

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 20TH JULY, 2023

REFERENCE FROM CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 21ST JUNE, 2023

“151 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Director of Corporate Resources, who outlined to the Committee:

- The origins of Project Zero.
- The report's responses to the feedback made by both this Committee and that of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- How Project Zero aligned with the Annual Delivery Plan for the Council and the Public services Boards Wellbeing Plan.
- The Climate Change Challenge Plan, which included 18 challenges across three areas of work and numerous steps that were required in order to meet the net zero target for the Council.
- 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.
- The report also detailed the performance indicators that had been adopted under Project Zero in Appendix B.
- The report provided Members with an update regarding the finances and reserves associated with Project Zero and the approach the Board was taking with regards to the allocation of funds, as well as the links that were being made to the shared prosperity funding that had been provided by the UK Government.
- The report also updated on the approach to programme management and progress reporting for Project Zero.

Following the presentation of the presentation, the following comments and queries were made by Members of the Committee and others.

Councillor Franks asked about the bid for consultants as part of the new Green Infrastructure Plan, tree planting, great connectivity for train links in the Vale and the £1.9m reserves that were not spent as of the 31st March 2023. On the green infrastructure consultants, further information would be sought around the use of external advice; although this would be required due to considerations around capacity, independence and specialist skills in order to help drive and map to improve green infrastructure. On tree planting, further information would be provided to the Committee after the finalisation of the associated Tree Strategy. There had been a number of tree planting projects undertaken at Cosmeston, Pencoedtre and Wenvoe. Similarly on train links, further information would be forthcoming, with work being undertaken as part of the Capital Region on integration, as well as the new

interchange at Barry Docks opening shortly. On reserves, the Council had established these reserves as an additional set of resources that could be utilised by the organisation for Project Zero related projects, but they did not cover the full extent of funding or investment in such schemes, with certain projects receiving funding from Welsh Government (WG) as well. The report also outlined the new process for bids.

Councillor Carroll raised the impact of changes to recycling and whether there was any data around the amount of recycled versus non recycled waste collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council since the roll out of changes to recycling services, as well as concerns on verges not being cut on certain roads. In response, anecdotally, the Council's Waste Management Team were seeing a reduction in the amount of contaminated recycling since the changes had been implemented. Figures surrounding the amount of recycled versus non recycled waste collected would be sought and provided to the Committee. On verges, information would be sought via the Highways Team.

The Vice-Chair felt that to help innovate how Scrutiny engaged with residents, greater consideration should be given to how the public could have greater involvement in the Project Zero process and how better to deliver this. Also, it would be useful for a briefing session or workshop to be held prior to September's meeting of the Committee, in order to have the latest figures from WG as part of the Council's consideration on how best to achieve its decarbonisation targets. In response, the suggestion on greater public participation would be looked into and further actions and updates would be provided on how this could be achieved (i.e., through greater use of online public participation and consultation exercises via the Project Zero Hub, etc). Also, the suggested workshop would be looked into. On carbon footprint targets for Council housing, further information would be sought via Housing and Building Services colleagues.

Councillor Haines' commented on agile, hybrid, working for Council staff and whether there was in fact a carbon reduction 'dividend' from this. He felt that the carbon output would be simply put on staff at their homes through their usage of electricity and heating there, rather than at Council locations, therefore no carbon reduction would be meaningfully achieved. It was explained that advice from the Decarbonisation Manager would be sought on how the data was captured on this area and if allowances were made for domestic carbon use or at other non-Council locations, as well as getting WG feedback on this. Although, it was also noted that agile / hybrid working could help to potentially offset overall carbon usage due to less commuting to work, and the Chair felt that this maybe an area that needed further analysis.

On Councillor Wood's comments regarding the Council's ambitious targets on carbon reduction and the need to focus on the essential challenges, targets and objectives in order to achieve net zero and to undertake a focused approach to help implement this, it was explained that the Board had been working to ensure that the key areas of focus for implementing Project Zero were being prioritised such as supply chains. This would be reflected in the next iteration of this report, including the refinement of RAG statuses, etc. It was also important for the Council to be a leader in the community to help drive down emissions in the County overall.

On the Chair's comments on embedding circular economy principles into the Council's activities and culture to help drive Project Zero amongst employees and their work objectives, it was explained that this would tie in with staff appraisals, collaboration with Human Resources, Organisational Development, Internal Communications Teams and Wellbeing Champions as well as volunteering work in the local community, which could all help in embedding such principles.

The Vice-Chair commented on the recommendation from UK Government for Local Authorities on an agreed framework for Project Zero and on whose responsibility, whether it was local government, WG, etc. to achieve and fund decarbonisation in these various areas, as well as to ensure that the Council and other relevant bodies continued to be accountable and responsible for achieving decarbonisation. The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources stated that funding for such measures were a mixture of WG funding and the Council's own reserves. It was also important to engage with local communities and groups in developing decarbonisation measures, as well as working regionally and nationally.

On Councillor Franks' query about the future funding of Project Zero by WG, the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources explained that WG continued to be supportive of energy saving and carbon zero schemes. On the progress of such schemes, further details would be sought and shared with the Committee in due course.

The Chair concluded the item by outlining the need to tie-in Project Zero with other areas of the Council's work, as recently seen with the new Procurement Strategy, and to ensure that social value, reusing, repurposing, recycling, remanufacturing were taken into account and to have the necessary governance in place to help drive these forward.

Scrutiny Committee, having considered the report, subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and at Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the arrangements to approve the use of reserves to progress future schemes be noted.
- (3) T H A T the performance indicators in Appendix B to the report be noted.
- (4) T H A T the following comments from the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:
 - The importance of analysing the figures surrounding the amount of recycled versus non recycled waste collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council since the roll out of changes to recycling services in parts of the Vale.

- The need to look at the potential carbon savings (if any) of Council staff working from their home location as part of agile and hybrid working versus commuting to and working at Vale of Glamorgan Council premises.
- The importance of the prioritisation or reprioritisation of the Council's key challenges, targets and objectives in order to achieve net zero and to undertake a focused approach to help implement this. In tandem with this, it was important to embed these priorities and the related behaviours and culture in order to help support this approach within the Council.
- For the Council, in conjunction with Scrutiny, to look at how they can use social media, the new Project Zero online hub and other means of engagement in order to foster greater involvement and participation of residents of the Vale of Glamorgan with Project Zero. This would include public feedback on how to improve on the work being done around the project, on its delivery, the methods being used to achieve this, as well as requests to Scrutiny to consider and scrutinise key areas of the project.
- The importance of the Council working with local communities and groups, and Welsh Government, to help achieve net zero and having the mechanisms in place to ensure the ongoing accountability and responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council for achieving this goal.
- The need to tie-in Project Zero with other areas of the Council's work, as recently seen with the new Procurement Strategy, and to ensure that social value, reusing, repurposing, recycling, remanufacturing were taken into account and to have the necessary governance in place to help drive these forward.

(5) 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

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(4) To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

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

Attached as Appendix – Report to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee: 21st June, 2023

Meeting of:	Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 21 June 2023
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Corporate Performance and Resources
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero.
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
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Progress includes the new Project Zero online hub, planting and support for biodiversity, waste management changes, Place Making planning, adoption of the new Procurement Policy and Strategy, and work on the future Carbon Management Plan. • The report also details the performance indicators that have been adopted under Project Zero in Appendix B. • The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the approach the Board is taking with regards to the allocation of funds. • The report also updates on the approach to programme management and progress reporting for Project Zero. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Corporate Performance and Resources 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.
2. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the arrangements to approve the use of reserves to progress future schemes.
3. That the Committee note the performance indicators in Appendix B.
4. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered alongside the comments of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee who considered this report on the 17th January 2023.
5. 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 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee to consider how Project Zero is being taken forward.
2. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the arrangements for allocation and approval of schemes to progress Project Zero.
3. To ensure that the Members are aware of the corporate performance indicators adopted by Project Zero.
4. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Challenge Plan.
5. 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. It brings together a range of work being undertaken and policies, strategies and plans. It sets out the challenges we face and proposed activities to meet these challenges. It recognises that everyone has a role to play and a responsibility to think about our legacy for future generations

1.3. At the Council meeting on the 26th July 2021 Council approved the Climate Change Challenge Plan (minute 296). The Plan details eighteen challenges framed around the need to demonstrate strong leadership, fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations and to make a difference now.

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

1.5. 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 2023-24 includes Project Zero as one of its three critical challenges, committing that we respond to the climate and nature emergencies and deliver the commitments in our Climate Change Challenge Plan.

1.6. 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. The Climate Change Challenge Plan includes eighteen challenges across three themes where many activities link to multiple challenges e.g. work on food will cut across waste, green infrastructure and procurement. The Climate Change Challenge Plan contains three themes:

- **Demonstrate strong leadership** - the Council must lead by example. This section of the Plan includes challenges around communications, engagement, evidence and data and ambition and influence.
- **Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations** – these are the areas where we help shape the activities of others through our policies and services and where we can have a significant influence on the actions of others. This section of the plan covers areas where policies and actions can 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, economy, food, nature, energy, waste, water use and flooding. Examples of some of the progress made against the challenges in this theme are outlined in the following paragraphs.
- **Make a difference now** – this refers to how the Council operates as an organisation, an employer, buildings and landowner and landlord. The challenges in this section of the plan focus on how the Council as an organisation provides its services and manages its assets. Activities relate to our procurement practices, schools and council housing, how we manage our land and assets, staff travel and investment in technology. It is activities in this section that will in particular contribute to the Council achieving the target of being net zero by 2030.

1.7. In response to the July 2022 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommendations, the following additions to reporting have been made: hyperlinks to relevant background documents added; barriers, risks and challenges added; and updates on the financial aspects of the activities have been added. This report will update on progress in relation to the request for updates on the timescales around decarbonisation and whether these are being met, as well as developing an approach for utilising 'RAG' ratings (Red, Amber and Green) for the various elements of the Project.

1.8. A new Project Zero Programme Manager joined the Council mid-November 2022 and has been working to strengthen the reporting arrangements around Project Zero in line with Committee recommendations.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** In January and February 2023, the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet considered a progress report on Project Zero. This included approval for progress reports to be made twice a year and for the report to be circulated to all elected members, Public Services Board partners and Town and Community Councils.
- 2.2** This report and Appendix A provides an overall update on the wide range of activity being undertaken as part of Project Zero.
- 2.3** The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee made a number of comments at the previous meeting and updates on these are outlined below:
- The importance of the future Procurement Strategy, linking into the Climate Change Challenge Plan, in order to address the significant carbon emissions identified within procurement and supply chains.
 - Update: The Procurement Strategy has been approved and recognises the need to ensure that our procurement decisions are consistent with Project Zero commitments and take account of the climate and nature emergencies. There will be work over Q1 and Q2 in 23/24 to embed this, and there is more information in Appendix A, Challenge 13.
 - To report on work undertaken by the Council with suppliers and procurement partners on decarbonisation and sustainability i.e., as part of the Procurement Strategy.
 - Update: this work is planned for Q1 and Q2 in 23/24, and there is more information in Appendix A, Challenge 13.
 - The importance of highlighting key areas of focus for future reporting, as well as the need to identify the key challenges, and the emerging priorities for procurement, going forward.
 - Update: Appendix A reports on the 18 challenges and now includes risks and issues emerging from each challenge. We will be reporting our 2022/23 carbon footprint to the Welsh Government in September 2023 which will help us identify the greatest procurement-related emitters. The forthcoming Carbon Management Plan will also support prioritisation.
 - To 'embed' within the Council's culture the importance of assessing whether additional materials, items, etc. need to be purchased, or if existing materials, etc., can be repurposed, reused or recycled instead.
 - Update: The Procurement Strategy provides the framework for this and work to promote this practice will be undertaken in Q1 and Q2.
 - The need to have greater detail concerning an integrated public transport system as part of Project Zero and sustainable transport, i.e., supporting and expanding the use of bus routes, in rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.
 - Update: Significant cuts were made to the Vale's rural bus services in 2010 due to austerity measures. Following this and more recent events, the Council, with limited resources, has maintained what it regards as a strategic network on top of the commercial network, but many rural communities remain void of access to public transport. However, the

Council introduced Supported Local Bus Service 321 to provide a strategic north/south link between Llantwit Major and Talbot Green via Cowbridge, Aberthin, Maendy and Ystradowen. In addition, the Council run community transport service, Greenlinks, offers on demand transport for rural communities on a book ahead basis.

- Passenger trains run from Llantwit Major and Rhoose on the Vale of Glamorgan line, although a more frequent service is still awaited following delays. The Council and New Adventure Travel recently fine-tuned the integration of bus services 303 and 304 with rail services at Llantwit Major. When TfW introduce a more frequent rail service on the Vale of Glamorgan line, connections for users of both will be improved.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council continues to work with Welsh Government (WG), regional groups and local service providers with a view to introducing a more integrated public transport network and fares throughout the Vale, region and indeed Wales as a whole. Bus use is still running below pre-COVID levels (around 70%) which means operators are looking to rationalise services accordingly. WG have been subsidising bus services with their Bus Emergency Scheme (BES), due to end in March 2024. However, before then service cuts and frequency reductions are expected to be implemented which will create a new network which will be shaped by current demand levels.
- In order to achieve a local 'net zero carbon' future with greater use and accessibility of public transport services throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, significant and sustainable resources are required, especially funding.
- Further progress in public transport is outlined in Appendix A, challenge 7.
- To look at the greater use of Photovoltaic (PV) panels for solar power on both Council owned public buildings within the Vale of Glamorgan and other buildings, such as Council owned housing stock, and new build housing, as well as greater reporting on this.
 - Update: PV panels are in operation at 24 council locations including primary and secondary schools, the Alps depot, the Civic Offices, Cadoxton Sports Hall and Cowbridge Leisure Centre. The Council's Project Management Unit (PMU) have been engaged to look at development of a master plan for a key Council-owned sites, including the potential for producing renewable energy.
 - Update: The Housing Department is undertaking PAS 35 surveys of 28 property archetypes and will be tendering works for whole house optimised retrofit solutions. A number of those properties will be suitable for solar PV installation. Following analysis of that pilot, the Department is intending to undertake an optimised retrofit programme over the next 4 years of up to 500 council properties, including consideration of solar PV on roof replacements where suitable. All new build properties are required to achieve EPC A (92) with or without the use of solar PV. The cost of these improvements are met mainly from the Housing Revenue Account and have to be affordable within the Housing Business Plan.

- 2.4** Some of the key progress to note in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below and more information on each challenge is provided in Appendix A together with information on future plans, risks and barriers.

Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4

- The communications, partnerships and strategy team and youth engagement teams came together to begin planning a Climate Summit. Following engagement with the Youth Council, the summit will have a focus on young people, with the theme of working together towards 2050 climate goals. An event is also being held in July in conjunction with the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum to discuss issues around climate change.
- An interactive [Project Zero online hub](#) has been launched, signposting people to information within their community such as energy saving services, active travel routes and local repair cafes.
- Consultants were commissioned to conduct a renewable energy assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan to support the evidence base for the Replacement Local Development Plan and future planning policy. The study was undertaken with a focus on both wind and solar photovoltaics (PV) developments and includes what are justified to be challenging but achievable targets for renewable energy production.
- We continue to work as part of the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change in an integrated way including work on a Growth Hub and on EV (electric vehicle) charger roll out across the region.

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

- A bid was submitted for funding to instruct consultants to complete a new Green Infrastructure Plan. Planting and biodiversity enhancements have taken place across the Vale, including through the Vale Local Nature Partnership and the Great Glamorgan Way.
- We have been working with the Western Gateway and the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) as well as the South Wales Industrial Cluster to bring forward the plans for a green growth hub at Barry.
- EV taxi charging bays were successfully installed in Barry and Penarth, and public EV charger bays have been installed within 18 council controlled public car parks throughout the Vale.
- Work has been undertaken on the Barry Placemaking Plan and meetings have also taken place with Cowbridge Town Council.
- Food Vale partners are working together to design the first Food Vale Trail in June. The trail will encourage people to buy local produce from local shops across the Vale, with a particular focus on showcasing sustainable food and drink.
- Our 10 year Waste Management Strategy was agreed by Council, a new reuse facility has been built on the Atlantic Trading Estate site, and planning is underway for a

source-separated recycling collection in Penarth and the surrounding areas (Members will note this came into effect from April 2023).

- The Council has installed Automatic Meter Readers on 200 water meters across the Vale of Glamorgan Council estate.
- We are supporting the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), as required by the Welsh Government. A LAEP is a data driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national and local net zero target.

Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18

- A new [Procurement Policy & Strategy](#) was approved by Cabinet, including a 10% minimum requirement for Social Vale in contract award for contracts above the public procurement regulation threshold. The strategy includes minimum, expected and preferred standards on supplier carbon emissions.
- 99 new Council homes are in the process of being built using Modern Methods of Construction. These will achieve EPC A (Energy Performance Certificate) ratings.
- All schools' activities have been incorporated into our school investment strategy which has now been approved by cabinet and sets out the design methodologies and considerations we use when planning all school building projects.
- A consultant has been commissioned to develop a Carbon Management Plan, for completion in early Autumn. A master plan is in development for key Council-owned sites, including the potential for producing renewable energy.
- An electric recycling vehicle has been ordered to be added to the fleet.
- We have commissioned consultants who provide digital consultancy for the public sector, to assist in the development of a new Digital Strategy, target operating model and roadmap for the Council.

2.5 Programme Management

- The Project Zero Board has undertaken a review of the 18 challenges to identify where activities are on track and where they would benefit from added input, in line with the Committee's recommendations for greater transparency on progress. This prioritisation exercise has identified key areas within green infrastructure, planning, regeneration, and transport. A forward plan for Project Zero Board meetings has been developed giving time for discussion in these areas.
- To aid progress monitoring, a new reporting template has been developed to gather information on the 18 challenge plan areas from across the directorates, which in turn feeds into this report. In response to recommendations, the new reporting template includes relevant corporate performance indicators (see Appendix B), and gathers information on funding type.

- In response to recommendations, the new reporting template includes a 'RAG' ratings (Red, Amber and Green) function to map progress for the next reporting cycle. The RAG approach is still in discussion to ensure it is consistent and meaningful across the 18 challenges and associated steps. The development and implementation of the new approach to gathering progress has taken time to develop and embed and the RAG element will be a key part of the next phase. The reporting template is accessible to all those directly delivering projects (around 50 staff members), allowing greater visibility and transparency for staff, including those not on the Project Zero Board.

2.6 Carbon reporting

- Many of the actions that we undertake under Project Zero will indirectly affect our carbon emissions, for example our communications around Project Zero, and our work with the [Cardiff Capital Region](#) does not have an easy or directly measurable carbon footprint. Nevertheless, our annual carbon footprint is a crucial benchmark as we aim for net zero by 2030. This section provides more detail on the background to carbon reporting, and our progress.
- In 2017, the Welsh Government set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030. In March 2019, Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales was published by Welsh Government which included a commitment for the public sector to set baselines, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality. This commitment has been taken forward as the [Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach](#). The approach focuses on three key Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions which contribute the greatest to climate change: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), Methane (CH₄) and Nitrous Oxide (N₂O). To aid simplicity, calculations data for all emissions are translated into a single comparable unit, carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). To further aid understanding in the make-up of organisational carbon emissions, three 'Scopes' are used for GHG accounting. Scope 1 emissions include direct emissions such as fuel combustion and fleet emissions, Scope 2 emissions include in-direct emissions such as electricity purchased from the grid, and Scope 3 emissions include in-direct emissions such as those attributed to procured goods and services.
- The first year of public sector Net Zero Carbon reporting was 2019-20 and since the reporting process has been refined. Data for 2021-22 provides a baseline from which to understand the Council's organisational carbon emissions and sequestration (removal). In 2021-22, the total carbon emissions for the Vale of Glamorgan Council were 97,975,348 kgCO₂e. Of this, 89.5% of the organisation's emissions were calculated as Scope 3, 6.8% as Scope 1 and 3.7% as Scope 2. When adjusted for sequestration, the removal of carbon dioxide through plants and woodlands on Council land, the organisation's carbon footprint is calculated as 95,936,761 kgCO₂e. More information about 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. For 2022-23 reporting, the methodology has again been refined. Our emissions will be reported to Welsh Government in September 2023 and shared in the next report to Members.

- The Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Approach is focused on understanding the Council's organisation emissions. To sit this data in the wider context of the Vale of Glamorgan county's carbon emissions, using grant funding, in 2022 the Council commissioned an in-depth study to review county-wide carbon emissions and identify opportunities for the organisation to work with industry and communities to reduce emissions and work towards achieving net-zero in the UK by 2050. This report will further the evidence base for Project Zero and facilitate opportunities to raise awareness and start conversations about the need to reduce and where possible decarbonise across the Vale of Glamorgan.

2.7 Resources

- The Council's financial reserves available to support the delivery of the Project Zero Programme have been consolidated and are set out in the table below. In addition, 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.

Reserve Name	Balance 01/04/2022	Capital Commitment	Revenue Commitment/ Transfer	Projected Balance 31/03/2023
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Project Zero and Green Infrastructure	650	0	(650)	0
Project Zero	730	(58)	711	1,383
Ash Die Back	561	(226)	0	335
Carbon Vehicle Replacement	40	0	0	40
Energy Management Fund (Salix Funding)	291	(241)	109	159
Total	2,272	(525)	170	1,917

- In the context of the current budget challenges and inflationary pressures all reserves have been reviewed as part of developing the Council's budget for 2023/24. Given the strategic importance of Project Zero it was considered appropriate to establish reserves to support the delivery of the programme.
- The use of the Project Zero reserve will also reflect the commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan.

- At the Project Zero Board meeting in December 2022 there was a discussion about the need to ensure that Project Zero reserves support strategic activity and support us to reach the 2030 target of being net zero. It was also recognised that smaller amounts of money can be used e.g. to support schools projects that encourage behaviour change across the community and ensure the wider contribution to work in response to the climate and nature emergencies. Two levels of internal bids for reserves have since been agreed by the Project Zero Board, both requiring the completion of a proforma with set marking criteria. Level 1 proposals are for £5k and over: the request will be considered by the Project Zero Board to allow for challenge and support the collective responsibility the organisation has to address the Climate and nature emergencies and ensure that Project Zero is achieved by the Council. Level 2 bids are for sums between £500 and £4999 and are considered jointly by the Director of Corporate Resources and the relevant Senior Reporting Officer. The reserves process will be launched in June 2023.
- Welsh Government announced in January 2022 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme were required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards. This excluded projects which had already received Outline Business Case approval at the time of the announcement. Following this announcement Welsh Government committed to fund 100% of all net zero carbon costs on projects within Band B of the programme. The Council has created a net zero carbon in operation school building model which has built upon the low carbon model previously implemented on projects in Band B. South Point Primary School was the first project in the Authority and in Wales to achieve net zero carbon in operation.
- Following the implementation of the net zero carbon school model at South Point Primary, the model has been implemented on all new schemes including Cowbridge School Primary building, Centre for Learning and Wellbeing (Derw Newydd) and St Nicholas CiW Primary School which are all currently under construction.
- There is an additional cost associated with the delivery of net-zero carbon. The uplift in costs range between £500,000 to £1,000,000 for new primary schools depending on the scale of the development. Although these costs are currently 100% funded by Welsh Government, no further commitment has been announced to cover these costs outside of Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Therefore, the costs associated with net zero will be kept under review to ensure market changes are monitored and factored in for potential projects that will likely come forward outside of Band B, in case the Welsh Government commitment is not extended.
- The Council has organised a decarbonisation sub-group to drive the reduction of carbon emissions as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and wider Education investments. This group has created a Sustainable Building Project - Materials Elements to monitor costs for carbon reduction measures, undertaking a school energy review to identify where carbon reduction measures would be of most benefit and the costs required to

implement the measures and a Schools Sustainability Forward Plan has been created to help direct progress on carbon reduction measures which focuses on the following key themes: Energy, Community Benefits, Ecology and Transportation.

- During 2022/23, a number of schemes have been undertaken to contribute towards the Council's decarbonisation aims including:
 - PV panels installed at Evenlode Primary School, Ysgol Gwaun Y Nant and Llansannor Primary school.
 - Following roof works at several buildings, PV panels were installed at Cowbridge Leisure Centre and the Belle-Vue Pavilion.
 - School Decarbonisation LED scheme provided lighting in Peterston Super Ley 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.
 - Several electric charging points installed in the Civic Offices staff car park funded through grants.
 - The Project Zero board approved for capital funding to progress the installation of automatic water meter reading devices. These devices also allow automatic alarms to be set and swifter response times to water leaks reducing water, CO2 and financial waste.
 - New, more efficient boiler at Barry Leisure Centre.
- For 2023-24, a variety of energy reduction measures and renewable energy installations have been identified across several assets within the council's portfolio. A delivery programme 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. £650K has been included in the 2023/24 Capital Programme, £500K from reserves and £150K from the Salix Recyclable funding. Schemes totalling the value of £274K have been identified including:
 - Penarth Learning Community 3G Pitch LED
 - Dinas Powys Junior LED
 - Community Enterprise Centre, Holmview LED
 - Alps Garages LED
 - Pen y Garth Primary LED
 - Cogan Primary PV
 - Llangan Primary PV
 - Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home PV
- An unallocated figure of £376k remains within the programme and discussions are ongoing to allocate the remaining budget.

- A further scheme in the 2023/24 Capital programme to develop fleet parking on Atlantic Trading Estate (ATE) opposite the Council’s Resource Recovery Facility (Currently under construction) would reduce the daily impact that the collection fleet has on the environment, in terms of tailpipe emissions as well as increasing the productivity of the service, giving more productive time spent kerbside collecting.
- The Council has continued to improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock to meet the requirements of Welsh Government legislation in relation to decarbonisation and the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS). With original targets being set to reduce the carbon footprint by 80% by 2030 this has now been revised to a target of EPC A by 2030 for all social homes following the recommendations of the “Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World” report in July 2019. Revised targets were agreed by the Senedd in March 2021 for Wales to achieve ‘net zero’ by 2050.
- The UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has specific allocations to address decarbonisation schemes in the local community and the programme will develop schemes to deliver against this commitment over the three-year period of the funding envelope. Funding has already been identified for several schemes within Active Travel and other areas and schemes will be added to the programme in the coming months.

2.8 Alignment with other documents and commitments

Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24

The [Annual Delivery Plan \(ADP\) 2023-24](#) includes a strong emphasis on work around climate change. Project Zero is identified as one of three critical challenges, along with Cost of Living and Organisational Resilience. There are a number of actions across the Plan and particularly under Objective 4 ‘To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment’ that demonstrate the Council’s commitment to work on climate change and nature. These actions are reflected within the 18 commitments in Project Zero.

Vale Public Services Board Draft Well-being Plan

The Vale Public Services Board (PSB) has published its [Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028](#) which includes the Well-being Objective ‘A more resilient and greener Vale’. The Plan also includes ‘Responding to the climate and nature emergencies’ as a priority workstream reflecting the findings of the [Well-being Assessment](#) and building on work already undertaken as part of the PSB’s Climate Emergency Charter and the Staff Travel Charter. Commitments in the Well-being Plan that align with Project Zero include:

- Deliver the commitments in the Climate Emergency Charter including decarbonising our assets, procurement processes and services.

- Promote positive behaviour changes and enable a greater understanding of our impact on the environment across our organisations and communities with a focus on energy, the circular economy, food, biodiversity and travel.
- Demonstrate leadership and take action to reduce our communities' exposure to environmental risks e.g. the impact of extreme weather and pollution.
- Improve the health of our eco systems and recognise the importance of biodiversity and the need to raise awareness and understanding about the nature emergency.
- Participate in the development of an integrated public sector estates strategy (buildings and land holdings) to improve service delivery and our work on climate change.

The Council co-chairs the PSB Climate Change and Asset Management Group and will take a lead in ensuring the commitments in the new Well-being Plan are delivered and that they are embedded in the work of the Council through the ADP and work of the Project Zero Board. The work of the PSB will continue to be reported in the PSB [Annual Report](#) and the report due to be published in July demonstrates work already being undertaken by partners.

The above provides an update on progress in recent months with regards to Project Zero and more information, including risks and barriers, is available in Appendix A. Despite the progress being made it is clear that across some challenges there are issues around the levels of authority that the council has in relation to national legislation such planning policy, and over commercially driven services such as public transport. There are capacity issues within teams due to ongoing work pressures, vacant posts or need for additional skills. In addition, there remains the challenge that in the last reporting period (2021/22) over 80% of our emissions were due to the procurement spend on services and goods, the top two areas being the spend on the procurement on social care and on construction.

The Project Zero Board with the support of the Project Zero Programme Manager will continue to deliver against the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to refine bi-annual progress reports to ensure Members have details of the outcomes being achieved.

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 the new Project Zero online hub, planting and support for biodiversity, waste management changes, Place Making planning, the new Procurement Policy and Strategy, and work on the future Carbon Management Plan.

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](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](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

Vale of Glamorgan Council Coronavirus Recovery Strategy Cabinet 21st September 2020

[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2020/20-09-21/Coronavirus-Recovery-Strategy.pdf](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](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](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](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2021/21-03-22/Minutes-of-21-03-22.pdf)

Council Minutes 26th 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 25th 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 28th 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 13th July 2022 Minute - Project Zero Update Report

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

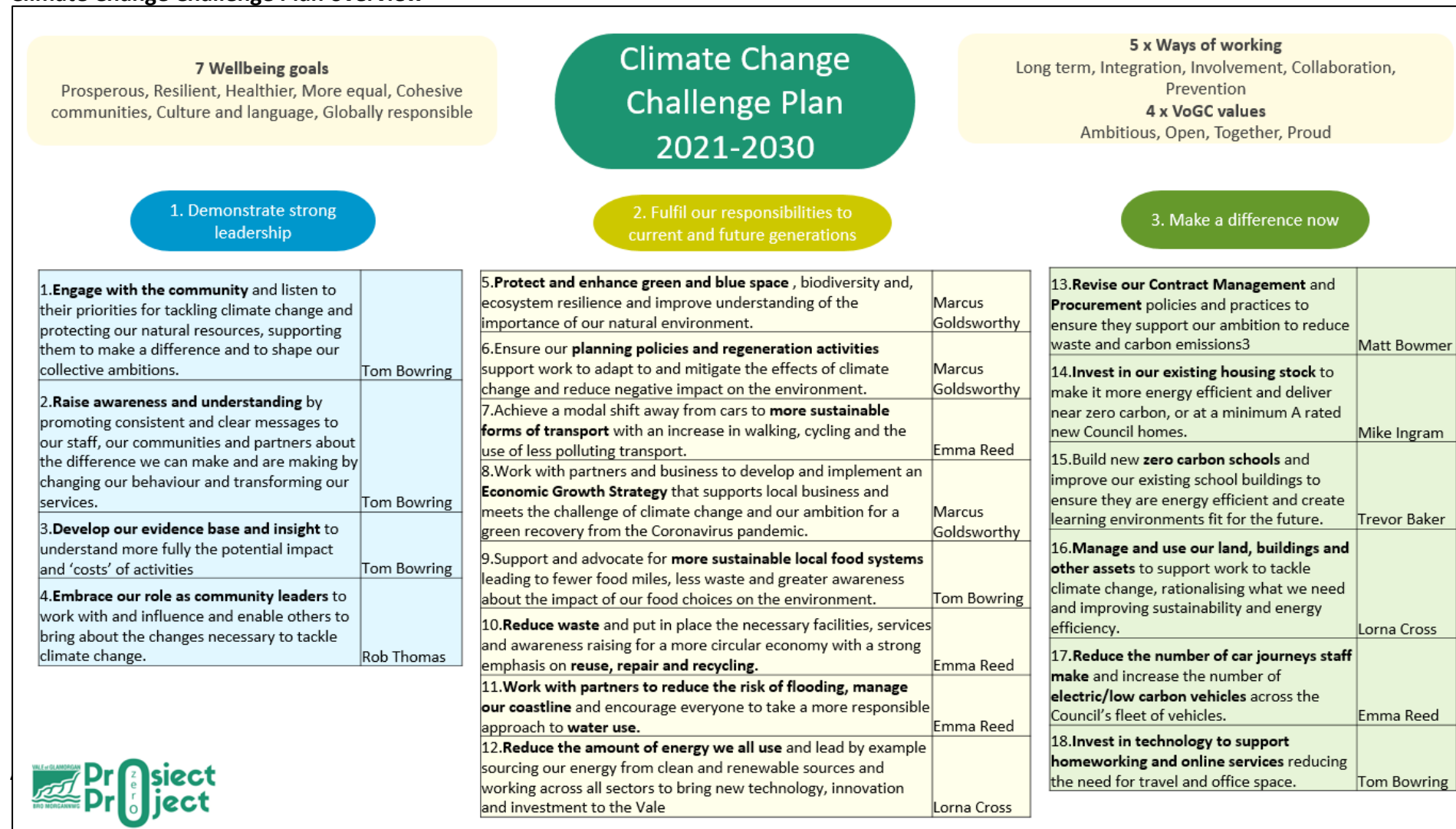
Cabinet Report (Reference from Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny 18th January) Minute - 2nd February 2023 Project Zero Update report

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

Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress

Reporting period: October 2022 to March 2023

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

Challenge 1. Engage 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		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>A Climate Summit is being planned and following engagement with the Youth Council, it will focus on young people, with the theme of working together towards 2050 climate goals.</p> <p>A consultation tracker has been developed, providing a centralised place for climate change engagement feedback, helping us identify key themes, gaps and avoid duplication. Themes emerging from the ADP Consultation 23/24 Survey and the Well-being Plan 23-28 Survey include the importance of green space, more allotments needed, support for active travel routes, and the need for more education on climate change. We attended a 'Penarth Together for the Climate: A Conversation' event run by Penarth Growing Community and heard about the ask for more community green spaces, more engagement with young people, the need to co-produce youth events.</p> <p>There continues to be some momentum engaging with existing stakeholder groups including the Youth Council, GPG, the Local Nature Partnership and work through Food Vale but more work is needed to extend the number of groups we are working with.</p> <p>The Vale Parks services, work with almost 30 community and "Friends of" groups, some closely, others occasionally, or when they need specialist help. The service also works closely with the</p>	<p>We will be continuing to plan the Climate Summit, working with young people to co-design the event and ensure that it reflects their priority areas of interest.</p> <p>At the request of the 50+ Forum, we will be running a climate focused event at their July meeting and will be working on the agenda in Q1. The team have also been invited to attend the Schools Network meeting in July.</p> <p>New groups continue to emerge with an interest in support from the Vale Parks team, and we will help and advice when we can.</p> <p>Internally, we will be presenting on Project Zero during Learning at Work Week in May and gathering interest from staff on a Green Champions group for staff.</p> <p>Work will be taken forward through the PSB in line with the new Well-being Plan to encourage behaviour change within partner organisations and across the Vale. This will be discussed at a workshop in the summer.</p>	<p>Currently there is limited capacity to develop and deliver a strategic approach to community engagement, although this is happening 'on the ground' across the Council in many areas. This is an area that we will develop as the project Zero programme develops.</p> <p>When considering the development of an internal Green Champions group, lessons must be learnt from other staff champions group, including ensuring that there is capacity to support ongoing facilitation of a potential new group.</p> <p>There is a limited capacity within our small Parks team to engage with an increasing number of groups, plus continuing to help and grow existing partnerships.</p>

<p>County Ecologist, Landscape Team, Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and Keep Wales Tidy. Activities in this period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vale Parks, Friends of St Joseph’s Park, and the local community planted 20 heritage fruit trees at the Zig-Zag Path in Penarth. • Keep Wales Tidy, and 15 members of Earthwatch Europe undertook an ecology survey and tree tagging session at Pencoedtre Tiny Forest, the first Tiny Forest site in Wales. • Vale Parks and Friends of East Aberthaw Park created wildflower beds, a nature pond, and put up bird and bat boxes. • Vale Parks delivered 17 Apple trees, compost and sundries to 17 of our partner community councils as part of the Covid Memorial Planting Scheme. • Vale Parks and 30 members of Barry Action for nature planted 400 native hedging plants at the Knap Gardens. • Vale Parks, the LNP and Barry Action for Nature planted 60 Native fruit tree species as an orchard, at White Farm, Barry. • Vale Parks, the LNP and 60 school children planted an orchard of 60 native fruit trees and another 10 heavy standard native trees in St Cyres Park, Penarth. • Penarth Tree Forum volunteers assisting us with the general maintenance / upkeep of our recently planted trees in parks and on the adopted highway. <p>Our staff wellbeing champions have been supporting the Penarth Food Pod including the growing space in partnership with Penarth Growing Community.</p> <p>The Value in the Vale volunteer scheme promotes volunteering opportunities including environmental initiatives such as Gibby Greenfingers, a Volunteer led community allotment based in Gibbonsdown, plus Benthyc Cymru, where people borrow things they need but don’t own. A 2022 case study of Volunteer Kimberly brings to life the power of working with nature.</p>	<p>Our Corporate Volunteer Policy is out for consultation with the view to take back to Cabinet in June for roll out in the summer.</p> <p>Value in the Vale, through Local Nature Partnership funding, will be delivering a nature and digital project in 5 Council-run Sheltered Housing communities, bringing residents and volunteers together to set up nature spaces with trail cams, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, bug hotels and binoculars.</p>	
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<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</p>		
<p>Progress October '22 – March '23</p>	<p>Future actions April '23 – September '23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>Internally, progress and issues are fed back at Project Zero Board meetings, for example in March some new analysis of the Council's carbon emissions from 21/22 was undertaken and presented at the Board for discussion (see Challenge 3). In addition, the Project Zero Programme Manager has regular internal progress meetings including with the Education decarbonisation sub-group and with colleagues in energy, transport, communications and organisation and learning. This enables progress and challenges to be raised in a timely way.</p> <p>We have developed a Project Zero Organisational Development and Learning plan - see challenge 3 for more detail.</p> <p>A 'key dates' planner has been produced of national and international environmental/ awareness raising events, and a Project Zero communications plan. Communications activities have taken place across multiple platforms, and the impact / reach is being measured. Highlights over the period include promotion of active travel, the Be Mighty Recycle campaign, and an internal promotion of Project Zero champions within the Council.</p> <p>A campaign was run to inform and support people during the roll out of new recycling services in Penarth and the surrounding area from Q4 22/23 - Q1 23/24. The ongoing Cost of Living campaign signposts to advice on energy usage.</p>	<p>We will set up a Project Zero Teams group for internal use, including channels to share carbon accounting and Cabinet reports - this will give more staff easy access to progress updates</p> <p>See challenge 3 for updates on plans for our launching the Project Zero Organisational Development and Learning plan.</p> <p>We will continue to report progress internally more widely across the Council through Chief Executive's weekly emails, internal comms and Project Zero engagement activities.</p> <p>We will use public facing communication pieces and social media to raise awareness of initiatives across the council (e.g. new active travel routes, the Vale Food Trail and cycle to work week) and we will start to track the reach of communications. Walk to school week, the launch of a new cycle hire scheme in Llantwit Major and the roll out of separate recycling collections in the eastern Vale all offer strong opportunities to promote Project Zero. We will also be supporting Public Health Wales to highlight water refill stations along the coastal path during National Refill week.</p> <p>The Council will promote Eco4 access on funding for energy saving adaptations to residential buildings once the relevant information becomes available. Promotion of</p>	<p>Engaging with the entire workforce on issues is always a challenge, however, the communications plan will consider the different messages and mechanisms to achieve this, and will be informed by measuring the impact/reach of different approaches.</p>

<p>The Project Zero online Hub signposts people to information within their community such as energy saving services, active travel routes and local repair cafes.</p> <p>We continue to raise awareness of community projects across the Vale through social media. The role of pupils at South Point Primary school featured in Q3.</p>	<p>Operation Elstree will be in Q1 and this will include a focus on minimising waste at resorts over the summer period.</p>	
<p>Challenge 3. Develop our evidence base and insight to understand more fully the potential impact and ‘costs’ of activities SRO: TOM BOWRING</p>		
<p>Progress October ‘22 – March ‘23</p>	<p>Future actions April ‘23 – September ‘23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>We reviewed the VoGCs 21/22 carbon footprint data, carrying out some fresh analysis that highlighted the supply chain hotspots, and discussed this at the Project Zero Board. The top 5 supply chain hot spots are Social Care Services, construction, waste, electricity and road transport. We explored the use of 'emissions factors' in the calculation of the carbon footprints and noted the wide variation, e.g. per pound spent, electricity has an emissions factor 12 times greater than social care services.</p> <p>A temporary Decarbonisation and Energy Manager was appointed to lead the collection of 22/23 emissions data.</p> <p>In January we received the report commissioned from Wardell Armstrong on County-wide emissions, excluding emissions from Council activities and services. The report will support prioritisation of the road to 2050 net zero. The report reviewed emissions and opportunities for action in 7 key areas: electricity and heat generation; transport; residential buildings; industry and business; agriculture; land use, land use change and forestry.</p>	<p>A consultant has been appointed to develop a Carbon Management Plan. This will draw on our carbon footprint data and current working practices and will provide a routemap to reduce emissions.</p> <p>We will be sharing the findings of the County Wide emissions report with the Project Zero Board and running a follow up session on how the report findings and recommendations can support Project Zero action planning across the relevant directorates.</p> <p>A workshop with PSB partners is planned for the summer to discuss how the commitments in the new Well-being Plan can best be delivered including opportunities for joint working and shared learning.</p> <p>The Project Zero Organisational Development and Learning plan will be presented to the Project Zero Board and further rolled out.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government methodology for calculating carbon emissions has changed in some areas for 22/23. As a consequence, it may be difficult to benchmark our progress in some areas.</p> <p>A large proportion (over 80% in 21/22) of our carbon footprint comes from our supply chain (the goods and services that we procure). The set methodology used to calculate emissions related to supply chain means that it will be difficult to reduce these significantly.</p>

<p>Consultants Wardell Armstrong were commissioned to conduct a renewable energy assessment of the Vale of Glamorgan to support the evidence base for the Replacement Local Development Plan. This was designed to aid the understanding of the resource available and where that resource is located so that planning policy can be focussed on the most appropriate technologies and places. The study involved assessing the area for viable sites and identifying potential resource for these generators. The study was undertaken with a focus on both wind and solar photovoltaics (PV) developments and includes what are justified to be challenging but achievable targets for renewable energy production.</p> <p>The council are involved in numerous groups where expertise and best practice is shared including the Public Service Board (PSB) Asset Management and Climate Change group, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Climate Change Officers Group, procurement groups, Ystadau Cymru, the Western Gateway Hydrogen strategy group and the Cardiff City Region.</p> <p>A draft Project Zero organisational Learning and Development plan has been produced. It takes a structured approach and aims to equip staff with raised awareness, knowledge on how to change their behaviours, and an opportunity to participate in a meaningful way.</p> <p>External learning opportunities have been taken up. The Project Zero Programme Manager has undertaken a Managing Successful Programmes qualification and has been sharing and implementing the learning. A number of staff on the Project Zero Board and across the Council, have undertaken Climate Change Leadership training run by the WLGA and Carbon Literacy</p>	<p>We are delivering a Project Zero event for all staff at the Learning at Work Week in May, including surveying attendees to ask what they would like to know more about over the year. From this we will develop a tailored set of activities.</p> <p>We are setting up an online learning channel in the Project Zero Teams group so that learning opportunities can be shared & circulated to the wider team involved in delivery.</p> <p>We will explore opportunities to extend development opportunities for Councillors on the theme of Project Zero.</p>	
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<p>training, offered to Ystadau Cymru members by the Welsh Government Energy Service.</p> <p>As part of the induction of new councillors, we gave an initial ‘welcome’ referencing Project Zero and then a more detailed introduction to the corporate plan. The focused report to Corporate Performance & Resources and Environment & Regeneration committees has provided those members with oversight, and is shared with all councillors as well as town and community councils and members of the Public Services Board.</p>		
<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</p>		
<p>Progress October ‘22 – March ‘23</p>	<p>Future actions April ‘23 – September ‘23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>In our role as influencers of national policy, we have responded to the Welsh Government Technical Guidance consultation on Development and Flooding, with a Cabinet report delivered in April.</p> <p>We continue to work as part of the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change in an integrated way. There are details on this work in relation to development of a Green Growth Hub in challenge 6 and EV charger roll out in challenge 7.</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) partners have continued to take forward commitments in the PSB Climate Change Charter and this will be detailed in the PSB Annual Report to be published in July. Partners continue to share learning and explore issues including electric vehicles, carbon data, greening the estate.</p>	<p>Continued work within the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) on development of a Green Growth Hub (challenge 6) and EV charger roll out (challenge 7).</p> <p>The new Public Services Board (PSB) Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028, officially launching in June, includes tackling climate change as one of three priority workstreams with a number of commitments including delivery of the charter. These will be explored further at a summer workshop including the possibility of a nature charter, environmental impact assessments and behaviour change.</p> <p>We will use the Shared Prosperity Fund to support community-based initiatives that contribute to the Project Zero Challenge Plan.</p>	<p>The council only has a consultative role in the creation and implementation of new policies and laws at the Welsh level which support sustainability and zero carbon developments. While we can lobby, it remains something that is under the control of WG.</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.

Challenge 5. Protect and enhance green and blue space , biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment. SRO: MARCUS GOLDSWORTHY		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>A key stakeholder workshop took place with Council Officers to better understand how the Council currently approaches green infrastructure and the limitations of this. The Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan was also discussed with PSB partners at a meeting of the Asset Management/Climate emergency Group and there was support for the work being undertaken.</p> <p>A bid was submitted to seek funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to instruct consultants to complete the GI Plan. It was confirmed in principle that up to £25,000 was being made available for the work. A tender brief was also drafted in preparation for tendering for the work. The results of the stakeholder workshop in Q3 22/23 were also analysed and noted for further use in the production of the GI Plan.</p> <p>A draft tree strategy has been developed.</p> <p>Works carried out using Section 106 funding are noted in Challenge 6</p> <p>The Council have worked on the following projects with the Vale Local Nature Partnership. These projects are funded through the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Scheme and led by</p>	<p>Progress development of a Green Infrastructure plan: complete an internal consultation on the tender document and go out to tender on Sell2Wales. Instruct a successful consultant and commence work to complete the plan, also working in liaison with key stakeholders across the Council. Consider public engagement.</p> <p>Identify key players in the implementation of the Biodiversity Forward Plan across all departments and integrate the Biodiversity Forward Plan with Nature Recovery Action Plans (Local/National)</p> <p>Review old KPI's and transfer if still relevant. Propose and circulate new KPIs for discussion.</p> <p>The draft tree strategy will be brought to the Project Zero Board for discussion</p> <p>Create Grassland pages on VoG website</p> <p>As this time period is outside of the optimum planting season (Nov to March) we will plan what areas can be planted, based on ongoing schemes / replacement</p>	<p>A primary barrier to implementing the Green Infrastructure Plan is resource in the Planning Policy Team, especially as the workload associated with the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) increases.</p> <p>The numbers of trees planted across the Council is not currently collated, so we are unable to demonstrate progress.</p> <p>The Parks and Open spaces Team are supportive of the Vale Local Nature Partnership (VLNP) projects but don't have budget for maintenance, which threatens future work on projects to increase biodiversity. For example, through the Local Places for Nature grant the Council has acquired lots of meadow management machinery but there is no funding to maintain this or service the equipment. The VLNP has</p>

<p>Vale Local Nature Partnership staff supported by and supported by council staff in Parks and Open Spaces, Housing, Highways and the Countryside team.</p> <p>In addition to some of the projects mentioned in Challenge 1, the following projects were undertaken:</p> <p>Cwm Talwg Local Nature Reserve: a new 15 year management plan for the Local Nature Reserve has been developed by an external ecologist. Tools and equipment have been funded for volunteers to support implementation of woodland management and the forest school.</p> <p>Cosmeston Country Park: included funded hedge laying and orchard pruning course for volunteers and staff, new signage for Cosmeston Orchard and tree planting</p> <p>Grassland management of road verges and open spaces: following consultation the identification of 61 new sites for wildflower management, these have been added to a grass cutting map and test webpages developed.</p> <p>Work on the Great Glamorgan Way continues, with a dedicated Vale of Glamorgan webpage of places to visit. The following was completed in this period:</p> <p>Bird box installation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hensol Forest x 30 • Llangan Primary x 2 • Dinas Powys Golf Course x 10 • Peterston Primary x 2 <p>Hedgerow Planting (Number of trees planted)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morlanga Farm x 323 • Dinas Powys Golf Course x 100 • Whitehall Farm x 300 • Pant Wilkin to Tair Onin x 1000 <p>Camera bird boxes with live feed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmeston Country Park 	<p>programmes / available funding, so that tree stock can be ordered in preparation for planting.</p> <p>Delivery of the green infrastructure elements of the Barry Transport interchange</p> <p>Future works are planned at all Vale Local Nature Partnership sites mentioned in column 1 including Welsh Government (WG) meadow signs being installed at Knap Point and The Dump. A visit with WG minister Carolyn Thomas is being arranged when signage is in place.</p> <p>Planned work on the Great Glamorgan Way includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with volunteers to remove INNS (invasive non-native species) such as Himalayan Balsam. • Installation of Solitary Bee Posts with interpretation/education panels in three schools– St David’s Primary, Llangan Primary and Peterston-super-Ely C/W School. • Bird boxes will be monitored for “action” – many have already seen use for nesting, with regular inspection and findings reported to the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology), supporting UK-wide database for species and habitat records. • Working with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in Hensol Forest to clear and improve several seasonal ponds benefiting pond life and giving dragonflies line-of-sight between bodies of water. • Solitary bee post interpretation panels to be installed at other bee post locations. • Bat box installation in Coed Mynnydd Coch and Penllyn Estate. 	<p>to demonstrate maintenance arrangements are in place before projects can go ahead: currently if no community groups are willing to commit to maintenance, planting / biodiversity projects cannot go ahead.</p> <p>The permissions process for VLNP projects on Council owned can be lengthy some sites have missed out on both funding opportunities and seasonal progress</p> <p>In relation to the Great Glamorgan Way, there is a Project risk – ENRaW funding runs to 31st May 2023. There is a bid for further funding through Shared Prosperity Fund but no confirmation as yet. Staff loss – losing the Biodiversity Officer affected the workload, but the team is working hard to overcome this.</p>
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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

Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>No progress has been made in this period on the production of sustainable drainage guidance - see more information in challenge 11 on sustainable drainage work.</p> <p>Section 106 investment has continued to support new environmental and sustainable transport measures in Q3 and Q4 2022/23. For example, significant progress was made on the new footway / cycleway in Rhoose which encourages active travel and reduces carbon emissions. Section 106 funding has continued to support other sustainable transport modes such as the Greenlinks community transport service, and has also been used to provide biodiversity enhancements such as new bulb and tree planting in locations such as The Grange, Wenvoe and Pencoedtre Park, Barry. A number of public art schemes have also incorporated biodiversity enhancements such as the 'Bee Hapus Garden' in Llantwit Major which contains bee totems, trees, shrubs and wildflowers.</p> <p>We have been working with the Western Gateway and the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) as well as the South Wales Industrial Cluster to bring forward the plans for a green growth hub at Barry. Associated British Ports (ABP) are the main landowners and have been undertaking masterplanning work with the Council. Opportunities for a Hensol energy hub also being explored.</p>	<p>Production of Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance is subject to identifying capital funding and resource</p> <p>A number of reports were presented to Cabinet in April and May: A Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Issues, Vision and Objectives Background Paper was presented to the Cabinet in April '23:</p> <p>In response to the WG Technical Guidance consultation on Development and Flooding, the cabinet report Response to the Welsh Government consultation on further amendments to 'Technical Advice Note (TAN)15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion' went in late April</p> <p>Reviews of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) are underway with first tranche reported back to Cabinet meeting 11th May</p> <p>The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011-2026: Supplementary Planning Guidance on Retail and Town Centre Development and Economic Development, Employment Land and Premises – Member Briefing Session Feedback was presented to Cabinet in May '23.</p> <p>Section 106 money will continue to support the Greenlinks community transport service and promote active travel by</p>	<p>Funding and resources are required to produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance. This requires input from SAB (Sustainable Drainage Approval Body) legislation and planning policy to successfully implement new Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). See Challenge 11 for further risks and issues relating to sustainable drainage.</p> <p>In relation to creating more energy efficient buildings through planning policy, key here will be the work of WG in developing clear guidance and policy for both Planning and Building control. The role of the Council is limited to promotion and signposting of better more modern and green methods of construction but without UK and WG legislative support this will be difficult.</p> <p>The main risks in relation to section 106 were delays to the implementation of these projects as costs are continually rising and the</p>

	<p>facilitating improved walking and cycling facilities such as new crossings, dropped kerbs, scooter / cycle parking etc. Bus shelter enhancements are also being looked at in a number of locations across the Vale (see challenge 17).</p> <p>Biodiversity enhancements are continuing to be integrated into schemes such as play areas and park upgrades such as the Celtic Way Park project in Rhoose.</p> <p>Continuing scoping work on opportunities for a Green Growth Hub at Barry</p>	<p>section 106 money has to be spent within a specified timeframe.</p> <p>In relation to the development of a Green Growth Hub, land is largely in private ownership (ABP) and therefore the Council has a supporting role via the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) and South Wales Industrial Cluster.</p>
<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</p>		
<p>Progress October '22 – March '23</p>	<p>Future actions April '23 – September '23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>EV taxi charging bays were successfully installed at 8 locations within Barry and Penarth in 2022. Installation of Public EV charger bays within 18 council controlled public car parks throughout the Vale.</p> <p>The Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have been provided with a list of 12 community centre sites which can host EV public charging points and 4 on-street locations - referred to as Phase 2. Initial consultation carried out on Phase 2 locations with community centres, ward members, Town & community councils & Town centre traders associations.</p> <p>List of Phase 3 on-street EV Charger Bay locations identified in conjunction with CCR strategy and consultation commenced with ward members and Town and community councils.</p>	<p>EV charger Installation has commenced and ongoing on remaining sites which have been agreed.</p> <p>Phase 2 detailed designs for EV charger installations to be carried out by Connected Kerb, CCR's appointed EV Charger point installer.</p> <p>Further detail EV charger consultation to be carried out with all stakeholders based on detailed designs. Objections raised by 4 sites previously led to them being subsequently withdrawn from the installation programme.</p> <p>An Active Travel (AT) route through Eglwys Brewis will start construction in May 2023 and will take 40 weeks. An AT route along Station Road, Rhoose will start construction in June 2023.</p>	<p>Community Centres / public not buying into EV charging bay allocations. This has mainly been due to late notification of funding and limited time to undertake full consultation. The locations also require close access to an electrical connection, which does not always fit with the existing car park layout.</p> <p>It takes resource to manage the process / undertake appropriate consultation effectively within the Vale, and there is no budget available in-house for project management.</p>

<p>Our Active Travel Officer has commented on planning applications, and she has provided details of the Welsh Government Active Travel requirements on proposed developments.</p> <p>Two pedestrian routes in Barry were brought up to Active Travel (AT) standard using Welsh Government (WG) Core AT funding. An AT route through Rhoose has been completed using WG AT funds and Section 106 sustainable transport funds. A Safe Routes in Communities (SRiC) project at Fairfield Primary School (see project background on the Sustain website) is near completion and will allow us to do the first VOG School Street Closure.</p> <p>A funding bid has been submitted to the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to expand the ebike hire scheme into Barry. A funding bid to SPF also submitted for a Brompton Hire Dock at Llantwit Major Interchange. Both bids were successful and funding granted. Brompton Dock installed end of financial year 22/23.</p> <p>We have approached all schools requesting green travel plans and Green travel plans have been received from Cogan Primary and Ysgol Sant Baruc.</p> <p>Using LTF 2022-23 Bus Stop Improvements grant, 10 bus stops are being upgraded with new bus shelters to provide better waiting facilities for bus users, along with the purchase of additional electronic displays (3 of which are solar/battery powered) in order to provide more reliable information at bus stops for bus users.</p>	<p>A consultation on locations for ebike hire stations in Barry is due to go live on the 5th June 2023.</p> <p>Consider developing a policy for on-street EV charging, particularly in residential areas with no off-road parking availability, based on previous project works and reports completed by Cennex in 2022. This is subject to funding and resource available.</p> <p>Develop an EV website page providing information on EV charger guidance, provision, location and charging tariffs within the Vale and enabling future suggestions for locations.</p> <p>In addition, there are commitments in the service plan and previous discussions about plan implementation has highlighted: work in sustainable transport, community facilities and parks as a result of negotiating Section 106 payments from developers; and insisting developers provide the highest quality of cycle/walking infrastructure within and outside their developments</p> <p>To further upgrade a number of bus stops and provide more bus stop information displays throughout the Vale of Glamorgan if the Council is successful in its LTF Bus Stop Improvements grant application for 2023-24.</p>	<p>Limited Welsh Government Active Travel funding.</p> <p>Lack of resource to work with schools to support the development of their green travel plans.</p> <p>Although there is existing guidance and standards relating to highways currently used to control development activities and ensure appropriate transport facilities are incorporated into a development, It is unlikely that developers will change their current transport planning approaches without appropriate planning policy / Special Planning Guidance (SPG) or legislation in place due to likely additional costs involved. It is likely the case that the council's policy position in various areas may need to be strengthened, for example, the parking standards need to be updated to incorporate more stringent requirements for developers in terms of provision EV charging facilities for all houses built.</p>
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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 GOLDWORTHY

Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Work has been undertaken on the Barry Placemaking Plan during this period. Meetings have also taken place with Cowbridge Town Council.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place with Further Education and Higher Education around projects that could be submitted under the skills and business support theme of the Shared Prosperity Local Investment Plan. Grant schemes for businesses will allow innovation in the form of new technology</p> <p>Free courses are offered to improve digital literacy through our Adult Community Learning programme. Our IT loan scheme, which allows us to lend equipment such as Laptops and Chrome Books to individuals to allow them to access information and services at home if they do not have the funds to purchase their own. This is monitored and we feed this back to Welsh Government monthly as part of our data.</p>	<p>Meetings with Llantwit Major, Penarth and Barry will take place to progress next steps in each town. We are meeting with the Design Commission for Wales (DCW) in May 2023 to better understand the content and structure of Placemaking Plans. Some Towns will require community mapping activities to gather evidence.</p> <p>Recruitment of new food and farming role due to take place in Q2.</p> <p>Shared Prosperity Funding is likely to be used to develop a business decarbonisation project. A grant scheme will also be established that will see funding being made available to businesses for projects that will enable them to grow, decarbonise or innovate.</p> <p>We will work to link in with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) over a more strategic approach to funding and supporting implementation of new green technology.</p> <p>We are starting a weekly job club within the ICT suite at Barry Library. This not only allows us to support individuals with job searching but gives individuals the opportunity to gain support with their digital skills. Our mentors attend and provide support and guidance on job searching activities. Following the job club there is also a digital skills class that is run by Vale Learning Centre, so we also encourage our participants to stay for this session in order to upskill.</p>	<p>Clarity on the content and structure of Placemaking Plans is required before work begins on all 4 towns. Design Commission for Wales (DCW) will provide this advice in Q1.</p> <p>We need to ensure no duplication with national schemes to develop green jobs opportunities, and possibly integrate with the role of Local Area Energy Plan. The challenge will be availability of suitable talent to fulfil this and other business support roles in a challenging labour market.</p> <p>Limited funding is available to work with businesses, colleges and universities on skills development compared to EU funding levels.</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

Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Work has continued to implement the Move More Eat Well Plan including a focus on 'Healthier Advertising'. Following a regional workshop, discussions have taken place with the Move More Eat Well Team and officers within the Vale Council to progress this work and explore opportunities to influence healthier advertising on Council owned assets.</p> <p>Food Vale partners are working together to design the first Food Vale Trail that will encourage people to buy local produce from local shops across the Vale, with a particular focus on showcasing sustainable food and drink. Opportunities to travel the route via public and active travel will also be promoted.</p> <p>Food Vale's application to achieve Bronze Sustainable Food Places status on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan was successful in June 2022, making the Vale the second place in Wales to achieve the award. This award recognises and celebrates the success of places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and that are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues. The Food Vale Steering Group, which includes Council, continues to meet on a regular basis to progress the work of the partnership and work towards Silver Status.</p> <p>For the Big Fresh Catering Company, who provide school meals across the Vale, preparations took place to roll out Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) to the rest of our primary school settings.. We have approx. 24,000 pupils so is going to have a significant impact on food suppliers and food miles with more food and more deliveries needed. Big Fresh have worked</p>	<p>The Council's advertising protocol will be reviewed to incorporate commitments aligned with healthy eating and climate positive activity.</p> <p>The Food Vale Trail will help to promote local produce and shopping locally and will take place between 9th – 18th June 2023.</p> <p>In addition to the Food Trail, Food Vale will: continue to work towards Silver City Status, recruit a new Food Vale officer to support the work of the partnership linked to Welsh Government Food Partnership 12 month funding, and progress the Llantwit Food Project as it enters year 2 of the work.</p> <p>The roll out of Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) is April.</p> <p>The Big Fresh Catering company will be looking at the single use plastic products bill that comes into play in October 2023, and will focus more on their commercial side. They have already reduced or eliminated everything on the list that will be banned within our schools, and review the packaging that comes into the kitchens to see if they need to act. Their team are working on a new menu to bring into schools later this year with one eye on the rise of food costs and supply chain issues that have challenged them through the year.</p>	<p>The Big Fresh Catering Company are reviewing their contracts but opportunities are limited currently to reduce food miles any further than they have done due to the location of the suppliers they use.</p> <p>The roll out of Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) is April, which will have an impact on food miles and environmental impact due to the scale of catering.</p>

<p>with their suppliers to make sure they are doing everything possible to reduce impact on the environment. New equipment purchased for kitchens is always analysed so that the lowest carbon emission equipment possible is purchased to service food safety standards.</p> <p>Big Fresh monitor food waste within their kitchens and use food bags for food waste and recycling. Their staff converse with schools if they notice an increase in certain waste for dishes across the menu. For example, baguettes seem to be an issue for the younger pupils recently due to the amount of bread being consumed, so Big Fresh staff have suggested wraps to cut down on waste and give a lighter option for the pupils.</p> <p>For other comments on action on food waste, please see challenge 10.</p>		
<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</p>		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Our 10 year Waste Management Strategy was agreed by Council in January 2023, and we are now working to this strategy.</p> <p>Planned roll out of phase 3 of the source separated service into Penarth and the surrounding areas. An awareness raising campaign included online and posted material to residents, along with a roadshow.</p> <p>We have built a new reuse facility at Atlantic and secured funding for another facility in Llandow.</p>	<p>Preparing our next update on the Waste Management Strategy to Council.</p> <p>We have secured funding from WRAP to undertake additional advertising to assist change behaviour in waste practices and we are working with waste wardens to knock doors to assist educate our residents.</p> <p>Work with our communications team and web team to develop our web pages and communications plan.</p>	<p>24/25 is the next round of Welsh Government statutory recycling targets, and if we do 'not achieve a 70% recycling rate we are subject to financial penalties up to £100k per % under the target. We achieved a 69% recycling rate last year due to challenges with green waste collection and driver shortages. Achieving our recycling rate is in part dependent on how well our waste service changes</p>

<p>Plans continue to source land for a new Resource Recovery facility in the Western Vale.</p> <p>We are currently working with WRAP to work with the companies that take our wate for reprocessing or treatment, so that they do not export our material.</p> <p>A funding bid in partnership with Benthgy was submitted to Welsh Government to develop more information about community services and to help sustain the projects in Penarth and Barry. A decision from Welsh Government is still awaited.</p>	<p>Reuse shop will be opened at Atlantic.</p> <p>The roll out of segregated recycling streams in Penarth and the surrounding areas goes live in April '23. Staff resource and the communications team will be available to respond to resident queries.</p> <p>Meeting with Schools to look at options for recycling.</p> <p>Undertaking work with our current commercial customers, aiming to transfer them onto a source separated service.</p> <p>Continue working with the property section to locate a viable piece of land for a new Resource Recovery centre in the Western Vale.</p> <p>Continue working with WRAP and where possible ensure that our material is not exported.</p>	<p>are received, and on uptake of the green waste subscription service</p> <p>We are contractually obliged to provide a minimum tonnage of green waste, and contract fulfilment therefore relies on successful uptake of green waste subscription service.</p> <p>Fulfilment of budget savings needed this year will depend in part on income generated by the green waste subscription service, and on income generated from selling on dry recycling, but this market is volatile.</p> <p>Increased energy and fuel costs have been a challenge as the service is a heavy user of both.</p>
<p>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</p>		
<p>Progress October '22 – March '23</p>	<p>Future actions April '23 – September '23</p>	<p>Risks and issues impacting this challenge</p>
<p>Welsh Government guidance has been issued on merging Local Risk Management Strategies (LFRMS) and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) with the publication of a revised LFRMS required by March 2024.</p> <p>We Chair the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group SCBCEG and have coordinated the creation of new coastal officer role to assist with delivery of SMP policies.</p>	<p>Works will commence on delivery of the LFRMS next financial year commencing with public consultation in Q1 2023/24.</p> <p>We will be determining the LFRMS delivery strategy and reviewing available data to scope the project in accordance with WLGA guidance.</p>	<p>Delivery of LFRMS may be impacted by resource available in-house. We need to determine whether this work will be undertaken in-house or manged through external consultants or combination of both.</p> <p>Inspection of drainage in construction phases was previously restricted by</p>

<p>A Shoreline management Plan (SMP) refresh was completed in early 2022 and continued delivery of SMP actions.</p> <p>Since January 2019 all new developments must comply with SAB (Sustainable Drainage Approval Body) legislation as part of design and build. 70 SAB cases were commented on in 2022-23, including 28 cases in the current period. This includes 20 pre-applications and 50 full applications: 29 been approved, 4 declined, 2 withdrawn and 15 still under consultation.</p> <p>Significant sustainable drainage input has been required to the ongoing development at Barry Docks Interchange and works are nearing completion at a Housing scheme on Hayes Road.</p> <p>There is no progress to date on actively encouraging rainwater reuse, but the use of rainwater harvesting is encouraged via existing SAB process and legislation wherever practicable.</p> <p>The Council has installed Automatic Meter Readers on 200 water meters across its estate. These record water consumption every half an hour, can identify out of hours water use, leaks, continual consumption, and water meter issues. 125 sites have had loggers installed to date, the remainder awaiting meter exchanges from Welsh Water. The information from the loggers is sent to our Energy Management data base and via the Energy Manager Live portal. To date, 29 leaks have been identified and site managers have been advised. Where leaks are found, work will be undertaken to identify the source and carry out repairs as required. The system has also identified 22 sites with oversized meters, and we are investigating the possibility of installing smaller meters at. This work has potential revenue savings for the Council in respect of standing charges which are based on meter sizes.</p>	<p>Procure any external consultants and support as appropriate.</p> <p>Recruiting SCBCEG coastal officer and hosting on behalf of the group - continue attendance at both SMP groups and implementation of actions.</p> <p>Repairs to water leaks found across the estate.</p> <p>Scoping the installation of smaller water meters, where these are oversized.</p> <p>Consider encouraging the re-use of rainwater integration with LFRMS actions and measures. Consider inclusion of specific policy in new Local Development Plan (LDP) - Planning policy consideration.</p>	<p>resourcing constraints. Recruitment of 2 FTE has improved the situation but additional on the job and more formal training is required to up skill staff. In addition, access to internal expertise associated with biodiversity and landscape architect cross directorates is needed, with differing workload priorities.</p> <p>We are likely to see an increase in SAB applications in future years putting further pressure on resources available - additional resource is likely to be required.</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting is not considered economically viable by major developers and features cannot be mandated via the statutory standards - this will require separate policy to increase / improve uptake on developments generally. Improving uptake or developing policy in a timely manner is limited by resource available and other critical works within the Environment team.</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

Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>We are supporting the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP), as required by the Welsh Government. A LAEP is a data driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target. We have submitted information to consultants Arup, and they will start data modelling on our behalf locally as well as the region.</p> <p>To support development of the LAEP, a stakeholder spreadsheet has been established of primary and secondary local contacts that will help inform the LAEP. These stakeholders will be invited to workshops to input into the plan and having an active part in the process.</p> <p>Solar PV panels in Wenvoe Community Centre went live on 1st April. Initial engagement activity was delivered by the Energy Team with onward support from the Welsh Government Energy Service team.</p> <p>An ECO4 paper was brought to Cabinet in March '23 to update on the ECO4 scheme, a UK government scheme that places legal obligations on energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises which are designed to tackle fuel poverty and help reduce carbon emissions. It allows local authorities to set their own criteria for identifying and targeting households that meet the eligibility requirements. More information is detailed in the paper.</p>	<p>LAEP stakeholder workshops will take place from May-October 2023. Once workshops have been completed, Arup will then continue to finalise the LAEP.</p> <p>Completion of the LAEP should be during this time.</p> <p>Agree the final format of and any necessary typographical changes and minor amendments to the ECO4 Flex Joint Statement of Intent and Memorandum of Understanding prior to publication, and thereafter update with any factual updates in response to policy or legislative changes as appropriate</p>	<p>In relation to the development of the LAEP, potential gaps in the information we provide to Arup would be a risk: Arup can only produce plans based on as much local knowledge as we can provide, therefore the more we put in, the more we will get out of it. Equally, it is important the right stakeholders are included in workshops in order to give thorough feedback. If the right stakeholders don't attend, there is a risk the LAEP will not be as relevant as it could be.</p> <p>The degree to which further engagement activity with the community can be progressed will depend on staff resources.</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.

Challenge 13. Revise our Contract Management and Procurement policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions SRO: MATT BOWMER		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The Procurement Policy & Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 13 April 2023, there had been extensive engagement and input from across the Council in its development across this time period.</p> <p>Alongside the approval of the Policy & Strategy is a commitment to include a requirement in the Council's Constitution for a 10% minimum requirement for Social Value in contract award for contracts above the public procurement regulation threshold. The strategy also includes minimum, expected and preferred standards on supplier carbon emissions.</p> <p>New analysis of 21/22 supply chain carbon footprint was done and shared with the Project Zero Board. The 'top 5' supply chain emitters were social care, construction, waste collection, electricity transmission and distribution, and road transport</p>	<p>The Procurement Policy & Strategy will be a living document and the Climate section will be subject to an early review given the publication of the Welsh Government Toolkit.</p> <p>The Policy & Strategy will be published on the Council's website and StaffNet and training material produced.</p> <p>We will review and streamline the Welsh TOMs (Targets, Outputs, Measures) in the Strategy & Policy to ensure social value is delivered where it has the greatest impact on the Council's objectives, including the Net Zero commitment.</p> <p>We will engage with local supplier stakeholders to discuss and pilot the new approach</p> <p>Further analysis of procurement data to identify where action should be targeted to reduce emissions as part of work to be net zero by 2030.</p>	<p>The shared Service with Cardiff is a long-term benefit but in the short term may be a risk as priorities are established. A review of the Target Operating Model (TOM) is on the agenda.</p>
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		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>99 new Council homes are in the process of being built using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and will achieve EPC A</p>	<p>Continuation of MMC/EPC A schemes currently under construction. EPC A new starts on site are at Eagleswell</p>	<p>There are multiple risks and issues in the sector, including: Material Cost</p>

<p>(Energy Performance Certificate) (SAP 92+) ratings. These are under construction at Hayeswood Road, Barry; St Cyres Road, Penarth; Colcot Clinic, Barry and Coldbrook Road East Barry.</p> <p>In improving the energy efficiency of council housing stock, the following work has been undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued monitoring of the 40 hybrid heating installations and supporting tenants with any operating issues identified. • The installation of the Airwit sensors within 100 properties to gather property baseline data. Has been delayed due to resources issues. • Continued to deliver the existing fabric first projects which are currently being delivered. • In-house staff have enrolled on PAS2035 Retrofit Coordinator training. Training ongoing. Due to complete Q1/Q2 next financial year. • Consultant engaged to develop large scale (PAS2035) whole house approach Scheme to improve approx. 400-500 properties over the next 2-3 years. With the first stage being 28 properties with various archetypes found within our housing stock. To date the consultant has been conducting PAS2035 surveys on the 28 properties. • 3 Non-trad Airey properties in castle Green are going through the PAS2035 process from start to finish. The Contractor on site is refurbishing the 3 properties to PAS2035 recommendations. 	<p>Road, Llantwit Major; Clos Holm View Phase 2; Maes y Ffynnon, Bonvilston; Olive Lodge, Barry and Cadoxton House, Barry. There are 153 new start units in total.</p> <p>In improving the energy efficiency of council housing stock, the following work will be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the installation of 100 Airwit sensors in properties to gather property baseline data. • Continue to deliver the existing fabric first projects which are currently live. • Ensure the in-house qualified Retrofit Co-ordinator is working alongside our consultants to develop the task • The 28 whole house approach pilot scheme tender package has been developed and out to tender. • The 3 Aireys properties refurbishment project should be nearing completion. 	<p>Increases; Contractor Insolvency; Inflation; Supply Chain Issues; Risk Averse Contractor Base; Reduction in Development Viability Margins</p> <p>The following risks and issues in improving the energy efficiency of council housing stock includes:</p> <p>Data continues to be received from pilot properties. Some issues with electrical bills and tenants turning the Airsource Heat Pumps (AHPs) off. PassivUK Ltd have provided improved tenant and technical support to try and overcome the issues. However, there are still some tenants turning of the pumps which affects the monitoring and performance of the hybrid system. We have also received requests for the system to be removed because tenants believe it is more expensive than gas to heat their home.</p> <p>Risk of tenants not allowing access for all 28 pilot properties to undergo their PAS2035 survey.</p>
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Challenge 15. Build new **zero carbon schools** and improve our existing school buildings to ensure they are energy efficient and create learning environments fit for the future.
SRO: TREVOR BAKER

Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The school investment strategy has been approved by cabinet and sets out the design methodologies and considerations we use when planning all school building projects. This will be the same for all quarters though as it is reflected in policy.</p> <p>The school building programme is progressing well: South Point and St Baruc are complete, and St Nicolas, Derw Newedd and Cowbridge Primary are under construction. All building work applies our sustainability and net zero strategies in practice.</p> <p>Our next round of school builds is currently in the long-listing process</p> <p>Nature calendar events were promoted to schools, along with encouragement for schools and pupils to take part in citizen science</p> <p>Local nature partnership funding was received to provide a range of nature monitoring equipment such as nature trap cameras, identification guides, bug hunting equipment and moth traps to rent out to schools for nature-based citizen science projects.</p> <p>Promotion of free seeds and trees to schools, and sharing potential funding streams for schools to tap into to enhance their school grounds.</p>	<p>Ongoing actions as embedded in the school investment strategy</p> <p>Implementation of schools' equipment rental for nature-based citizens science projects</p> <p>Continued promotion of potential funding streams and free seeds and trees to schools</p>	<p>Ensuring that there are effective communications channels with schools to ensure the good practice currently being done in schools is captured and shared.</p>

Challenge 16. Manage and use our land, buildings and other assets to support work to tackle climate change, rationalising what we need and improving sustainability and energy efficiency. SRO: LORNA CROSS		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>The Asset Management Strategy has been completed and reported to Cabinet on 27th Feb.</p> <p>A consultant has been commissioned to develop a Carbon Management Plan (CAMP), and relevant internal documents have been shared with him.</p> <p>The Council's Project Management Unit (PMU) have been engaged to look at development of a master plan for a key Council-owned sites, including the potential for producing renewable energy. Site inspections have been undertaken and a brief has been provided. The PMU will be driving the project proposals with the usual core project team providing expert advice such as legal/estates/finance/planning and highways etc.</p> <p>The PMU are also leading on an EV charging project on Council land near Cardiff Airport.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with the Estates and Energy teams on what terms and conditions can be introduced to any new tenancies to encourage new tenants to be more energy efficient. Further updates on this work will be provided in Q1/Q2.</p> <p>The Estates team are consulting with the Energy team to determine the best way to provide advice to existing tenants on energy efficient use of the buildings they lease from the Council.</p>	<p>Eich Lle proposals and additional rationalisation proposals are being discussed with Business Cabinet at the end of May.</p> <p>The Carbon Management Plan is due to be delivered and this will support the prioritisation of future actions.</p>	<p>Staff resources to action Carbon Management Plan 2023-2028 targets.</p> <p>Cabinet approval and Business Case approval for space rationalisation will be required to progress with the proposals.</p> <p>Availability of capital funding for projects across our estate will be inefficient.</p> <p>Availability of capital funding for any project that could support the production of renewable energy on Council owned land will be key.</p> <p>Suitably experienced in house team and consultancy support will be required to deliver such projects. Staff resources in the Energy field are limited and talent pool for recruitment is currently restricted.</p> <p>Existing Leaseholders cannot be compelled and only encouraged to take steps to reduce their energy consumption.</p>

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. SRO: EMMA REED		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>An Electric Recycling Vehicle has been ordered and to be added to the fleet. Electric vans have been hired from Days Rentals due to lack of supply of diesel powered.</p> <p>Local public transport operators have provided discounts available to staff and this is updated on StaffNet.</p> <p>Cycle2Work scheme open Dec22-Jan23 and 46 members of staff purchased bikes through it.</p> <p>Work continues on the business planning stage of the Eich lle project. Creation of a hub facility within key corporate office buildings is being considered as part of that project. Public Sector Partners are at a similar stage in their discussions around public sector office hubs and further updates will be provided as these conversations are developed.</p>	<p>As part of the criteria for the vehicle replacement programme or the purchase of any new vehicles electric / alternative fuelled vehicles are to be considered. Grants such as those made available by Energy Service Wales are to be applied for to reduce the cost to the Council of switching to electric/alternative fuelled vehicles.</p> <p>Electric recycling Vehicles to be delivered</p> <p>A staff travel survey will be carried out and results used to support our 22/23 carbon reporting, and to identify ways in which staff can be better supported to use more sustainable travel methods</p>	<p>Lack of adequate charging facilities and available funding for electric recycling vehicles</p> <p>No budget available to purchase nextbike membership or pool bikes - Welsh Government Active Travel funding does not provide revenue funding.</p> <p>Any proposals in respect of the Eich lle project will be subject to financial viability and approval of Cabinet to progress.</p>
Challenge 18. Invest in technology to support homeworking and online services reducing the need for travel and office space. SRO: TOM BOWRING		
Progress October '22 – March '23	Future actions April '23 – September '23	Risks and issues impacting this challenge
<p>Teams remote meetings and instant messaging continues to remove the need to travel to office locations.</p> <p>The use of OneDrive continues to enable collaboration on documents, removing the need to print hard-copies.</p> <p>SOCITM Advisory, who provide digital consultancy for the public sector, were commissioned to assist in the development of a new</p>	<p>The move to Oracle Fusion in the cloud from Oracle on-premise will allow the decommissioning of on-premise servers, reducing electricity usage and reducing the carbon footprint of the council.</p> <p>News Teams Telephony will support the accommodation project by removing the need for fixed line desktop phones</p>	<p>The new target operating model for digital services will begin to address capacity gaps within the Council's teams, but will take time to embed and ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver transformational change projects.</p>

<p>Digital Strategy, target operating model and roadmap for the Council.</p>	<p>that tether individuals to specific locations and facilitate hot-desking hubs.</p> <p>Introduction of a hybrid meeting platform will enable remote attendance at Council and Committee meetings, reducing the number of journeys required to attend meetings.</p> <p>We will commence work on the new Digital Strategy, Roadmap and Digital Target Operating Model. This work will introduce a Digital 'pipeline' of technology transformation projects which will directly support the reduction in office space and travel by introducing tools to further support agile and hybrid working.</p> <p>We will recommend the appointment of a new Head of Digital to drive through the Digital agenda for the organisation.</p>	<p>There is a risk that colleagues will not adapt to the new tools and technology, which will be mitigated through change management and training support.</p>
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Appendix B. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan Performance Indicators 2023 - 2024

PI number	Performance Indicators
	Green and blue space
New 23/24	Number of trees planted per year.
CPM/107 (CPM/197)	Number of Green Flag Parks
CPM/108 (CPM/159)	Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land that has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as a naturalised area.
New 23/24	Amount of Public realm / green infrastructure improved / created
New 23/24	Number of local nature projects financially supported
	Planning and regeneration
New 23/24	The number of private rented properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services.
New 23/24	The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.
New 23/24	The area of public open space (ha) which would be gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.
New 23/24	Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.
New 23/24	Total energy output capacity (MW) granted planning permissions for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.
	Transport
CPM/066 (CPM/155)	Satisfaction with public transport including a) accessibility and b) road safety.
CPM/067 (CPM/258)	Satisfaction with public transport in the Vale of Glamorgan.
CPM/068 (CPM/017)	Percentage of adults 60+ who have a concessionary bus pass.
CPM/047 (CPM/161)	Value of investment levered into the Council that is dedicated to transport improvement schemes.
CPM/120	Number of passenger journeys undertaken on the Greenlinks service
CPM/121	Number of Members who used the community transport service over the year
New 23/24	Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network
New 23/24	Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network
New 23/24	Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.
New 23/24	Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions.
New 23/24	Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are hybrid.

W7 SPF (non-corporate)	Amount of new or improved cycleways of paths M2
W7 SPF (non-corporate)	Increased use of cycleways or paths (%)
	Business decarbonisation
W29 SPF (non-corporate)	Number of decarbonisation plans developed [by businesses]
W29 SPF (non-corporate)	Greenhouse gas reduction (%)
	Waste
CPM/116 (CPM/146 (PAM/043))	Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.
PAM/030 (WMT/009b)	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.
	Flood management
New 23/24	Financial investment in flood protection measures in the local authority (annually).
	Council housing
CPM/139	Average SAP rating for the Council's housing stock
CPM/090 (CPM/234 (PAM/038))	Percentage of local authority self-contained housing stock units that are compliant with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), subject to acceptable fails, at 31 March.
New 23/24	Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting WHQS2 (2023)
New 23/24	Percentage annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across council housing stock.
	Council buildings and assets
CPM/097 (CPM/006)	Percentage of change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1000 square metres.
CPM/098 (CPM/153)	Percentage change (reduction) in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock.
CPM/100 (CPM/154)	Percentage of Council street lights that are LED.