 2023 to March 2024 in Appendix A to the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date be noted.
- (4) T H A T the updated Corporate Performance Indicators relevant to Project Zero at Appendix B to the report be noted.
- (5) T H A T the following comment be referred to Cabinet, to be considered alongside any comments made by the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee who will consider this report on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024:
  - The concerns raised around the 'weighting' of the Project Zero agenda and the importance of making Project Zero 'front and centre' in the Corporate Plan.
- (6) T H A T it be recommended to Cabinet that this report be distributed to all Elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report, as well as the discussions at the meeting.
- (5) For consideration by Cabinet as part of its consideration of the progress made in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

(6) In order to update all Elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.”

Attached as Appendix: Report to Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee: 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Meeting of:	<b>Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Tuesday, 18 June 2024</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency, the nature emergency, and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero including work being undertaken through the Public Services Board.
Report Owner:	Rob Thomas, Chief Executive
Responsible Officer:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by Cabinet

Executive Summary:

- This report and Appendix A detail the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continues to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. This includes the RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan. Progress from October 2023 to March 2024 includes: the launch of new Project Zero training modules, support for business decarbonisation, the roll out of services to support the new Wales Workplace Recycling Regulations, ongoing development of a number of key strategies and plans, further roll out of EV charging infrastructure, ongoing work on active travel, the building of energy efficient council housing and the building of carbon zero schools, the delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to three community buildings as well as ongoing conversion of lighting to LED, and extensive work by the Local Nature Partnership and the Restore the Thaw Landscape project to support and enhance nature and biodiversity across the Vale.
- The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve.
- This report provides updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies which is a priority in the PSB Well-being Plan.
- The report shows updated Performance Indicators for 2024/25 at Appendix B.
- The report also updates on the approach to programme management.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) note the progress detailed in this report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board.
2. That the Committee note RAG rating of progress from October 2023 to March 2024 in Appendix A.
3. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date.
4. That the Committee note the updated Corporate Performance Indicators relevant to Project Zero at Appendix B
5. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee who will consider this report on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
6. That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that this report is distributed to all elected Members, members of the Public Services Board and all Town and Community Councils for their information.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To enable the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to consider how Project Zero and the related work of the Public Services Board is being taken forward.
2. To ensure that the Members are aware of the RAG rating of progress from October 2023 to March 2024 against the steps within the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
3. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the projects awarded funding to date.
4. To ensure that the Members are aware of the updates made to the Corporate Performance Indicators relevant to Project Zero.
5. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.
6. To update all elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.



## 1. Background

**1.1.** At the Council meeting on the 29th July 2019 Council resolved (minute 209 refers):

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council join with Welsh Government and other Councils across the UK in declaring a global 'climate emergency' in response to the findings of the IPCC report.

(2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030 and support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan, to help achieve the Welsh Government's ambition for the public sector in Wales to be carbon neutral.

(3) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council make representations to the Welsh and UK Governments, as appropriate, to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to Local Authorities in Wales to help them successfully meet the 2030 target.

(4) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council continue to work with partners across the region to develop and implement best practice methods that can deliver carbon reductions and help limit global warming.

(5) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council work with local stakeholders including Councillors, residents, young people, businesses, and other relevant parties to develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030 and explore ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

**1.2.** [Project Zero](#) is the Council's response to the climate emergency. At the Council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 the Council approved the Climate Change Challenge Plan (minute 296). The Plan details eighteen challenges and eighty underlying steps framed around the need to demonstrate strong leadership, fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations and to make a difference now.

**1.3.** At the Council meeting in July 2021 a motion was also passed resolving to declare a Nature Emergency (Minute 289).

**1.4.** The Challenge Plan reflects commitments in the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-25 which sets out the Council's four Well-being Objectives and how they will be delivered. The Corporate Plan includes a commitment to work to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030 and to encourage others to follow the Council's lead as part of minimising the negative impact of our activities on the environment. The Corporate Plan is supported each year by an Annual Delivery Plan (ADP). The ADP for 2024-25 includes responding to the climate and nature emergencies as one of its three critical challenges.

**1.5.** The Challenge Plan sets out activities that will contribute not only to the Council’s aim of being net zero by 2030 but the wider aim of being net zero across the Vale by 2050 in line with Welsh Government targets and ambitions for the public sector and for Wales.

**1.6.** In response to the July 2022 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommendations, a ‘RAG’ rating system (Red, Amber and Green) for progress has been continued at Appendix A. The rating reflects the progress from October 2023 to March 2024 only, and the ratings may fluctuate over time to reflect new opportunities and barriers in future reporting periods.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

**2.1** This report and Appendix A provides an overall update on the wide range of activity being undertaken as part of Project Zero.

**2.2** The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee made a number of comments at the 16th January 2024 meeting, and the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee made a number of comments at the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 meeting. Updates on these are outlined below:

- The importance of making the RAG rating for the progress made under Project Zero as effective and robust as possible.
  - Update: As the Climate Change Challenge Plan runs to 2030, there will be variable progress over any 6-month reporting period. As such, the RAG rating will reflect the progress against expectations for that period.
- To ensure that biodiversity is included in the progress made under Project Zero as well as other impacts.
  - Update: The updates in Appendix A for Challenge 5 include progress in green and blue space. The Biodiversity Forward Plan is due for refresh in 2024 along with the publication of the Vale Nature Recovery Action Plan. These will both provide a mechanism for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity. The nature emergency is a critical challenge for the organisation alongside climate as contained in this year’s Annual Delivery Plan.
- The importance of providing updates and reporting on Project Zero in as timely a manner as possible.
  - Update: Due to the reporting cycles and sign off period, updates against Project Zero Q1&2 (April to end September) will be reported

to scrutiny committee in December, and Q3&4 (October to end March) will be reported in June. The reporting of Project Zero (PZ) related Corporate Performance Indicators (PIs) will be reported as part of the comprehensive end of year performance reports in July. They will then also be included in the PZ progress report in December. We are reviewing the potential for some PIs to be reported in year but as some of the work is seasonal (e.g. planting or work that takes place in school holidays), annual PIs give a more consistent measure of progress. Other data e.g. carbon emissions is also collected annually as part of the reporting to Welsh Government.

- The importance of working with partners, i.e. Town and Community Councils, local Nature Partnerships, etc in regard to Project Zero.
  - Update: Partnership work continues to be crucial to Project Zero. Partnership work in this period includes with the Public Services Board (PSB), Vale Local Nature Partnership (VLNP), with Town and Community Councils, and with partners on the Local Area Energy Plan. Updates on these can be found at Appendix 1, steps PZC3.1, 4.3, 4.4, 12.1 and challenge 5.
- To look at the environmental impact of the Replacement Local Development Plan.
  - Update: The Replacement LDP (RLDP) is subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). The purpose of this is to consider the sustainability credentials of the decisions made and options chosen in relation to the RLDP against set sustainability themes. It will assist in making sure that new development that comes forward through the Plan is sustainable. Notably, work that the Council is currently doing to investigate the inclusion of a policy requiring net-zero buildings would be the first of its kind in Wales.
- That the Committee would welcome more information about how individual projects and activity make a tangible difference in terms of the targets that the Council was seeking to achieve
  - Update: For this report those contributing have been asked for a more outcomes focused narrative. In addition, the forthcoming Carbon Management Plan will set carbon reduction targets across areas to align with the carbon reporting areas set out by the WG.

**2.3** Some of the key progress from October 2023 to March 2024 in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below and more information on each challenge, the steps within, and the RAG rating of progress during the period is provided in Appendix A together with information on future plans, risks and barriers.

### **Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4**

- In October we codesigned and ran a Youth Climate Conversation event with the Vale Youth Forum, focusing on transport and waste, themes chosen by the Youth Council.
- In November we brought PSB Partners from the Asset Management and Climate Change Group together to explore our priorities for the year ahead, including a review of the Climate Emergency Charter to strengthen the nature emergency element.
- New Climate Change modules were launched on iDev and promoted to staff. These will raise awareness of climate change, food and food waste, travel, and the circular economy.
- Development of a Council Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2024-2030 is well underway. This will set clear targets for carbon reduction across directorates.
- Funding to support business decarbonisation continues to be issued via the Shared Prosperity Fund, with a large number of applications being received.
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects have been delivered in three community buildings, funded by the Assets Collaboration Programme Wales (ACPW3). All three sites benefited from new solar PV arrays and battery storage, new insulation on heating pipework, smart boiler controls, and new LED light fittings.

### **Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations - Challenges 5-12**

- The Draft Tree Strategy has been submitted to Cabinet and Scrutiny committees. This will set out tree planting targets. In the same period 1,750 standard and hedgerow trees have been planted at Country parks.
- The Vale Local Nature Partnership has awarded 15 biodiversity grants to community groups, created green space management plans, completed its Vale Orchard Project which supported and enhanced 10 community orchards, ran 35 engagement events and erected new signage at locations across the Vale.
- The Restore the Thaw Landscape Project has planted 12,154 trees and 1.5km of new hedgerow which has provided increased habitat and connectivity for wildlife. They have run training events and hosted 15 practical sessions with local communities leading to improved habitats and new skills for volunteers.
- The Replacement Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy was successfully reported through the Committee process in Q3 and was subject to a public consultation.
- Section 106 monies have been used for numerous projects across the Vale that support the environment and sustainable transport such as new crossings, bus shelters, bike repair stations, and new tree, bulb and wildflower planting at Celtic Way park, Rhoose.
- Regular meetings have taken place between the Council and Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) energy, and a project to support supply chains in the Vale for businesses has

been approved via the Shared Prosperity Fund. ABP (Associated British Ports) announced a major Partnership with EDF energy around renewable energy in the Docks.

- Working with the CCR, funding has been confirmed for Phase 3 of the EV charger roll out with 10 on-street sites identified and progressing to the detailed design phase. An additional 24 sites have been identified in both on-street and in council car park facilities for EV charger points with surplus funding available through CCR.
- 17 schools have worked on their Active Travel Plans. This includes the identification of cycle / scooter storage needs. As a result, 3 schools (Romilly, Peterston Super Ely, Dinas Powys) have had additional cycle / scooter storage provided.
- Funding has been awarded for three of the four identified towns in the Vale to develop placemaking plans which will consider local priorities including the economy and the environment.
- A green skills programme is available from Cardiff and Vale College and offers a wide range of training. We have raised awareness of these opportunities, including with elected members.
- Development of a draft Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan has started. A 'Three Horizons' workshop was held in November with around 60 stakeholders from the community, third sector, public and private sector. Findings from the workshop have been used to shape an evolving draft strategy to include both short and long-term actions (2024 - 2030), an update on which is being reported to the Healthy Living & Social Care Scrutiny Committee in June 2024.
- Roll out of waste services to support the new Workplace Recycling Regulations, including across Council premises, and businesses and schools that use council waste services. Wider promotion of the service options took place.
- The new reuse shop run by the Enfy's Foundation has opened at Atlantic Trading Estate.
- We are now running a weekly report to identify water leaks. This information is being sent to relevant officers/building managers for action and as a result leaks are being fixed more quickly leading to water and cost savings.
- After extensive engagement across internal and external stakeholders, a draft Local Area Energy Plan was received from consultants Arup. The development of the plan will be completed in the next reporting period.

#### **Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18**

- Although a Procurement Policy and Strategy is in place, there has been slower than expected progress in embedding this from a carbon reduction perspective due to capacity challenges. There are plans to address this in the next reporting period.
- The Housing Development spend in 2023/24 amounted to £29.1 million with 220 units under construction and 51 new homes delivered using modern methods of construction and achieving EPC A. In terms of existing council housing, the refurbishment and refitting of homes continued including the completion of 3 Airey

homes in St Georges super Ely including solar, battery, heat recovery amongst other decarbonising measures.

- Phase 1 of Ysgol St Baruc has been concluded - within the design the carbon reduction measures that have been installed are ASHPs (Air Source Heat Pumps)(no gas), PV Panels and on-site battery storage along with EV vehicle charging points. The site also provides a vast habitat area encouraging the growth of biodiversity on the site.
- Cowbridge Comprehensive, Romilly Primary school and St Joseph's Primary School are now working with Energy Sparks to reduce energy use. Each school has had an energy audit and subsequent reports have been written with recommendations for further work to reduce energy use.
- LED lighting has been installed within the Alps Garage workshops and supporting offices, providing significant operational savings, reducing the energy used (and associated carbon), and improving the working environment for our mechanics.
- Four EV vans were purchased and received in March 2024 using Welsh Government Energy Service grants.
- Following the approval of the Digital Strategy by Cabinet, we have identified a roadmap of initiatives that reduce our carbon output. Successes in this period include the readiness for the utilisation of Teams Telephony and WiFi energy consumption reduction in schools. Preparation is also underway to reduce our carbon through more efficient data storage.

## **2.4 Programme Management**

- The Corporate Performance Indicators for 2024/2025 have been updated and include some new indicators of specific relevance for Project Zero.
- In this period, development of the Council's Carbon Management Plan, led by the Property and Energy Team, has included consultation and input from all members of the Project Zero Board. It will be presented to the Cabinet in summer 2024.
- Project Zero training modules have been developed and made available on the iDev system.
- Awarding of Project Zero reserves has continued during the period.

## **2.5 Carbon reporting**

- During this period, we have been raising awareness of the Council's 2023/24 carbon emissions by presenting to staff across multiple Directorates and to Councillors. This has strengthened understanding of how our emissions are calculated, what activities are measured, where the gaps are, and opportunities to decarbonise.
- Work has been undertaken on the Carbon Management Plan (CMP), due for presentation to Cabinet before the summer recess. All Directorates whose activities

are counted in our emissions have fed into the CMP and set carbon reduction targets where appropriate. The CMP focuses on our corporate carbon emissions, and include sections on buildings (gas, electricity, water use and F gases (Fluorinated greenhouse gases)), fleet and other assets (e.g. streetlights); business travel, staff commuting and homeworking; waste (organisational, municipal and project); land use; supply chain; and renewables.

- An update from WG on the carbon reporting methodology and templates has been received. The Council's 2023/24 Net Zero Carbon Report will be submitted to WG in September 2024. The WG continues to refine its approach and methodology annually since carbon reporting began in 2019.
- WG has published a national summation of the emissions of all public bodies in [Welsh Public Sector 2023 Carbon Emissions Net Zero Reporting \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/publications/welsh-public-sector-2023-carbon-emissions-net-zero-reporting). The total 2022/23 emissions for all Welsh Public Sector Bodies are estimated to be 3,118 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e. Local Authorities contributed the highest emissions to the total footprint (44%). NHS Wales contributed 35%. This is followed by the diverse group of Other Public Sector Bodies (11%). Universities & Colleges, Welsh Government, Fire and Rescue Services and National Park Authorities contribute the remaining 10%.
- According to the report above, the majority of the Local Authorities' 1,370ktCO<sub>2</sub>e 2022/23 emissions were estimated to arise from the Supply Chain (67% of total emissions). Local Authority building related emissions contributed 18% of the total, transport 11%, waste emissions 2% and homeworking emissions a further 2% of the total. In comparison the Vale of Glamorgan Council's 2022/23 emission breakdown is: Supply Chain contributing 78% of total emissions, building related emissions contributing 12%<sup>1</sup>, transport 8%<sup>2</sup>, waste emissions <1% and homeworking emissions <1% of the total. The report notes the challenges in comparing due to potential inconsistencies across Local Authorities in approaches to data collection, and the different operating models and geographies.
- We have increasing confidence in the data that we are collecting, and work is ongoing to improve data collection and insights. Carbon emissions data from 2023/24 will be included in the next progress report. More information on the Council's carbon emissions is available at the [Vale of Glamorgan Council Carbon Data Dashboard](#) which highlights some of the key data reported to Welsh Government.

## 2.5 Resources

- As a wide-ranging programme, the human resources to deliver Project Zero sit across multiple directorates and include partnership working. Much of the work is resourced within existing capacity, supported by established internal budgets, annual capital funds (e.g. for street lighting conversion to LED), Project Zero reserves and multiple external annual funding pots including from Welsh Government (e.g.

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<sup>1</sup> includes streetlighting

<sup>2</sup> Including fleet, business travel and commuting

for the schools building programme, for transport, and for Council housing stock). In addition, time bound UK Government funding pots such as the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Welsh Government Assets Collaboration Programme Wales have enabled projects supported by Council staff such as [Restore the Thaw Landscape project](#) and decarbonisation work in community centres. Partnership working that provides human and financial resources includes through the Vale Local Nature Partnership and Food Vale.

- The Project Zero Reserve is open to proposals that align with the 18 challenges in the Climate Change Challenge Plan, and interest has been particularly strong from the school sector. Priority is given to projects that demonstrate direct emissions savings, and the use of the Project Zero reserve will also reflect the commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan. The Project Zero Board has met twice in this period to consider applications for Project Zero Reserves. The following projects were funded:
  - £25,000 to the waste team for street furniture improvements such as litter bins and recycling banks for source separated materials throughout the Vale.
  - £45,600 for a heat pump at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg. The overall cost of the project is £304,000 spread over two years and the application was for a 10% contribution (a condition of the grant) plus fees. By granting this application, the council benefits by £273,600 from the grant award.
  - £4,725 to the Neighbourhood Services and Transport Directorate for the automation of standard highway inspection letters. This will cut the need for excess car journeys and printing.
- Alternative sources of funding were sought for a number of projects that came to the Project Zero Board in the period. This included £19,000 for a pilot school walking bus project funded by SPF and an application for pond renovations for St Joseph's Primary School that was funded by the Vale Local Nature Partnership. In addition, a number of schools decarbonisation projects will be considered as part of the decarbonisation programme funded by the Capital Programme.
- During the period, Project Zero reserves funding previously awarded to 3 projects below were reallocated to the SPF. To maximise the use of grant funding in year the funding for £95,000 has been switched however the schemes will still be delivered in line with the proposals
  - £25,000 Restore the Thaw
  - £30,000 Buildings decarbonisation feasibility study
  - £40,000 Energy / agriculture hub feasibility study
- Using Assets Collaboration Programme Wales (ACPW3) funding, decarbonisation works have taken place in three community centres: CF61 in Llantwit Major, Rhoose Community Centre and St Frances Millennium Centre in Barry.
- The Council's financial reserves available to support the delivery of the Project Zero Programme were reported to Cabinet on 29th February as part of the final budget proposals and are reproduced below, the final outturn position will be reported to



Cabinet in July. In addition to reserves, there are grants, funds and other budgets from within directorates that are used to undertake work that supports our goal to become net zero by 2030.

<b>Reserve Name</b>	<b>Balance 01/04/2023</b>	<b>Commitment/ Transfer 23/24</b>	<b>Projected Balance 31/03/2024</b>
	<b>£'000s</b>	<b>£'000s</b>	<b>£'000s</b>
Project Zero	1,423	- 642	781
Ash Die Back	335	- 230	105
Energy Management Fund (Salix Funding)	159	- 84	75
Energy Pressures (includes budget for decarbonisation schemes)	3,885	- 2,401	1,484
Social Services Vehicles and Licences reserve (includes budget for electric bike scheme)	408	- 60	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>- 3,417</b>	<b>2,793</b>

- During 2023/24, several schemes were delivered to contribute towards the Council's decarbonisation aims using a variety of funding sources outside of Project Zero Reserve including:
  - Dinas Powys Junior LED lighting
  - Alps Garage workshops LED lighting
  - Pen y Garth Primary LED lighting
  - PV panels installed at Cowbridge Leisure Centre and the Belle-Vue Pavilion.
  - School Decarbonisation LED scheme provided lighting in Peterston Super Ely CIW and Rhws Primary schools.
  - Improvements and enhancements to several active travel routes with a new bike hire scheme at Llantwit Major funded through the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund.
  - Electric Bike scheme for care workers, as funded from Shared Prosperity Fund.
  - Several electric charging points installed in the Civic and Alps Offices staff car park funded through grants.

- New, more efficient boiler at Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Leisure Centre.
- Llantwit Major Leisure Centre – Air Handling Pump Renewal (90% grant funded)
- For 2024/25, a variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across several assets within the Council’s portfolio. A delivery programme across the Council which complements the Welsh Government Zero Carbon by 2030 target and the Council’s own Climate Emergency Declaration is being prepared which will lever in as much funding as possible from various external sources including Salix funding. Schemes totalling £538k have been identified and included in the 2024/25 Capital Programme and £250k of schemes each year from 2025/26 to 2028/29. Some of the schemes are highlighted below:
  - Penarth Learning Community 3G Pitch LED lighting
  - Cogan Primary PV panels
  - Llangan Primary PV panels
  - Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home PV panels
- The Council has continued to improve the energy efficiency of its existing housing stock to meet the requirements of Welsh Government legislation in relation to decarbonisation and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). Welsh Government launched the revised WHQS 2023, with it contributing towards governmental climate change goals expressed through the Net Zero Wales plan published in 2021 (and updated in 2022). The council will now be working towards the decarbonisation targets set out in the revised standard i.e. carrying out a whole stock assessment and producing Target Energy Pathways for our homes to reach SAP 92 -EPC A by 31 March 2027. In the interim, we are working towards all our homes meeting a minimum of SAP 75 – EPC C by 31 March 2030. This investment is further outlined in the Housing Business Plan that was reported to Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **2.6 The Public Services Board**

- The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) co-chair the Public Services Board (PSB) Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group which meets quarterly and reports to the PSB.
- In November an in-person workshop was held for the Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group (hosted by the Council) in which the members reviewed the five relevant areas within the PSB Well-being Plan 2023-2030 to explore what is working well within each organisation, and where there are opportunities to strengthen collaboration. The strongest themes emerging were the valued opportunity to share updates and learning, a future opportunity to develop and share training and guidance, and a deeper collaboration on climate risk.

- The group has agreed to focus future meetings on specific issues including biodiversity, risk and the circular economy, with sessions will be led by a variety of partners.
- The Vale Local Nature Partnership presented to the PSB and updated on community projects and the development of the Nature Recovery Action Plan. The 2023 Annual Director of Public Health report, [Recall of the Wild](#) was also presented to the PSB and the recommendations discussed. As a result, the PSB approved the redevelopment of the current Climate Emergency Charter into a revised Climate and Nature Charter. Work is now progressing to develop the charter.
- Progress against the current Climate Emergency Charter is currently being gathered for the PSB Annual Report. Example of activities during the period include the roll out of NRW's Resilient Communities Grants Programme, with £2 million pounds funding over 3 years. Cardiff and Vale College are progressing their new campus facilities in Vale which will be net zero carbon. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service are using a new Sustainable Procurement toolkit, and in the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, a Cardiff and Vale Green Group has been established to provide support and assistance to staff for sustainability and decarbonisation projects. This group includes sustainability leads for Clinical, nursing and therapies specialities. A number of small and specialist clinically focussed projects have been undertaken to improve the sustainability of some clinical services leading to an estimated saving of 40 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e
- As part of the work with the PSB a meeting was arranged with the Town and Community Councils for April to review opportunities to strengthen work on biodiversity and to share the work of the Local Nature Partnership and the Cardiff and Vale UHB Director of Public Health's Annual report.
- PSB members Natural Resources Wales offered places on their Carbon Literacy training to other organisations within the PSB, and a number of Council staff took up this offer. The Vale Local Nature Partnership are developing biodiversity training for later in 2024 and aiming to make this available to PSB members.
- Partners are also continuing to deliver against their commitments in the Staff Healthy Travel Charter.
- Work was undertaken through Food Vale including the ongoing development of a Food Strategy to raise awareness about the impact of our food choices on the environment. The 2024 Food Trail was planned and will raise awareness of local food producers and businesses.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about sustainable development. The Act sets out a 'sustainable development principle' which specifies that the public bodies listed in the Act must act in a manner which seeks to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In meeting their sustainability duty, each body must set objectives that highlight the work the

body will undertake to contribute to meeting the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.

- 3.2** The activities set out in this report will contribute to the national well-being goals and help ensure we have a resilient Wales. The five ways of working are embedded throughout Project Zero as we work collaboratively through the PSB and with other partners. It is recognised that this is a long-term programme of work, but that action needs to be taken now and that prevention will be a critical element to this work. Involvement of the community in order for them to shape our activities and to understand the need for change is fundamental to us making a difference through our activities and we are integrating work on this agenda across the Council ensuring this is seen as the responsibility of all Directorates and staff.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** Project Zero is the Council's response to the climate emergency and brings together work from across the Council in a co-ordinated response to the climate emergency. Commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan are designed to enable the Council to meet its ambition to be net zero by 2030 and include actions that will change how we work, enable others to make changes and raise awareness about the need for urgent action. This report includes details of work including support for business decarbonisation; the roll out of services to support the new Wales Workplace Recycling Regulations; further roll out of EV charging infrastructure; ongoing work on active travel; the building of energy efficient council housing and zero carbon schools; the delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects to three community buildings as well as ongoing conversion of lighting to LED; and extensive work by the Local Nature Partnership and the Restore the Thaw Landscape project to support and enhance nature and biodiversity across the Vale.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The Council has established a series of reserves to support the delivery of Project Zero as set out in the body of this report.

### **Employment**

- 5.2** There are no specific employment implications arising as a direct result of this report.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.3** There are no direct legal implications arising from the activities detailed within this report, but activities undertaken in response to the climate change emergency will be consistent with duties under the Environment Act and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 5.4** The feedback gathered during the consultation on the draft plan has informed Project Zero and equality impact assessments will be undertaken for different activities within Project Zero as necessary. These assessments will reflect the consultation findings and other relevant engagement and data.

## **6. Background Papers**

Council Notice of Motion 29 July 2019 - Minute 209

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Council/2019/19-07-29/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 23 March 2020 Minute C280 - Responding to the Climate Emergency

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-03-23/Minutes.pdf>

Vale of Glamorgan Council Corporate Plan April 2020

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/achieving\\_our\\_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/achieving_our_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx)

Vale of Glamorgan Council Coronavirus Recovery Strategy Cabinet 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-09-21/Coronavirus-Recovery-Strategy.pdf>

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2020 Minute C357 - Developing a Climate Change Action Plan

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-11-02/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 25 January 2021 Minute C451 – Vale Public Services Board Climate Emergency Charter

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-01-25/Minutes.pdf>

Cabinet Report 22 March 2021 Minute C526 – Project Zero - Draft Climate Change Challenge Plan

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-03-22/Minutes-of-21-03-22.pdf>

Council Minutes 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (289 and 296) - Notice of Motion – Declaration of Nature Emergency and Project Zero – Draft Climate Change Challenge Plan

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Council/2021/21-07-26/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Council/2021/21-07-26/Minutes.pdf)

Cabinet Report 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Minute – Project Zero – Delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-10-25/Project-Zero-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-10-25/Project-Zero-Climate-Change-Challenge-Plan.pdf)

Cabinet Report 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Minute – Project Zero – Update, Resources, Evidence and Reporting

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-02-28/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2022/22-02-28/Minutes.pdf)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Minute - Project Zero Update Report

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/minutes)

Cabinet Report (Reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny 18<sup>th</sup> January) Minute - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 Project Zero Update report

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/minutes)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/project-zero-update-report)

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/minutes)

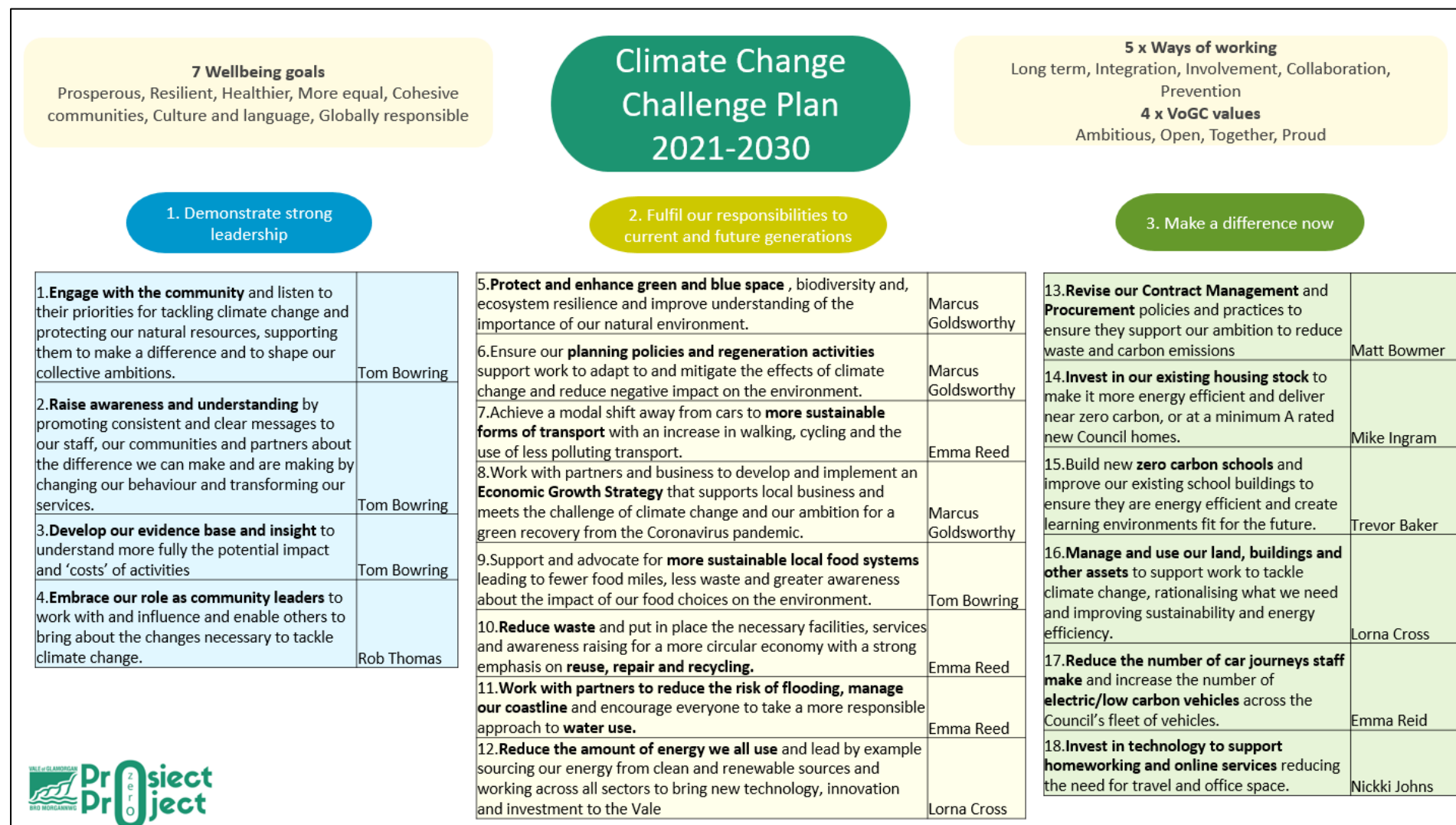
Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/project-zero-update-report)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/minutes)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/minutes)

## Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress. October 2023 to March 2024

### Climate Change Challenge Plan overview



**Area 1: Demonstrate strong leadership. Challenge 1-4**

We will demonstrate strong leadership as we meet the challenge to effectively engage with the community and our partners about how we can work together. We will raise awareness about the issues and the work we are undertaking and develop a better understanding about where we can have the biggest impact and how we can influence others to work with us and be part of an ambitious programme of change

<b>Challenge 1. Engage</b> with the community and listen to their priorities for tackling climate change and protecting our natural resources, supporting them to make a difference and to shape our collective ambitions. SRO: TOM BOWRING				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC1.1. Build momentum around the Climate Change Community Conversation as an ambitious campaign for change.	<p>A communications plan is in place and revisited monthly for new opportunities (see PZC2.1) including sharing and inviting engagement in nature projects such as Restore the Thaw Landscape, and in relevant consultations such as the Tree Strategy and the Replacement Local Development Plan.</p> <p>We codesigned and ran a <a href="#">Youth Climate Conversation</a> event with the Vale Youth Forum, focusing on transport and waste, themes chosen by the Youth Council. Delegates included pupils from secondary schools in the Vale, the Police Cadets, Youth Council and Penarth Youth Action, the event was supported by council teams, Transport for Wales and WRAP Cymru</p> <p>We held a staff 'Christmas Swap' event and climate conversations during Wales Climate Week. The swap enabled staff to bring and take items from home for regifting, lowering the environmental impact and cost of Christmas, and supporting the 'reuse' agenda.</p> <p>The Let's Talk survey was completed and had a number of Climate Change questions within it.</p>		On track	<p>Meet with 50+ Forum Climate lead and support planning of their events.</p> <p>Feed back progress since the Youth Climate Conversation to the Vale Youth Forum and co-produce follow up communications.</p> <p>Review and re-launch Project Zero Hub with increased opportunities to share case studies, encourage positive action and engage with what the Council is doing.</p> <p>Joining the panel at the Food Vale evening event at Llantwit Major in June as part of the 2024/25 Vale Food Festival.</p>



<p>PZC1.2. Involve Stakeholder groups and develop a green ambassadors group to shape our plans and encourage behaviour change.</p>	<p>See above for youth work.</p> <p>A Project Zero Learning Cafe Network group has been set up and 2 meetings have taken place. This group has widened awareness of Project Zero across staff and broadened engagement.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Learning Cafe Network group meetings.</p>
<p>PZC1.3. Promote volunteering opportunities and community projects.</p>	<p>Mapping of community groups working in the environmental arena has started.</p> <p>Value in the Vale funding was confirmed to March '25 and opportunities continue to be promoted on the <a href="#">Value on the Vale website</a>. New to the platform in this period are Flat Holm Island, Vale Ways, Friends of White Park Farm, STAR (Saint Tenants and Residents Group) and Friends of Fonmon Woods. Talks on Flat Holm and the RSPB birdwatch have been delivered in partnership with Cardiff Council at Belle Vue and to 5 x sheltered housing schemes. <a href="#">Interviews with volunteers on Restore the Thaw</a> demonstrate the benefit of outdoor volunteering, as does the <a href="#">PCSO volunteering work at Crawshay Court Community Gardens</a>.</p> <p>See challenge 5 for other updates on volunteers and volunteer training in green spaces.</p>	<p>Short term nature of funding puts the Value in the Vale work at risk.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Complete mapping of community groups. The revised Project Zero Hub will contain new sections on what's happening in our communities to encourage others to get involved in activities.</p> <p>Value the Vale are planning to develop resident groups who will lead and take responsibility for their local environment, including litter picking and gardening. This will help to set a good example intergenerationally and across the wider community.</p> <p>The Parks and Grounds team are running a 3 day 'Floral harmony' event where staff can help with the planting of bedding plants in Romilly Park.</p> <p>See challenge 5 for other plans for volunteers and volunteer training in green spaces.</p>

**Challenge 2.** Raise awareness and understanding by promoting **consistent and clear messages** to our staff, our communities and partners about the difference we can make and are making by changing our behaviour and transforming our services.

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
PZC2.1. Develop a co-ordinated programme of internal and external communications.	<p>Monthly Project Zero Communications meetings continue to take place which gives us an opportunity to review what we have done in the previous month and its success, and plan for any upcoming communications campaigns to support awareness days or Council projects.</p> <p>Communications with the largest reach include the new Penarth water fountain, Barry waterfront development toucan crossing, and the Tree Strategy.</p>		On track	Support rollout of Separated Commercial Recycling to businesses and across the Council estate with communications and marketing plan. Raise awareness of environmental days including Big Green Week in June.
PZC2.2. Report on the progress being made and the impact of the changes we make.	<p>Projects Zero related projects are regularly reported in the Chief Executive's End of week message, raising awareness of the breadth of work and the difference it is making.</p> <p>Our 22/23 carbon data has been presented to senior teams in all directorates and to Elected Members. This has deepened understanding of and engagement with our data and is building buy-in across the organisation. We also report to Scrutiny bi-annually.</p>		On track	Share 23/24 Performance Indicator data with Project Zero Board. Finalise Carbon Management Plan metrics. Report on impact of PZ funding and develop broader case study studies.
PZC2.3. Showcase community projects across the Vale.	Mapping of community projects has started. In addition, a review of the Project Zero hub has identified an opportunity to showcase a 'what's happening in your community' section where people can learn more about community groups, what they're doing and how they can get involved.		On track	Finish mapping community projects and groups and add to Project Zero Hub to highlight how people can get involved.
PZC2.4. Signpost people to information and services within their community.	<p>A review of the Project Zero online hub has started and the webpages will be extended to include new pages of information, including signposts to community groups and information for staff.</p> <p>The cost-of-living webpages have been reviewed and updated to make content more accessible and signpost to extra support available recognising links between climate change e.g. energy efficiency and transport.</p>		On track	Project Zero online hub to be completed and a comms campaign launched to draw more to the pages.

**Challenge 3.** Develop our **evidence base and insight** to understand more fully the potential impact and ‘costs’ of activities

SRO: TOM BOWRING

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC3.1 Bring in external expertise and research best practice in other organisations inc. with PSB partners to understand our impact.</p>	<p>Our internal Project Zero Teams channel continues to be well used to showcase learning opportunities and best practice from across Wales and beyond.</p> <p>In November we brought PSB Partners from the Asset Management and Climate Change Group together to explore our priorities for the year ahead. As a result, we identified shared training as an opportunity, and following this, the PSB made training spaces available on their Carbon Literacy course.</p> <p>A Buildings Decarbonisation Feasibility Study is underway by consultants examining the viability implications for requiring all new buildings across the Vale of Glamorgan to be zero carbon in their construction and operation.</p> <p>Consultants were appointed to complete the proposed feasibility study into the viability of an Energy Hub. Throughout key Council stakeholders were updated.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Scope opportunity to undertake work to investigate our digital footprint (dependent on findings of the Carbon Management Plan) and make recommendations for actions to reduce.</p> <p>In Q1 we should receive the completed buildings Decarbonisation Feasibility Study and in Q2 we will use it to inform viability work, which will determine how we progress this intervention in the Replacement LDP.</p> <p>Work with instructed consultants to support the Energy Hub Viability study (anticipated completion in December 2024). We aim to update stakeholders at key points within the commission.</p>
<p>PZC3.2 Provide training for staff and Members.</p>	<p>4 x Climate Change modules were launched on iDev and promoted to staff. These will raise awareness of climate change, food and food waste, travel, and the circular economy.</p> <p>Training was developed and delivered to the first of two elected member groups with the aim of building awareness and confidence in our climate change work and emissions reporting.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing promotion of Project Zero iDev modules and scoping of new modules.</p> <p>Ongoing promotion of training available through Project Zero Teams channel.</p> <p>Second climate change / carbon emission</p>

	<p>External training sessions are publicised on PZ Teams with good take up. This includes 5 staff members undertaking an Energy and Carbon Management Level 3 qualification.</p> <p>4 x staff members undertook NRW's Carbon Literacy training.</p>			<p>session to be delivered to elected members.</p> <p>Development of Biodiversity training by the Local Nature Partnership. This will be available to all staff.</p>
<p>PZC3.3 Calculate and understand the Council's carbon footprint and publish other key data detailing our performance and progress.</p>	<p>Our 2022/23 carbon emission report was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2024 and was reported in the last period. We continue to disseminate this information to colleagues across the council including at team meetings across directorates.</p>	<p>We are aware of some gaps in 2022/23 carbon reporting (e.g. no project waste data was available) and will be working to improve some data sets in 2023/24 reporting.</p>	On track	<p>Continue presentations to teams across the Council. April 2024 sessions to be held with Councillors.</p> <p>WG to confirm 2023/24 carbon reporting data requirements (anticipate published May 2024). Team to agree responsible VoGC teams for ownership of data collection.</p>
<p>PZC3.4 Set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Development of a Council Carbon Management Plan (CMP) 2024-2030 is ongoing to align with Welsh Government reporting template. Teams from across the Council have contributed on their current activity and the activities they will be completing to decarbonisation through to 2030.</p>	<p>Staff resourcing and capital investment have been flagged by all teams as a barrier to progressing at the pace of change required.</p>		<p>CMP 2024-2030 will be presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny in Summer 2024.</p>

**Challenge 4.** Embrace our role as community leaders to work with and **influence and enable** others to bring about the changes necessary to tackle climate change.  
SRO: ROB THOMAS

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC4.1 Work with Welsh Government and influence policy change and legislation.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government were invited to join the Youth Climate Conversation event run in October and were updated with outcomes.</p> <p>Preparation for the new Workplace Recycling laws.</p> <p>We have responded to the WG Consultation on 'White Paper - Environmental principles, governance and biodiversity targets' about funding and the lack of long-term funding for Local Nature Partnerships.</p>		On track	<p>Share 6-month Youth Climate Conversation updates with WG.</p> <p>Continue to take up opportunities to influence WG policy and legislation.</p>
<p>PZC4.2 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change across the region.</p>	<p>See section 7 for EV charging point updates.</p> <p>Agreement that two electric taxis from CCR will be made available to support work in the Vale including one for use by the social care team - reporting conditions are being agreed.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place with CCR around potential linkages between the Agri Hub and the Cardiff Capital Region food challenge fund.</p> <p>Collaboration has continued with CCR Energy over the development of plan for the long-term future of the Aberthaw site.</p>	<p>Competing demands for resources within CCR.</p>	On track	<p>See section 7 for EV charging point planned actions.</p> <p>Discussion to be taken to CCR Challenge fund for consideration around food and farming opportunities. We will continue to work with CCR energy with regard to their plans for the former Aberthaw Power Station, to help secure a long-term green energy-based solution for the site.</p> <p>Two electric taxis provided by CCR will go into use, including by the Social Care team.</p>

<p>PZC4.3 Work with PSB partners to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.</p>	<p>Following the November PSB Asset Management and Climate Emergency group workshop, we reviewed the outputs and agreed a work plan for the year. This will include a review of the Climate Emergency Charter to strengthen the nature emergency element.</p>		<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>PSB partners will be co-developing a refreshed Climate Emergency Charter to strengthen the nature emergency element with support from the Local Nature Partnership and Public Health Wales.</p>
<p>PZC4.4 Work with business and industry, Town and Community Councils, Community groups and the Third Sector to make a difference locally.</p>	<p>In January 2024 progress on PZ was reported to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee. It was agreed that as more bite size communications are developed to demonstrate work being undertaken, that these would be shared with GVS for dissemination to the third sector.</p> <p>Funding to support business decarbonisation continues to be issued via the Shared Prosperity Fund, with a large number of applications being received. Businesses receive statistical advice from Business Wales to support applications. A related post was advertised in this period, but an appointment was not made due to low numbers of applicants.</p> <p>Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects have been delivered in three community buildings, funded by the Assets Collaboration Programme Wales (ACPW3). All three sites benefited from new solar PV arrays and battery storage, new insulation on heating pipework, smart boiler controls, and new LED light fittings.</p>	<p>Low attendance at the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee limited the reach of the session</p> <p>Time to develop wider range of comms tools.</p> <p>Few applications for the business decarbonisation post due to broad remit of post and challenging recruitment market.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Share communications and case studies of business decarbonisation as developed.</p> <p>Summary of business decarbonisation projects supported to date via SPF to be brought to Project Zero Board with a refocused project proposal to support the actions within the Local Area Energy Plan and a discussion around how the Council ensures effective oversight of the plan.</p> <p>Local Nature Partnership and Public Health to present to Town and Community Councils on the work of the LNP, the recent Direct Director of Public Health's <a href="#">Recall of the Wild Report</a> and the review of the PSB Climate Change Charter that will have an increased focus on nature. T&amp;CCs to feed in what they are doing.</p>

**Area 2: Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations. Challenge 5-12.**

In meeting these challenges, we will encourage behaviour change and adapt the necessary infrastructure to meet the current and future challenges of climate change. The focus for this section is on transport, food, nature, energy, waste, water use and flooding. In meeting the challenges, we will support a green economy and the importance of balancing economic growth with the need to minimise negative impact on the environment and our natural resources. We will take forward work to improve the green infrastructure in the Vale and to promote sustainable food systems.

<b>Challenge 5.</b> Protect and enhance <b>green and blue space</b> , biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment. SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC5.1 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Plan including a survey of all trees in the Vale and an assessment of the current infrastructure.	The Council are now in receipt of a Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy and are currently considering how to embed it into Council functions and to integrate it within the RLDP process. It is likely that further consultation will be necessary for the formal adoption of the strategy.		On track	Agree governance mechanisms for the Green Infrastructure Plan in order to set out how it will impact our organisational decision making.
PZC5.2 Implement the biodiversity forward plan and raise awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife.	Draft Biodiversity Forward Plan targets under consideration.  Draft Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) discussed with PSB and recommended changes added.  The following has been achieved by the Vale Local Nature Partnership (VLNP): 15 x Biodiversity Grants awarded to 12 community groups.; 6 x Green Space management plans created by ecological consultancy Soltys Brewster; Thomson Ecology contracted to map all hedgerows in the Vale; Vale Orchard Project completed, and 10 community orchards supported and enhanced. Hawkeswood Ecology	Biodiversity Forward Plan: Lack of staff resources.  The need for all departments and teams to develop targets and implement. Targets need to be added to departmental	Slower than expected progress	Need to dedicate resources to compile draft Biodiversity Forward Plan.  Publish Vale Nature Recovery Action Plan.  VLNP will be continuing the Local Places for Nature (LPfN) works programme and completing project delivery, e.g.: Host 5 x public engagement activities, submit applications for pond creation, identify site for Swift Tower at Barry Docks, implement Green Space Management Plans with community groups, identify

	<p>have been contracted to survey Highway Verge Conservation Zones across the Vale. Machinery purchased for Parks and Open Spaces team and Countryside to support with cut and collect and expand area managed for biodiversity.</p> <p>In addition, VLNP delivered and hosted 35 engagement events, installed interpretation signage at the Railway Path Project, St Cyres, and installed community orchard signs for four other sites. WG 'Its for Them' signage has been installed at Celtic Way and Knap Skate Park as part of VLNP community meadow creation. A green roof cycle shelter has been installed at Romilly Primary School and 7 new pond creation sites have been identified.</p> <p>As part of the Restore the Thaw Landscape Project the following have taken place: 12,154 trees and 1.5km of new hedgerow planted which has provided increased habitat and connectivity for wildlife. 1 x pond application submitted. 3 x training events held which provided additional skill for volunteers and will encourage better recording of species. 15 x practical sessions with local communities were hosted leading to improved habitats, new skill for volunteers and increased mental wellbeing for the community. Weekly promotions of the project on social media have helped promote the project to a wider audience and helped recruit volunteers and landowners into the project.</p> <p>The following has taken place as part of <a href="#">the Great Glamorgan Way</a> (GGW) project: Working as a team on site clearance, using equipment bought by the project. Presentations given to partnering authorities and the</p>	<p>performance indicators so that reporting is clear and concise.</p> <p>For the VLNP, wet weather has delayed meadow management and installation of fencing.</p> <p>For Restore the Thaw, there has been a delay in second pond application due to processes and time constraints.</p> <p>The GGW project team reduced to two once funding ended. The project would have benefited</p>		<p>new recipient sites for meadow creation, and relaunch Biodiversity Grants Scheme.</p> <p>As part of the Restore the Thaw Landscape Project: submit 2 x pond applications, construct 2 x ponds, release 50 x water voles on River Thaw, carry out 8 x water quality samples on River Thaw, host 5 x public engagement activities.</p> <p>As part of the GGW project the following is planned: bird box monitoring throughout nesting season to provide the BTO with accurate date for bird species in the Vale. The GGW toolkit will be made available on the website. Working with</p>
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	introduction of the GGW "toolkit" about how to manage the ecological side of rights of way. The project also installed bird boxes across various woodlands in the Vale to be monitored and the information provided to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) records increasing knowledge of birdlife in the Vale.	from funding to employ contractors for larger scale jobs which were beyond the capacity of 2 staff.		our Highways Department at the end of nesting season to ensure that overgrown highways are once again accessible to the public. Working alongside Restore The Thaw Landscape and VLNP to join forces on some ecological volunteering opportunities, particular with the removal of INNS (invasive non-native species).
PZC5.3 Replace lost trees and promote tree planting across the Vale including working with owners of large areas of land.	Draft Tree Strategy submitted to Cabinet and Scrutiny committees. This will set out tree planting targets. A Public consultation was undertaken, ending March 2024.  1,750 x standard and hedgerow trees planted at Country parks.		On track	Update Tree Strategy with any relevant consultation suggestions.  Adoption of Tree Strategy by Council and implementation.
PZC5.4 Improve existing and create more green and blue spaces through Council led schemes, s.106 funds and new transport schemes.	Section 106 funding has enabled the new outdoor gym at Lougher Place, which is nearing completion and new tree, bulb and wildflower planting at Celtic Way park, Rhoose. The remainder of the other enhancement works are currently out to tender and are due to be completed in Autumn 2024.  Advance tree clearance works have been undertaken at the Murchfield site in Dinas Powys. Consultants are currently finalising the design of the scheme, to be implemented in Autumn 2024.	Wet weather and difficulties obtaining a piece of gym equipment from a supplier have resulted in delays at the new Lougher Place outdoor gym.	On track	Complete outdoor gym at St. Athan, progress remainder of planned enhancements at Celtic Way Park, Rhoose and Murchfield Courts site, Dinas Powys. Identify further green space / sustainable transport schemes for implementation with S106 funds.
PZC5.5 Work with local communities to increase the number of allotments and community garden space.	See PZC9.5	See PZC9.5	Slower than expected progress	see PZC9.5

**Challenge 6.** Ensure our **planning policies and regeneration activities** support work to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce negative impact on the environment.

SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
PZC6.1 Produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.	No progress. See other updates on water at challenge 11.	Resource and staffing levels gap to progress business case.	No progress	Progress development of business case for Project Zero funding subject to available resource and staffing.
PZC6.2 Review/produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on tackling climate change.	No further SPGs (Supplementary Planning Guidance) planned in this period.		No planned action	Additional SPG to be prepared in 2024-2025 as part of the evidence for Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan
PZC6.3 Maximise opportunities to meet our communities need for housing, employment and services through, where possible, the sustainable redevelopment of brown-field land in appropriate locations, through the existing Local Development Plan and the plan review commencing in June 2021	<p>The <a href="#">Local Development Plan (LDP) Annual Monitoring Report 2022-23</a> was approved by Cabinet and reported to the Welsh Government in the required timeframe. This set out performance against the targets in PZC6.3, including development on brownfield land.</p> <p>The RLDP Preferred Strategy was successfully reported through the Committee process in Q3 and was subject to a public consultation in late Q3/Q4. As part of the consultation on the Preferred Strategy a candidate site with the potential to deliver a mixed-use development on brownfield land, including 350 dwellings, at Ffordd Y Mileniwm was received.</p>		On track	<p>Data for the 2023-24 Annual LDP Monitoring Report will be collated, and this will go through political reporting. This will broadly review performance against the targets of PZC6.3, including delivery of housing on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Following the consultation on the RLDP Preferred Strategy the Initial Consultation Report will go to Cabinet and seek authorisation for the RLDP to progress to Deposit Stage. This will enable us to progress the commitments set out in the Preferred Strategy, which seeks to co-locate housing, employment and other services and facilities to reduce the need to travel, and targets development to</p>

				places well served by public transport.  The Ffordd Y Mileniwm site will be assessed and may be included in the RLDP Deposit Plan as a Key Site.
PZC6.4 Work with developers to develop zero carbon buildings.	As below		On track	As below
PZC6.5 Create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy.	See PZC3.1: Consultants have been instructed to carry out the feasibility work and the work remains ongoing. It will examine the viability implications across the Vale of Glamorgan for requiring all new buildings to be zero carbon in their construction and operation.	N/A	On track	Complete the feasibility work and determine whether or not it is expedient to include the policy for requiring all new buildings to be zero carbon in their construction and operation within the Replacement LDP.
PZC6.6 Require all new and significant developments to implement appropriate sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to appropriately manage surface water, water quantity and biodiversity.	Delivery of SAB (SuDS Approval Body) function is ongoing in accordance with legislation and applications received. Budget pressure application for additional staffing to improve the service provision was unsuccessful. No additional staffing likely in the near future. 22 x full applications received (18 approved, 3 rejected and 1 withdrawn during the period). 13 pre-applications considered, and no new enforcement cases progressed.  Also see PZC11.4 for council house building	Resource and staffing levels, together with the number of applications received for SAB approval as well as the number of enforcement cases that need to be considered/ reviewed.	On track	Continue to provide statutory SAB function within existing resource / staffing levels and develop non-statutory pre-application process. Charges for service reviewed and due to increase subject to Cabinet approval.  Also see PZC11.4 for council house building

<p>PZC6.7 Use S106 agreements to invest in environmental and sustainable transport measures.</p>	<p>Through Section 106 funding the following has happened: design work on a new controlled crossing in Westgate, Cowbridge; improvements to the boardwalk in Cowbridge; design of a new toucan crossing between East Quay on Barry Waterfront and the new Barry Docks transport interchange; approval of a new bus shelter near the entrance to Cosmeston Lakes Country Park and identification of further bus stop improvements in Sully and St. Nicholas; pedestrian improvement work has been agreed in the vicinity of Sully primary school.</p> <p>A bike pump/repair station has been installed in St. Nicholas as well as new benches providing resting places for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Section 106 funding has continued to support Greenlinks and 'free' bus travel will be offered to all on the 303 bus service during the school summer holiday 2024 which serves Ogmore by Sea, Southerndown and Llantwit Major.</p>	<p>Resources and staffing levels in other service areas which assist with Section 106 projects. External factors such as inflation, supply of materials, weather.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Complete ongoing sustainable transport schemes in Cowbridge and the toucan crossing between Barry Waterfront and the transport exchange. Undertake further bus stop enhancements in Sully and complete Cosmeston Bus stop improvements Progress work on planned pedestrian improvements near Sully Primary School. Ensure marketing material is prepared for 303 bus service scheme in Summer 2024. Identify further new environmental and sustainable transport S106 schemes in conjunction with relevant members, officers and other relevant stakeholders. Continue to explore S106 match funding opportunities.</p>
<p>PZC6.8 Work with Cardiff City Region to explore opportunities to promote and develop clean growth hubs capitalising on Barry as a dock and maximising renewable energy potential.</p>	<p>Regular meetings have taken place between the Council and CCR energy and a project to support supply chains in the Vale for businesses has been approved via the Shared Prosperity Fund. Associated British Port (ABP) announced a major partnership with EDF energy around renewable energy in the Docks.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Regular meetings will continue, and emerging opportunities will be promoted to local businesses.</p>

**Challenge 7.** Achieve a modal shift away from cars to more **sustainable forms of transport** with an increase in walking, cycling and the use of less polluting transport.  
SRO: EMMA REED

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC7.1 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to improve public transport options for the region and implement taxi charging points as well as a future network of car park and bus charging points.</p>	<p>Funding has been confirmed for Phase 3 of the EV charger roll out with 10 on-street sites identified and progressing to the detailed design phase. An additional 24 sites have been identified in both on-street and in council car park facilities for EV charger points with surplus funding available through CCR.</p>	<p>Resource to undertake resident and stakeholder consultations on charger site and delays due to objections. Site selection limited due to necessary considerations overactive travel to avoid restrictions to footpath widths. No policy on provision of EV Chargers.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Review EV charger parking bay provision and future needs. Continue to work with CCR on implementation of Phase 3 sites to include design work and consultation on proposals for 24 sites with dual-outlet charge points.</p> <p>Consider preparation of draft policy for on-street EV Charging in residential areas.</p>
<p>PZC7.2 Work with developers to ensure new business, leisure and housing developments plan appropriately for transport needs and encourage behaviour change.</p>	<p>Cosmeston development planning application received approval resolution at Committee- now referred to WG for decision on call-in.</p> <p>RLDP Draft Preferred Strategy approved for public consultation, and report of responses underway.</p> <p>Liaison with CCR and UK Government regarding feasibility funding for new train station in St. Athan.</p>	<p>Potential negative responses to public consultation. WG may call in Cosmeston application.</p> <p>Complex governance arrangement over feasibility of potential St. Athan train station.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Secure planning permission for Cosmeston and other major developments. Commence consultation on Sustainable Transport spends, in accordance with S106 protocols.</p> <p>Completion of sustainable transport works adjacent to Docks Office.</p> <p>Progression of major applications – Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) campuses and Bro Tathan Data Centre.</p> <p>Report Preferred Strategy consultation responses to Cabinet and Full Council, in order to secure progression to Deposit Plan.</p>

<p>PZC7.3 Increase active travel (walking and cycling) and improve the transport infrastructure in the Vale through the use of Welsh Government grants to improve access, safety and the joining up of the active travel network.</p>	<p>Toucan crossing installed at Walston Castle, Wenvoe to provide seamless connection from shared use path along Port Road through Wenvoe village.</p> <p>Funding bids submitted to Welsh Government for scheme development, minor improvements and cycle storage in the Vale.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue the detailed design of Sully/Cosmeston, Barry/Dinas and Barry/Rhoose Active Travel routes.</p> <p>Complete Active Travel annual report for submission in September 2024.</p> <p>Start pedestrian improvements in the east of Barry and complete design and feasibility of AT route options along Coldbrook Road East.</p>
<p>PZC7.4 Expand the Nextbike e-cycle hire scheme into other parts of the Vale following on from the implementation of the scheme in the Penarth area.</p>	<p>Nextbike withdrew all bikes and docks from the Vale in December 2023 due to vandalism levels suffered in Cardiff. An active Brompton hire dock remains in Llantwit Major and has regular hires. An application to the Shared Prosperity Fund was submitted for additional Brompton Docks in Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys.</p>	<p>Scheme ended by supplier.</p>	<p>No progress</p>	<p>Commence feasibility report on a future bike hire scheme for the Vale.</p> <p>Start discussions with Network Rail for proposed locations for Brompton Docks at railway stations following a successful bid to the SPF.</p>
<p>PZC7.5 Work with all schools to ensure they have green travel plans and adequate cycling facilities.</p>	<p>17 x schools have worked on their Active Travel Plans. This includes the identification of cycle / scooter storage needs. As a result, 3 schools (Romilly, Peterston Super Ely, Dinas Powys) have had additional cycle / scooter storage provided.</p>	<p>Engagement with schools can sometimes be difficult due to staff resources.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Contact schools who have not engaged with Sustrans/Council on their Active Travel Plans. Schools that complete their plans identify need for cycle/scooter storage.</p>
<p>PZC7.6 Establish a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and support projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles.</p>	<p>See comments in PZC7.1</p>	<p>See comments in PZC7.1</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Review EV charger parking bay provision and future needs. See comments in PZC7.1</p>

**Challenge 8.** Work with partners and business to develop and implement an **Economic Growth Strategy** that supports local business and meets the challenge of climate change and our ambition for a green recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC8.1 Develop and implement a sustainable and green Economic Growth Strategy.</p>	<p>Funding has been awarded for three of the four identified towns in the Vale to develop placemaking plans which will consider local priorities including the economy and the environment. Close working with Town Councils and other stakeholders has begun. Architects have been appointed to begin work on the Cowbridge Plan. All plans are proposed to be completed by April 2025.</p>	<p>Lack of engagement from all departments and other stakeholders is a potential risk but this is mitigated against by setting up an internal placemaking group and offering meetings with members.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing community mapping with Llantwit Major, Penarth and Barry and more detailed placemaking work to be undertaken in Cowbridge. Tendering exercises for Barry and Llantwit Major will be completed in this period, with Penarth likely to follow in Q3.</p>
<p>PZC8.2 Support increased digital access and literacy in the community.</p>	<p>Development of digital courses has worked well in this period. Digital sessions have been held in partnership with Communities for Work Plus and CELT+ (Connect, Engage, Learn and Transform) and Adult Community Learning to provide support for individuals in the community.</p> <p>Further e-learning is now available for participants with additional digital support available via laptops in new CELT+ POD located on Holton Road.</p>	<p>Skill level of individuals is a barrier. Some individuals require more intensive support.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for individuals to develop their skills e.g. offering specialised sessions such as Everyday Apps to provide information to individuals on how to use useful apps. Further digital skills sessions planned via Adult Community Learning.</p>

<p>PZC8.3 Support employment opportunities linked to a green economy and work with the Cardiff Capital Region to explore green jobs growth potential in areas such as renewables.</p>	<p>A <a href="#">green skills programme</a> is available from Cardiff and Vale College, offers a wide range of training. We have raised awareness of these opportunities, including with Members.</p> <p>The Shared Prosperity Fund has been used to support business decarbonisation through a grants programme, and the green jobs and skills which have been supported will be detailed in forthcoming reporting on the SPF to both the region and UK Government.</p> <p>Recruitment of Decarbonisation Officer was unsuccessful (see PZC12.2), but work has been underway to develop the Local Area Energy Plan.</p>	<p>No barriers exist that prevent this day-to-day support being offered.</p> <p>The funding provided for business decarbonisation was not sufficient to allow us to support all the bids we received. In addition, some businesses need convincing to decarbonise.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>A skills project is being developed by the Economy team linking schools with major employers.</p> <p>The SPF business fund is now closed but we will continue to work with the businesses who submitted the bids to support them through the process and report on progress against the successful bids.</p> <p>Start to prepare the report on SPF funded business decarbonisation for the region and UK Government.</p>
<p>PZC8.4 Work with businesses, colleges, and universities to identify opportunities and promote new technology.</p>	<p>Several projects have been supported via the Shared Prosperity Fund such as The Clean Growth Programme led by Cardiff Met: a fully-funded programme to support businesses in Wales to develop their circular economy understanding and innovation plans to support clean growth and contribute to Welsh Government's 'Net Zero Wales' ambitions.</p>	<p>Take up of the Clean Growth programme has been relatively poor in the Vale but some additional marketing has been undertaken.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing promotion of the Clean Growth Programme.</p>



**Challenge 9.** Support and advocate for more **sustainable local food systems** leading to fewer food miles, less waste and greater awareness about the impact of our food choices on the environment. SRO: TOM BOWRING

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC9.1 Work through the PSB and Food Vale to implement the Move More Eat Well Plan and to promote buying local produce and shopping locally.</p>	<p>Planning and promoting the Vale Food Trail 2024/25 which is running between May 26th- June 4th 2024. This will see Vale food producers and suppliers promoted to encourage people to buy local produce and shop locally.</p> <p>Continued development of replacement Move More Eat Well framework. Over 160 attendees at stakeholder events including public sector, PSB members, third sector and community growers. Themes included healthy people, environments, and healthy settings, and event feedback will shape the replacement framework highlighting what works well, challenges from the existing MMEW Plan and lessons learnt.</p>		On track	<p>In partnership:</p> <p>Promote and run the 2024/25 Food Vale Trail.</p> <p>Finalise and implement a new Move More Eat Well framework across Cardiff and the Vale.</p>
<p>PZC9.2 Work within Food Vale to obtain Sustainable Food City status and promote businesses that have sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Continued development of a draft Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan. A 'Three Horizons' workshop was held in November with around 60 stakeholders from the community, third sector, public and the private sector. Findings from the workshop were used to shape an evolving draft strategy to include both short and long-term actions (2024 - 2030). This draft continues to develop with follow on workshops and meetings with stakeholders.</p>		On track	<p>Work will continue to produce and consult on draft version of the Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan, including an update to the Healthy Living &amp; Social Care Scrutiny Committee in June 2024. Further engagement is planned to shape the draft Strategy with stakeholders, including one upcoming workshop aimed at young people.</p>

<p>PZC9.3 The Big Fresh Catering Company which serves nearly 2 million meals a year will take steps to further reduce its impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Big Fresh have worked closely with schools to help implement the new Workplace Recycling regulations. The commercial Big Fresh sites have also set up new waste segregated systems and are doing well.</p> <p>Working with Learning and Skills, Big Fresh have introduced some wormeries to 3 schools to educate pupils on alternatives ways to deal with food waste.</p>	<p>Potential food cost rises may necessitate product changes within the menu.</p> <p>Customers and pupils discarding waste into incorrect bins provided.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue to work with suppliers to ensure that everything possible is being done to reduce the environmental impact of packaging brought into the service.</p> <p>Big Fresh are looking to link with Food Vale and Castell Howell to scope potential projects with local farmers and producers to supply produce for school meals.</p>
<p>PZC9.4 Review procurement arrangements to support less food miles and less packaging and waste.</p>	<p>Meetings have taken place with Castle Howell and the new Food &amp; Farming Regeneration Officer scoping a local Agrihub to process local food from farms for use in schools.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Ongoing scoping of a Vale Agrihub to support shorter and local supply chains.</p>

<p>PZC9.5 Work with community groups and through the Green Infrastructure Plan to encourage people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.</p>	<p>The Council received the Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy and considered how to embed it into Council functions and to integrate it within the RLDP process. It is likely that further consultation will be necessary for the formal adoption of the strategy.</p> <p>Food Vale held a Food Strategy Event in November 2023 at which stakeholders discussed their priorities for a sustainable local food system in the Vale, including needs around growing food. Communities being able to grow food locally emerged as a key priority, with perceived barriers surrounding access to land and skills.</p> <p>Food Vale sent a survey to schools to get their input on what they are already doing by means of food growing, and what other ambitions they might have – low responses received.</p>	<p>Low response from schools to questionnaire.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Decide on governance mechanisms for the Green Infrastructure Strategy in order to set out how it will impact our organisational decision making, including in respect of food growing.</p> <p>Food Vale will hold a Food Strategy Event aimed at young people in the Vale in April 2024.</p> <p>Food Vale will follow up with schools to gain more responses on what they are already doing by means of food growing, and what other ambitions they might have.</p>
<p>PZC9.6 Promote and facilitate food waste recycling for residents, business and schools</p>	<p>Letters were sent to all our existing commercial customers to inform them of the need to separate food waste to comply with the new WG legislation. Welsh Government sent out communication to all business owners.</p> <p>A presentation was given to school head teachers on the new legislation.</p> <p>The new pricing structure was agreed for commercial waste, and recycling officers have been visiting local businesses, improving awareness of our offer. We worked across Council departments to build a new digital solution for purchasing our new commercial waste service options.</p>	<p>A lot of businesses are tied into long contracts with existing suppliers and are not in a position to move service providers.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Working across departments to introduce a digital approach for the last of our commercial waste service options. Working with local businesses to increase further awareness. Undertaking school educational visits.</p>

**Challenge 10. Reduce waste** and put in place the necessary facilities, services and awareness raising for a more circular economy with a strong emphasis on reuse, repair and recycling.

SRO: EMMA REED

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
PZC10.1 Adopt a new Waste Management Strategy with a strong emphasis on working with the community.	Work has started with primary schools with recycling presentations delivered by our recycling officers.  See PZC9.6	Implementation of other projects could cause an issue with availability of recycling officers.	On track	Recycling officers to carry on working with the community to provide education around recycling. Recycling officers to attend schools to assist increased awareness.
PZC10.2 Develop campaigns to change behaviour e.g. to reduce single use plastics and packaging and to increase reuse, recycling and composting.	We have utilized our council roundabouts to advertise recycling within the home with the assistance of funding from WRAP. We have used strategic locations on strategic routes to provide the greatest impact.		On track	Increase recycling awareness by placing information on the side of a couple of our HGV collection vehicles.
PZC10.3 Promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste.	See PZC10.4 and work with Enfys Foundation.		On track	See PZC10.4

PZC10.4 Establish a Reuse Shop to take in products, repair as necessary and sell them on.	The new reuse shop run by the Enfys Foundation has opened at Atlantic trading estate working in partnership with FCC Environment (the company that runs our Household Waste recycling centres at Barry and Llandow).		On track	Consider opportunities for pop up reuse shops in other locations.
PZC10.5 Roll out of recycling arrangements across the Vale and work with schools and business to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.	<p>Project plan in place working with other departments on the implementation of the Wales Workplace Recycling Regulations. We have spoken with all our existing customers and new customers about the changes ahead.</p> <p>We have been working with WRAP and undertaken composition analysis of both our purple additional allocation bags and street litter. We have been working with drivers to gain an understanding of contamination in the recycling stream.</p>	There are risks of low customer uptake although currently all businesses have been positive regarding the changes ahead.	On track	<p>Results of composition analysis of purple bags and street litter will be available.</p> <p>Develop a digital option for our Commercial waste offering, working with other council departments. Recycling officers to visit local businesses to educate and promote the commercial waste service.</p> <p>Work with WRAP &amp; DEFRA to understand the levels of packaging contained within our material streams to assist with national work around Extended Producer Responsibility.</p>
PZC10.6 Build a new Resource Recovery Centre in the Western Vale.	To continue to work with the property section to locate the required land.	Funding gap with the project.	Slower than expected progress	To continue to work with the property section to locate the required land. Undertaking some remedial works on the access road.
PZC10.7 Commit to avoiding the export of any residual waste or recycling materials from the UK.	By transferring most of our recycling to Source Segregation has limited the amount of recycling that leaves the UK. We are currently working with freeholders of flats & apartments to transfer these facilities onto the source segregation service. we will continue to do this during 2024/25	Infrastructure at flats & Apartments	On track	Look to either extend our current contracts or undertake a new procurement exercise.

**Challenge 11.** Work with partners to reduce the risk of flooding, manage our **coastline** and encourage everyone to take a more responsible approach to **water use**.  
SRO: EMMA REED

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC11.1 Implement a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan.</p>	<p>Draft Local Flood Risk Management Plan and Shoreline Management Plan (LFRMS) document substantially complete and development of specific measures underway with internal consultation. Statutory consultation period to begin.</p> <p>Meetings with Coastal Groups to streamline Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) actions to focus on SMP policy delivery and prioritisation.</p> <p>Vale continues to Chair Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Group and represent on the Wales Coastal Group Forum.</p>	<p>Resource and staffing together with the need to deliver a number of service priorities.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Statutory consultation of LFRMS.</p> <p>Adoption of refreshed LFRMS and implementation of appropriate measures and actions in accordance with adopted LFRMS and SMPs.</p>
<p>PZC11.2 Ensure Sustainable Drainage measures Systems (SuDS) are delivered.</p>	<p>See PZC6.6</p>	<p>See PZC6.6</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>See PZC6.6</p>
<p>PZC11.3 Promote water efficiency measures in our work and buildings.</p>	<p>Loggers have been installed at 165 council sites to date. We are now running a weekly report to identify leaks. This information is being sent to relevant officers/building managers for action and as a result leaks are being fixed more quickly saving water, carbon emissions and budgets.</p>	<p>Slow replacement of water meters by Welsh Water which is outside our control.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Continue to chase Welsh Water to get meters replaced. Investigate ways to improve site engagement with information on water use and speed up response when issues are identified.</p>

<p>PZC11.4 Encourage the re-use of rainwater where possible.</p>	<p>Minimal progress to date but rainwater harvesting continues to be a primary option for surface water drainage through the SAB function.</p> <p>Rainwater storage and reuse for toilets fully operational at Lon-Y Ysgol Council Housing in Penarth.</p>	<p>Resource and staffing and service priorities.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Consider further engagement with planning policy team to promote through the RLDP or through a future SuDs SPG.</p> <p>Rainwater storage and reuse for toilets included in the former Calcot Clinic Council Housing scheme in Barry.</p>
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**Challenge 12.** Reduce the amount of **energy** we all use and lead by example sourcing our energy from clean and renewable sources and working across all sectors to bring new technology, innovation and investment to the Vale.  
SRO: LORNA CROSS

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC12.1 Develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan and contribute to the work of the Cardiff Capital Region.</p>	<p>A final stakeholder workshop and a briefing for SLT (Senior Leadership Team) on the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP's) progress took place in March.</p> <p>A draft LAEP plan was received, reviewed internally and reviewed by external stakeholders who were involved in the workshop process.</p>	<p>Quality of initial LAEP submitted by consultants was not good enough and feedback was issued.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>A second final draft of the LAEP and the supplementary technical report has been received, will have its final review, and once finalised, will go to cabinet before the summer recess.</p>
<p>PZC12.2 Work with developers and businesses to move away from fossil fuels and explore opportunities for investment in alternative energy supplies.</p>	<p>Recruitment process for a Decarbonisation Officer funded by SPF and Project Zero was unsuccessful, but more business decarbonisation grants are being awarded than previously expected.</p> <p>Business Wales are advising on technical matters relating to CO2 savings. See PZC4.4 for more information.</p>	<p>Feedback from applicants and potential applicants for the Decarbonisation Officer role was that it was too broad.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Bring new proposal back to Project Zero board to focus on LAEP. Gather business decarbonisation case studies to allow us to share best practice in certain sectors.</p> <p>See PZC4.4 for more information.</p>

<p>PZC12.3 Support community renewable energy projects and develop district heating networks.</p>	<p>No work in this area at present.</p>		<p>No planned action</p>	<p>No work planned in this area at present.</p>
<p>PZC12.4 Provide information about being more energy efficient in the home including raising awareness about grants and schemes for homeowners and tenants.</p>	<p>We continue to raise awareness of the ECO4 Flex scheme through social media, in person events, Town and Community Councils and other routes. The Council has received 15 x ECO4 Flex applications to date via E.ON. These are mainly delivered by 3rd party installers working with E.ON. 13 x applications have been approved and the relevant notifications and been submitted to OFGEM.</p> <p>The council is working with E.ON to boost standard eligibility eco funding across all schemes, and with NEST and the Energy Savings Trust to offer relevant assistance.</p>	<p>No dedicated resource so we are not in a position to sign up to the Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) Flex as well as ECO4 Flex. Our energy partner E.ON have informed us that funding by installers for ECO4 Flex is tightening with a move away from multi energy efficiency measures in individual properties to single measures.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue to raise awareness of ECO4 and ECO4 Flex via social media and in person events e.g. Vale 50+ Forum Event in April 2024. Nest is in the process of being re-established during Q1 2024/25 and the new objectives and assistance on offer have a greater focus on energy efficiency and we will be raising awareness of this. Working with E.ON, Nest and Energy Savings Trust and encourage greater cross-referrals.</p> <p>We will continue to provide interest free housing loans to support energy efficiency measures.</p>



### Area 3. Make a difference now. Challenge 13-18.

These challenges focus on how the Council as an organisation provides its services and manages its assets. The proposed activities relate to our procurement practices, schools and council housing, how we manage our land and assets, staff travel and investment in technology.

<b>Challenge 13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement</b> policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions SRO: MATT BOWMER				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC13.1 Revise the procurement policy and strategy and train staff on more sustainable procurement to reduce consumption and encourage a circular economy.	Delay on progress	Capacity challenges	Slower than expected progress	Review of Procurement Policy & Strategy - aligning with Ardal (minimal change anticipated) and streamlining Social Value TOMs. This will provide an opportunity to promote whole Policy/Strategy with a focus on Carbon Reduction.  Seek examples/case studies of reducing carbon in the supply chain from Council commissioning/procuring group.  Feeding into Corporate Performance & Resources Scrutiny Task & Finish work – a session is planned on circular economy and carbon reduction with key commissioning/procuring officers across the Council.
PZC13.2 Explore social and environmental clauses in contracts which place an increased focus on local supply chains and business, with a commitment to supporting the foundation economy.	Publication of new Procurement TOMs (Targets, Outputs, Measures) delayed and will take place in Q1 & Q2 2024/25.	Capacity challenges	Slower than expected progress	Piloted roll out of social value requirements in the Council's above threshold tendering and contract award. Share case studies.  Ardal guidance notes due out to replace the Procurement Code of Practice. Will feature sustainable procurement content.  Social Value session with Insight Board in May.  Review of Ts & Cs in Vale contracts.

**Challenge 14. Invest in our existing housing stock** to make it more energy efficient and deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A rated new Council homes.

SRO: MIKE INGRAM

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress April '23 - September '23	Q 1 & 2 Risks and barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions October '23 - March '24
<p>PZC14.1 Deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A-rated new Council homes.</p>	<p>Work commenced on 30 new units, now under construction. Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and EPC A Schemes are underway at Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major; Clos Holm View Phase 2; Olive Lodge, Barry; Colcot Clinic, Barry. Cadoxton House, Barry has been submitted for planning consent.</p> <p>Construction work has recommenced at Coldbrook Road East and is being undertaken by the Council directly. Phased handover of completed units began in February 2024, with 27 units handed over to date.</p> <p>The scheme at Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major was delayed due to one of the modular homes providers becoming insolvent.</p>	<p>Main contractor insolvency. Subcontractor Insolvency. Inflationary pressures on construction costs. Failure to achieve a Planning Consent. Failure to receive scheme technical approval from Welsh Government. Failure to be allocated Welsh Government Grant.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>Maes Y Ffynnon, Bovilston is proposed to start on site in the Autumn of 2024.</p> <p>Operational Manager of Housing Development is Chairperson of the Delivering Net Zero Project Group, a collaboration of 18 Welsh social landlords. In this period the group will complete a project to produce a pattern book of standardised housing types capable of achieving net zero carbon in operation, to be produced by Welsh based timber frame and modular housing manufacturers. Also, the Housing Partnership Programme with Cardiff Council and a development partner will be in operation. The purpose of this partnership is to increase the scale and pace of Council house building to achieve net zero carbon.</p>

<p>PZC14.2 Improve the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock and utilise Optimised Retrofit Programmes.</p>	<p>Due to adverse weather Pontalun Close and Severn Avenue works are yet to be completed. This has led to a delay on installing and reviewing the airwit sensor data.</p> <p>All but one of the Airey's properties* have been completed. For those completed they have been rated under the current SAP as B scoring 85. This was expected as the existing SAP methodology and scoring does not account for some new technologies which have been included in the refurbishment programme.</p> <p>The pilot scheme tender pack has been developed and is currently being procured on Sell2Wales with a return date in May 2024.</p> <p>Works have been ongoing with our consultant to conduct the retrofit assessments to development the package of works for the next 300 properties.</p> <p>* An Airies property is a non-traditional house/flat construction type, usually of reinforced concrete structure. These are difficult and expensive to maintain and improve, and costly to improve the EPC or SAP rating. Many of ours are also off gas in rural areas and therefore will require heat pumps etc when converting fuel source from oil or coal.</p>	<p>Adverse weather delaying works progress.</p> <p>Resource levels.</p> <p>Current SAP not recognising latest renewable technology being installed in pilot properties.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>The last Airey's property will be completed.</p> <p>Continued delivery of installation of remaining Airwit sensors and Fabric First schemes such as Pontalun Close and Severn Avenue.</p> <p>Supporting tenants at Severn Avenue to effectively use the Solshare technology in their properties. Share lessons learned.</p> <p>Evaluate the tender return to engage a contractor and start work to deliver PAS2035 28 x properties whole house approach pilot scheme.</p> <p>Continue to undertake PAS2035 Retrofit assessment on the properties included in the property decarbonisation scheme which will include the next 300 x council house properties.</p> <p>Develop a tender package to procure a framework of retrofit assessors to undertake a programme of Retrofit assessments for all Council housing stock over the next 2 years.</p> <p>Identify a software package to assist in the development of the housing stock route map to carbon zero e.g. SAVA or SERO software package.</p>
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<b>Challenge 15. Build new zero carbon schools</b> and improve our existing school buildings to ensure they are energy efficient and create learning environments fit for the future. SRO: TREVOR BAKER				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC15.1 Invest in carbon reduction measures across the educational estate.	The Council's Employer's Requirement was updated in readiness for the new batch of tenders for St Richard Gwyn and Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg. This sets out our requirements to reduce carbon through our new developments.	Increase of current budget for each project to managed carefully.	On track	Review our recently delivered projects (Cowbridge Primary, Derw Newydd and St Nicholas School) to ensure the buildings are functioning as designed, in line with the carbon reduction measures installed.  Complete St Nicholas CIW Primary phase 2
PZC15.2 Design new schools to meet BREEAM Excellent standard, delivering energy efficient buildings, enhancing habitats for wildlife, and reducing the carbon cost of construction.	St Richard Gwyn - Planning Committee delayed - now due in April.  Phase 1 of Ysgol St Baruc has been concluded - within the design the carbon reduction measures that have been installed are ASHPs (Air Source Heat Pumps) (no gas), PV panels and on-site battery storage along with EV vehicle charging points. The site also provides a vast habitat area encouraging the increase of biodiversity on the site.	Planning consent for St Richard Gwyn not received - delay due to more information being required by statutory consultant	Slower than expected progress	Issue Tender for both St Richard Gwyn and Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg. Ysgol y Deri Expansion to commence works on site.  On confirmation of planning consent the design for St Richard Gwyn will proceed to RIBA Stage 2 for Tender Submission, which will include our Employer's Requirements that set out our standard to achieve Net Zero Carbon in Operation, achieving BREEAM Excellent and increasing the biodiversity on the sites through a number of means including swales, basins, planting and wildflowers.

<p>PZC15.3 Monitor and control carbon footprint at the construction stage and investigate options to address embodied carbon through natural materials and modern methods of construction.</p>	<p>Employer's Requirement have been updated to reflect the carbon commitment within our developments. The documentation includes the specification for the inclusion of green roofs, PV panels, battery storage on site, and ASHP's as a standard.</p> <p>Ongoing work with contractors to reduce emissions during construction. This includes solar panels on contractor cabins and use of EVs dependent on-site location and availability.</p>	<p>Careful management of existing budget when considering net zero carbon build elements.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>as above</p>
<p>PZC15.4 Adopt a fabric first approach to achieve high thermal performance and install photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pumps.</p>	<p>Updating on Employer's Requirements with lessons learnt on delivered projects i.e. to increase the thermal efficiency of the building fabric by removing all penetrations (sockets, switches) from the external walls (excluding windows etc) to gain small margins that enhance the thermal envelope</p>	<p>as above</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>as above</p>
<p>PZC15.5 Improve school grounds biodiversity as a means of decarbonisation and map natural carbon sinks.</p>	<p>3 Wormeries have been installed at Oakfield, Colcot and Romilly. All have now settled in and are being fed food scraps from the kitchen. The pupil "Worm Warriors" are recording their activities and teething issues are being addressed.</p> <p>The Local Nature Partnership arranged for surveys to take place at the land adjacent to St Curig (the old hockey pitch) to determine the level of flora and fauna at the site. Preliminary investigations indicate that the site should be classed as a SINCC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation).</p> <p>The Local Nature Partnership have provided ponds, planters and wildflowers in 10 schools with little</p>	<p>Potential issues with management of the land, consulting with estates to make sure any issues are highlighted and addressed early.</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Continue to monitor wormeries. Meet with the Local Nature Partnership after surveys have been conducted. Monitor maintenance of items supplied from the Local Nature Partnership. Look at any additional grants/ possible items for schools in 2024/25.</p>

	green/blue spaces, free of charge. The schools have also been provided with maintenance packs for these items.			
PZC15.6 Focus on methods to further reduce in-use consumption, e.g. reducing catering, monitoring community usage.	<p>Cowbridge Comprehensive, Romilly Primary school and St Joseph's Primary School are now working with Energy Sparks to reduce energy use. Each school has had an energy audit and subsequent reports have been written with recommendations for further work to reduce energy use.</p> <p>We continue to monitor all schools' performance on energy and water use.</p> <p>We Issued emails to schools to get involved in 'Switch off Fortnight' and the 'Big Plastic Count', encouraging schools and pupils to be more engaged to assist with sustainability and reduction in energy use.</p>	Difficulty engaging schools, lack of commitment to change behaviour.	On track	<p>Select three more schools to take part in the Energy Sparks project in the autumn term and continue to work with existing schools on their energy use.</p> <p>Issue calendar of events to schools in advance of events happening to have more impactful outcomes and providing staff with more time to prepare.</p> <p>Produce a new schools eco-directory with tips, links to more information and Council contacts to make the relevant information easier to find and access and drive up engagement.</p>

<b>Challenge 16. Manage and use our land, buildings and other assets</b> to support work to tackle climate change, rationalising what we need and improving sustainability and energy efficiency. SRO: LORNA CROSS				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC16.1 Review the Asset Management Strategy.	Annual update of progress against the action plan has been drafted and been through Insight Board - to go to Cabinet in May.	While a lot of work has been undertaken, more investment is needed to decarbonise the estate.	On track	Actions for Q1&2 will be listed in the update report going to Cabinet before the summer recess '24. The report is in final draft form and currently out for consultation.
PZC16.2 Progress the Space Project to modernise and rationalise Council buildings including the creation of more green areas.	Current phases have been mainly completed. Legal, Democratic Services, property and C1V have relocated within Civic Offices. HR have moved into a temporary location on the second floor of Civic offices.	UK Government Levelling Up funding will guide decision making on the next phase of rationalisation.	Slower than expected progress	Identify any further cost neutral rationalisation and prepare plans for decanting from the Dock Office subject to Levelling Up decisions (which have now been announced, with planning around mobilising the Docks Office project to start in earnest).
PZC16.3 Invest in and implement a programme of energy saving projects to reduce energy use across our buildings as part of the carbon management plan.	LED lighting has been installed within the Alps Garage workshops and supporting offices, providing significant operational savings, reducing the energy used (typically LED lights use 70% less electricity), and associated carbon, and improving the working environment for our mechanics.  See PZC15.2 for energy saving works in new schools	Staff resourcing to implement projects at pace required.	On track	Continued programme of LED and PV programme with available resources.  See PZC15.2 for energy saving works planned in new schools

<p>PZC16.4 Maximise the potential of Council owned land and assets in the production of renewable energy and exploring ways in which this could benefit the local community.</p>	<p>Consultants have been appointed and work continues with them on a specific renewable energy related proposal on a council site.</p> <p>Consultants have reported on viability options for EV charging in relation to another council site.</p>	<p>Site specific constraints</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Consultants to complete the site assessment and report on the opportunities for renewable energy project subject to site specific constraints.</p> <p>Project Management Unit to report findings of EV charging site opportunity for Cabinet Consideration in due course.</p>
<p>PZC16.5 Encourage leaseholders to be more sustainable in how they use property leased from the Council.</p>	<p>Continues as business as usual</p>		<p>No planned action</p>	<p>Continues as business as usual</p>
<p>PZC16.6 Implement plans to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.</p>	<p>We undertook trial holes at Penarth Esplanade as there are issues with 6 assets that will be changed over to LED. Given the unknown factors of the structure, this has delayed completing this works.</p> <p>Further sites have been identified for LED works.</p>	<p>Budget constraints will be the biggest contributing factors as the remaining assets (non-LED) are of the bespoke / ornate type and therefore the costs are significantly more than standard.</p>	<p>Slower than expected progress</p>	<p>The team will interact with officers within the traffic team to see if geographical areas for deillumination can be targeted.</p>



<b>Challenge 17. Reduce the number of car journeys staff make and increase the number of electric/low carbon vehicles across the Council's fleet of vehicles.</b>				
SRO: EMMA REED				
<b>Step</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Progress October'23 - March '24</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 Risks &amp; barriers</b>	<b>Q 1 &amp; 2 RAG rating</b>	<b>Q 3 &amp; 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24</b>
PZC17.1 Develop an electric /alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.	The Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES) have undertaken a review of our EVs which will help steer our longer-term plans. Report due in Q1.  Four EV vans were purchased and received in March 2024: these were reliant on a WGES grant which makes up the difference between diesel and EV costs. Some EVs are hired on short term as needed with one long term hire.	Costs/Budget: EVs are currently too expensive to purchase without a grant	Slower than expected progress	Review WGES report once received.  Two recycling vehicles are due to be delivered in June 2024. 4 x taxis from Cardiff Capital Region are due to be gifted.  Continue to apply for grants to make up the cost difference between diesel and EV.
PZC17.2 Promote and incentivise more sustainable staff travel including corporate membership for Nextbike, pool bikes, local bus services and TfW rail service with reduced charges for staff, non-car parking days for staff and a cycle to work scheme.	Due to lack of staff resource within the transport team, no progress made on this during Q3 or Q4.  As part of the review of staff benefits, HR have been exploring travel incentives including the Cycle2Work scheme.	Lack of staff resource	No progress	Cycle2Work scheme planned to launch May/June 2024, with a communications push, including in Bike week in June.  Working with TfW to produce a 'Local Bus Guide' for the Vale of Glamorgan, but its production is dependent on sourcing the funding to print and supply.  Request for publicity posters and leaflets sent to PTI Cymru Marketing with regard to Traveline Cymru, Concessionary Bus Pass and My Travel Card (Young Persons Card).
PZC17.3 Develop hub facilities for staff to work from to reduce the need to travel.	see PZC16.2 re Space project developments	see PZC16.2 re Space project developments	Slower than expected progress	see PZC16.2 re Space project developments

**Challenge 18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services** reducing the need for travel and office space.

SRO: NICKKI JOHNS

Step	Q 1 & 2 Progress October'23 - March '24	Q 1 & 2 Risks & barriers	Q 1 & 2 RAG rating	Q 3 & 4 Planned actions April '24 - September'24
<p>PZC18.1 Utilise new technologies and digital practices to reduce electricity usage and reduce carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Remote meeting solution now in place for Council meetings that enables live streaming and remote presentation, reducing the need to travel to meetings and cutting travel related emissions.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the development of a software programme for the Housing team has been developed. This has cut the need for the printing of job tickets and invoices as these are now processed electronically.</p> <p>As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and streamline processes, we have collaborated with Xerox and removed 18 printers from the Civic, Docks, and Alps offices. We anticipate that this will encourage a reduction in printing.</p> <p>Teams Telephony ready for deployment reducing unnecessary use of separate phone systems and utilising the Microsoft 365 product.</p>	<p>Complexity and lack of testing resource during end of year process for the Housing Service.</p> <p>Delay in archiving project: now expected to go live in April 2024 leading to a delay in decommissioning of on-premise servers</p>	<p>On track</p>	<p>Completion of Phase 2 of development of a software programme for the Housing team which will further cut the need for the printing of job tickets and invoices.</p> <p>Roll-out of the Teams Telephony solution.</p> <p>Reduction in energy utilisation for WiFi in school and preparation for wider rollout.</p>
<p>PZC18.2 Implement a new Digital strategy to support increased use of technology and a reduction in office space and travel.</p>	<p>Digital Strategy Approved by Cabinet. New strategy will assist with the development of paperless office environment and use of technology to reduce travel to meetings.</p> <p>New Head of Digital appointment. Digital agenda represented at SLT Board level. Work commenced in creating a new Target Operating Model for Digital Services.</p>		<p>On track</p>	<p>Creation of Digital Roadmap to support increased use of technology to reduce office space and travel.</p>

## Appendix B: Corporate Performance Indicators relevant for Project Zero 2024/25

PI number	Frequency	Performance Indicators
		<b>Overarching</b>
New 24/25	A	Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.
		<b>Green and blue space</b>
CPM/200	A	Number of trees planted per year.
CPM/108	A	Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land that has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as a naturalised area.
CPM/193	A	Amount of Public realm / green infrastructure improved / created
CPM/156	A	Number of local nature projects financially supported
New 24/25	A	Percentage occupancy of Council allotment plots.
		<b>Planning and regeneration</b>
CPM/199	A	The number of private rented properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services.
CPM/159	A	The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.
CPM/160	A	The area of public open space (ha) which would be gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.
CPM/161	A	Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.
CPM/162	A	Total energy output capacity (MW) granted planning permissions for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.
		<b>Transport</b>
CPM/066	A	Satisfaction with public transport including a) accessibility and b) road safety.
CPM/067	A	Satisfaction with public transport in the Vale of Glamorgan.
CPM/068	A	Percentage of adults 60+ who have a concessionary bus pass.
New 24/25		Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: a) Public transport b) Walking routes

		c) Cycling routes f) Community transport
New 24/25	A	Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: a) Car or van b) motorbike c) bus d) train e) cycle f) walk
CPM/047	A	Value of investment levered into the Council that is dedicated to transport improvement schemes.
CPM/120	Q	Number of passenger journeys undertaken on the Greenlinks service
CPM/121	Q	Number of Members who used the community transport service over the year
CPM/202	A	Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network
CPM/203	A	Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network
CPM/201	A	Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.
CPM/195	A	Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions.
CPM/196	A	Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are hybrid.
		<b>Business decarbonisation</b>
W29 SPF (non-corporate)	A	Number of decarbonisation plans developed [by businesses]
W29 SPF (non-corporate)	A	Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support
		<b>Waste</b>
CPM/116	Q	Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.

PAM/030	Q	The percentage of municipal waste collected by local authorities and prepared for reuse and/or recycled, including source segregated bio-wastes that are composted or treated biologically in another way.
		<b>Schools</b>
New 24/25	A	Percentage of building materials sourced locally as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme.
		<b>Flood management</b>
CPM/204	A	Financial investment in flood protection measures in the local authority (annually).
		<b>Council housing</b>
CPM/139	A	Average SAP rating for the Council's housing stock
CPM/198	A	Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting WHQS2 (2023)
CPM/197	A	Percentage annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across council housing stock.
		<b>Council buildings and assets</b>
CPM/097	A	Percentage of change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1000 square metres.
CPM/098	A	Percentage change (reduction) in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock.
CPM/100	Q	Percentage of Council street lights that are LED.
New 2024	A	Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the climate emergency.
New 2024	A	Volume of EV charges through the use of our EV fleet (in KWh)
New 2024	A	Total Photovoltaic (PV) installed (kW per year) within Council Housing.
New 2024	A	Total Photovoltaic (PV) installed (kW per year): Council buildings and assets
New 2024	A	Percentage of sites with water Automatic Meter Reading (AMR): Council buildings and assets
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions (in Kg CO2)
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions from fleet (in Kg CO2)
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions from commuting (in KG CO2)
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions from land use (in KG CO2)
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions from supply chain (in KG CO2)
New 2024	A	Overall carbon emissions from our buildings (in Kg CO2)