

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

“208 DEVELOPING A CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN (REF) –

Cabinet, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020, had referred the report to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for their views on how the Plan was being progressed.

The Head of Policy and Business Transformation advised that the report provided an update on the work being undertaken to develop a Climate Change Action Plan as part of the response to the climate emergency declared by Council in July 2019. The Head of Service referred to activities undertaken to date and work planned to ensure that the Council had a well-informed and considered response involving partners, the public, staff and Members. The report outlined how the Climate Change Action Plan would be developed, including arrangements for engagement and consultation.

Committee were informed that progress had been made against a range of actions as detailed in the Annual Delivery Plan and the activities built on work already being taken forward by the Council to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to its impact.

Paragraph 2.6 in the report referred to examples of activities as follows:

- Improvements to street lighting;
- Work undertaken as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme;
- Promotion of Active Travel;
- The roll out of recycling arrangements;
- Improvements to the housing stock;
- Tree and wildflower planting to improve our green infrastructure;
- Supplementary Planning Policies.

To ensure that the Council had a robust Action Plan for tackling climate change it was important that the community and other stakeholders were involved in shaping the Plan and its implementation. Due to the restrictions in place around social distancing and the significant changes in how the Council worked, there needed to be a rethink to its approach.

It was proposed that despite the uncertainty over the coming months that work continue to engage and consult on the subject of climate change. The main components of this would be as follows, but this would need to be flexible. A key

message the Council wanted to give staff and other stakeholders was that no idea was “too small” and no suggestion was “too ambitious” for consideration.

As part of the conversation the Council would also capture information and views gained through more specific projects, for example future consultation on the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

The Council’s Communications Team would also develop a programme of activity over the next 12 months to enable the public and community groups to continue to inform the work on climate change and shape the Council’s response. An outline timetable was contained within the report at paragraph 2.36. A Member commented that resourcing the Plan would be significant and that in their view the existing climate change reserve would not be sufficient if major infrastructure work was required. The Head of Service indicated that this reserve did not reflect the total amount of resources that would be available to progress this agenda.

Another Councillor in referring to future development plans queried the “buy in” on a regional basis and the work of transport committees and what are the plans for businesses in the community. Reference was made to one of the initiatives being the use of the electric bikes scheme, with a suggestion that this be extended similarly to the scheme at Llantwit Major and also be provided throughout the Vale.

Councillor King, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport, advised that the scheme was on a trial basis with the Head of Service confirming that a further report would be brought to the Committee for consideration in due course.

The Head of Service further advised that the main purpose of the Plan was to bring the various strands of activity together, to assist with the Reshaping Programme and to balance competing agendas. It also provided that the Council ensured how it measured impact, how priorities were considered and alignment with the Public Services Board and the need for strong community leadership.

The Deputy Leader with permission to speak, stated that when the Climate Emergency was declared the Council had talked about working with partners and other Local Authorities within the City Region who had declared climate emergencies and it was important that residents who wished to participate also had the opportunity. It was also important to recognise, she stated, that although some projects may appear small their impact may indeed be great referring to an example in some schools of the growing of fruit trees which could she stated lead to having a greater impact than that that had originally been planned or thought of.

Having regard to the use of electronic bikes the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport drew attention to the limited capacity in Wales for charging points with the Chairman suggesting the importance for the Council to contact and hold discussions with the National Grid.

Aware that the report was also being referred to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet for consideration and that the details of the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report, discussions and the meeting and to advise Cabinet of the Scrutiny Committee’s comments.”