

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 25 January 2021</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Vale Public Services Board Climate Emergency Charter
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval for the Council to sign the Public Services Board Climate Emergency Charter
Report Owner:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Responsible Officer:	Rob Thomas, Managing Director
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Senior Leadership Team
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive Decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Vale Public Services Board (PSB) has developed a Climate Emergency Charter (Appendix A) which sets out a number of commitments for public sector organisations working in the Vale of Glamorgan recognising that partners have different roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• The development of the Charter has been led by the Council and Natural Resources Wales with input and discussion from partners across the Public Services Board.</li> <li>• The purpose of the Charter is to set out a clear and collective statement of intent from all partners to tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The commitments in the Charter are grouped under three headings; Lead by Example, Take Positive Action and Reduce our Impact. Each organisation will progress work in an appropriate way for their organisation but with support and where necessary challenge from other partners.</li> <li>• The commitments in the Charter are consistent with work already underway or in development within the Council.</li> <li>• The Charter will be launched at a PSB meeting on the 5th February 2021.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. Cabinet agrees that the Council signs-up to the PSB Climate Emergency Charter and works with the PSB and other partners to tackle climate change.
2. That in pursuance of recommendation 1, the Leader signs the Charter at the forthcoming PSB meeting in February 2021 on behalf of the Council.
3. Cabinet agree that the Climate Emergency Charter is incorporated into the Council's response to the climate emergency and the developing Climate Change Action Plan.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. The Vale of Glamorgan Council participates in the work of the PSB to tackle climate change.
2. To enable the Council to formally sign-up to the PSB Climate Change Charter at the February 2021 meeting.
3. To ensure synergy between the work of the Council and the PSB with regards to tackling climate change.

## **1. Background**

**1.1** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 formally established Public Services Boards (PSBs) in each Local Authority area in Wales. 'Our Vale' is the Vale PSB and in accordance with the Act must contribute to the achievement of the national well-being goals as set out in the legislation. The PSB must do this by:

- Assessing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the local area.
- Setting local objectives that are designed to maximise the PSB's contribution within the area to achieving the national well-being goals.
- Taking all reasonable steps to meet these objectives i.e. through a Well-being Plan which must be informed by the Well-being Assessment.

**1.2** The PSB set four Well-being Objectives which provide the framework for its Well-being Plan. There are several short- and long-term actions which are being progressed in an integrated way to achieve the four Objectives and to deliver the PSB's 2050 vision.

**1.3** The PSB's four Well-being Objectives are:

- To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services
- To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation
- To give children the best start in life
- To protect, enhance and value our environment

- 1.4** In October 2019 PSB partners signed up to a Public Services Board Staff Healthy Travel Charter and the Climate Emergency Charter builds on this approach, setting out a range of commitments that all partners can work towards.

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

- 2.1** The PSB has also agreed four priority areas of focus which contribute to the delivery of the PSB's Well-being Objectives and the national Well-being Goals:

- Priority Project - Tackling Climate Change
- Priority Project - The Move More, Eat Well Plan
- Organisational Learning - Improving Engagement
- Pathfinder Project - Timebanking/volunteering

- 2.2** The signing of the Climate Change Charter will be a significant step in bringing partners together to deliver the priority of tackling climate change.

- 2.3** Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, work had begun to develop the Charter and plans for a community conversation on climate change. This built on work undertaken at the end of 2019 when a PSB meeting was held with young people to discuss climate change and to identify priorities.

- 2.4** The Charter attached as Appendix A to this report details a number of commitments which partners can work towards. The PSB recognises that organisations will have a range of strategies and plans already in place to take forward this work, but the Charter shows a shared commitment from partners working in the Vale to do more and to work together to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

- 2.5** The Charter is also consistent with the emergency declaration made by Council in July 2019 and the agreement to work with and to influence others to respond to the climate change emergency.

- 2.6** The Council has already begun to bring together its response to the climate emergency into a more cohesive action plan and set of resources. A progress report to Cabinet in November 2020 highlighted work ongoing and planned by the Council and some of the progress already made. Engagement with staff through a series of learning cafes in November and the start of a community conversation with the public in December have also helped to generate ideas and discussion points.

- 2.7** The Corporate Plan 2020-25 includes the commitment to 'Work to reduce the organisation's carbon emissions to net zero before 2030 and encourage others to follow our lead as part of minimising the negative impact of our activities on the environment' and one of the Council's Well-being Objectives is 'To respect,

enhance and enjoy our environment'. The PSB Well-being plan also includes the Well-being Objective 'to protect, enhance and value our environment' and the Charter forms part of the PSB's work under this objective and recognises the power of working in partnership to do this.

- 2.8** The PSB Charter helps to articulate the direction of travel, the importance of leadership and leading by example, the need to take positive action in some areas and the need to reduce our negative impact in others.
- 2.9** The Charter sets out a number of commitments which provide a framework for activity in the Vale. This includes Cardiff and Vale UHB, HM Prison and Probation Service, Glamorgan Voluntary Services, South Wales Police, Natural Resources Wales and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service who are all members of the Public Services Board.
- 2.10** In recognition of the work already being taken by Town and Community Councils to tackle climate change the PSB will also invite Town and Community Councils to sign the Charter and work with the PSB on this important issue.
- 2.11** There are 16 commitments and together they provide a consistent response across the PSB to the climate emergency. Examples of commitments in the Plan include:
- Embed sustainability within our procurement policies and practices - buy less and buy local
  - Make our buildings more energy and water efficient and explore opportunities for renewable energy
  - Reduce the amount of waste we produce and improve our recycling
- 2.12** The commitments in the Charter also reflect work underway in the Council and issues raised by staff in the recent climate learning cafes. The commitments also reflect the issues raised by young people when the PSB met with them to discuss climate change. These included issues around reducing use of single use plastics, transport and thinking more about what we buy.
- 2.13** It is intended that the Charter will be launched at the Public Services Board meeting on the 5th February 2021.
- 2.14** An officer group is being established by Natural Resources Wales to co-ordinate work around the Charter and to maximise opportunities for joint work around climate change. The group will work together to agree appropriate targets and work within their organisations to engage staff and promote the Charter.
- 2.15** Partners will work together to reduce their emissions and to mitigate the effects of climate change whilst adapting to its impacts, be kinder to the environment and work towards becoming a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

### **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** Through the PSB partners are working together to contribute to the national well-being goals, adopt the five ways of working and improve social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being.
- 3.3** Activities under this charter will specifically contribute to a more resilient Wales and a healthier Wales as well as a more globally responsible Wales.
- 3.4** The Charter has been developed with the involvement of a range of partners and enables public sector organisations to work collaboratively to take preventative action and also to look to the long term in terms of the impact of how we work.
- 3.5** The Climate Emergency Charter is consistent with the Council's Well-being Objectives and actions in the draft Annual Delivery Plan 2021-22.

### **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1** The delivery of the Charter will need to be undertaken from within existing resources.

#### **Employment**

- 4.2** There are no employment implications resulting from this report.

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

- 4.3** There are no specific legal considerations arising as a direct result of this report. Actions set out in the Well-being Plan will help to tackle the inequalities linked to deprivation and to increase community participation and engagement. The work of the PSB will contribute to the delivery of a more equal Wales, one of the seven national well-being goals for Wales.
- 4.4** An Equality Impact Assessment of the Well-being Plan has been undertaken and was reported to the committee when the Plan was published.

## **5. Background Papers**

Vale Public Services Board Well-being Plan

<https://www.valepsb.wales/en/Our-Plan.aspx>

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](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-03-23/Minutes.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](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-11-02/Minutes.pdf)

Council Notice of Motion 29 July 2019 - Minute 209

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Council/2019/19-07-29/Minutes.pdf](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Council/2019/19-07-29/Minutes.pdf)

# Vale of Glamorgan PSB Climate Emergency Charter

Working together across the Vale of Glamorgan, we commit to..

## Lead by Example

Promote a wider understanding of climate change and how our actions impact on the environment - listen, learn and act

Embed sustainability within our procurement policies and practices  
buy less and buy local

Value, protect and enhance our biodiversity and the natural environment

Divest from fossil fuel related industries

Take action ourselves as local citizens

## Take Positive Action

Promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport

Plant more trees and create more woodland and hedgerows

Increase the number of electric/ low carbon vehicles in our fleet and create a network of EV charging points across the Vale

Make our buildings more energy and water efficient and explore opportunities for renewable energy

Increase the network of water refill stations

Manage peatland and soils to reduce emissions and improve carbon storage

Work towards new buildings within our estate being net zero carbon

## Reduce our Impact

Reduce the need to travel

Reduce the amount of paper and single use plastics we use

Reduce the amount of office space we need

Reduce the amount of waste we produce and improve our recycling

**By our actions we will:**

**Reduce our emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change  
whilst adapting to its impacts**

**Be kinder to our environment**

**Be healthier**

**Become a Carbon Neutral Public Sector by 2030**

