

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

REFERENCE FROM PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 22ND JULY, 2025

“240 PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT (DCR) –

The report was presented to the Committee by the Project Zero Programme Manager (in conjunction with the Director of Place), the purpose of which was to advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency, the nature emergency, and delivering the Council's commitments as part of Project Zero including work being undertaken through the Public Services Board. This covered the six-month period from October 2024 to March 2025.

The Project Zero Programme Manager presented the key highlights from the report, including:

- The 'joined up' approach undertaken as part of the project. Project Zero encompassed work undertaken across the Council to tackle the climate and nature emergency and work towards the target as an organisation which was to be net zero by 2030, as well as the wider all-Wales target of net zero by 2050 and the broader nature and biodiversity commitments.
- Progress against the 18 Challenges which were part of the Climate Change Challenge Plan –
 - Demonstrating strong leadership - Challenges 1-4: i.e. volunteering opportunities within the County's green spaces and conservation activities and a biodiversity e-learning module, developed by Cynnal Cymru and funded by the Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) was launched for Council staff, Councillors and Public Sector Board (PSB) members.
 - Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations - Challenges 5-12: i.e. the adoption by the Council of the Tree Strategy, Big Fresh had joined the steering group for the Welsh Government funded Welsh Veg in Schools project, and the implementation of active travel enhancements.
 - Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18: i.e. monetary and carbon savings for the residents at the Severn Avenue council housing site due to the carbon reduction measures undertaken by the Housing Team.
- In terms of the accompanying 80 steps, 57 steps were on track, 20 with slower than expected progress and 3 steps had seen no progress in the period. With 80 steps in total, it was not anticipated that there would be progress in all areas.
- Regarding resources for Project Zero, much of the work described in the report was resourced within existing capacity supported by established internal budgets, as well as Section 106 funding and external annual funding from the Welsh and UK Governments.

- Reference was made to the Public Services Board (PSB) Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group, which met quarterly and reports to the PSB, and the work it undertook, such as the launch of a Climate and Nature Emergency Charter in this period.

Following the presentation, the Committee raised several queries and comments, including the following:

- The Chair raised the 3 steps which had seen no progress and why this was the case. The data on the report's appendices seemed to indicate this could be because of the current limits on funding. The Director of Place explained that, for example, with one of the steps which had not progressed, namely Review / produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on Climate Change, although there had been some work already undertaken behind the scenes on this, such as looking at how far the Council could go towards influencing developers to integrate sustainability into new buildings going forward, this had experienced some delays. This was due to this linking in with the Local Development Plan (LDP) and having to wait until further progress was made with the wider LDP, such as with the housing sites that had been allocated, and the need to look at alternative sites due to deliverability. These delays also impacted upon the adoption of the Green Infrastructure Plan, an integral part of the LDP and other Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The Director reassured the Committee that the guidance in question would be progressed once the LDP had been produced and the first draft deposit version completed. On the Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance step, this had faced delays due to the Drainage Team being extremely busy and therefore this work had not been progressed as yet but would be brought forward. It was important to note that as a SPG it was also impacted by the delay to the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).
- Councillor Stallard referred to the hold on Project Zero reserves and sought reassurance that the reserve finances were still being held on for this project despite the pressures experienced on the Council's overall budget. The Director of Place / Project Zero Programme Manager explained that although there were no plans to use the reserve at this time, it was still being held for Project Zero and further information would be sought (such as from the Section 151 Officer) for members following the meeting.
- The Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources informed the Committee of the work being undertaken by the Council in terms of sustainable drainage in its schools and housing developments, as well as the considerable work in other related areas following the Council's declaration of the climate and nature emergencies and the impact of such motions approved by Council on its policy.
- Councillor Perry cited the importance of the Council and others taking seriously the impact of building waste and demolition and not to follow the example of other Authorities but rather look to preserve and reuse existing buildings. He also commented on the lack of investment and decline in travel on public transport, which would impact the Council's efforts on active travel and to mitigate and limit private car use. These efforts required greater

support, prioritisation and investment from bodies such as from Welsh Government and a greater emphasis from the Council's LDP.

Following the discussions on this report, Committee

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress detailed in the report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board be noted.
- (2) T H A T the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date through a variety of routes be noted.
- (3) T H A T the updates on the Public Services Board work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies be noted.
- (4) T H A T the performance against the agreed Project Zero indicators for 2024/25 detailed at Appendix B to the report be noted.
- (5) T H A T the relevant Performance Measures for 2025/26, at Appendix C to the report, be noted.
- (6) T H A T the progress against the Carbon Management Plan be noted.
- (7) T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- (8) T H A T it be recommended to Cabinet that the 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) Following consideration by the Committee on how Project Zero and the related work of the Public Services Board was being taken forward.
- (2) Following consideration by the Committee of the available funding and the projects awarded funding to date.
- (3) Following consideration by the Committee of the Public Services Board work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
- (4) Following consideration by the Committee of the performance against the agreed set of indicators.
- (5) Following consideration by the Committee of the relevant Performance Measures for 2025/26.
- (6) Following consideration by the Committee of the progress against the Carbon Management Plan.

(7) To enable Cabinet to consider the progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

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

Attached as Appendix – Report to Place Scrutiny Committee: 22nd July, 2025

Meeting of:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 22 July 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Purpose of Report:	To advise Members of progress across the Council in responding to the climate emergency, the nature emergency, and delivering our commitments as part of Project Zero including work being undertaken through the Public Services Board.
Report Owner:	Rob Thomas, Chief Executive
Responsible Officer:	Tom Bowring, Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Due to the corporate nature of this report, no specific Ward Member consultation has been undertaken
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: - This report and Appendix A detail the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continues to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. This includes the RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan. - Progress and developments from October 2024 to March 2025 include: respecting and celebrating the environment embedded in Vale 2030 as one of the five key objectives in the new Corporate Plan; embedding the Carbon Management Plan; the launch of a Climate and Nature Emergency Charter by the Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB); planting of over 10,000 trees by the Vale Local Nature Partnership; the completion of energy efficiency measures and new solar panels across community centres, schools, a VoGC care setting, and the Flying Start service on Skomer Road; and the extension of miles of active travel routes and bike parking facilities. - The report provides Members with an update regarding the finances associated with Project Zero and the use of the Project Zero reserve. - This report provides updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies which is a priority in the PSB Well-being Plan.	

- Performance against the agreed Project Zero indicators for 24/25 is at Appendix B.
- The report shows Performance Measures relevant to Project Zero for 2025/26 at Appendix C.
- The report provides an update on progress against the Carbon Management Plan.
- The report also updates on the approach to programme management.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee consider the progress detailed in this report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board.
2. That the Committee note the funding available in reserves and the projects awarded funding to date through a variety of routes.
3. That the Committee consider the updates on the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
4. That the Committee consider the performance against the agreed Project Zero indicators for 24/25 at Appendix B.
5. That the Committee note the relevant Performance Measures for 2025/26 at Appendix C.
6. That the Committee consider the progress against the Carbon Management Plan.
7. That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered.
8. 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 committee to consider how Project Zero and the related work of the Public Services Board is being taken forward.
2. To ensure that Members are aware of the available funding and the projects awarded funding to date.
3. To ensure that Members are aware of the Public Services Board (PSB) work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.
4. To enable Members to consider performance against the agreed set of indicators.
5. To ensure that the Members are aware of the relevant Performance Measures for 2025/26
6. To ensure that the Members are aware of the progress against the Carbon Management Plan.
7. To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

8. To update all elected Members and other stakeholders on the arrangements in place to deliver Project Zero.

1. Background

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

- (1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council join with Welsh Government and other Councils across the UK in declaring a global 'climate emergency' in response to the findings of the IPCC report.
- (2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030 and support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan, to help achieve the Welsh Government's ambition for the public sector in Wales to be carbon neutral.
- (3) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council make representations to the Welsh and UK Governments, as appropriate, to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to Local Authorities in Wales to help them successfully meet the 2030 target.
- (4) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council continue to work with partners across the region to develop and implement best practice methods that can deliver carbon reductions and help limit global warming.
- (5) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council work with local stakeholders including Councillors, residents, young people, businesses, and other relevant parties to develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030 and explore ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

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

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

1.4. The Council's Corporate Plan, Vale 2030, sets out the Council's five Well-being Objectives, how they will be delivered and the key priorities. Vale 2030 includes a commitment on respecting and celebrating the environment, including reducing our carbon emissions as an organisation and encouraging and supporting others to do the same. This includes a focus on the changes needed to how we travel, the energy we use, the waste we create and our food. Vale 2030 is supported each year by five Directorate Plans and a raft of annual performance measures. Vale 2030 sets out the

continued vision for the Council's work in response to the climate and nature emergencies and is aligned to the commitments in the Challenge Plan.

1.5. The Challenge Plan sets out activities that will contribute not only to the Council's aim of being net zero by 2030 but the wider aim of being net zero across the Vale by 2050, improving biodiversity, and contributing to the Welsh Government's 30 by 30 target and ambitions for the public sector and for Wales. In order to support our drive to net zero, a [Carbon Management Plan](#) was approved by Cabinet in 2024.

1.6. In response to the July 2022 Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee recommendations, a 'RAG' rating system (Red, Amber and Green) for progress has been continued at Appendix A. The rating reflects the progress from September 2024 to March 2025 only, and the ratings may fluctuate over time to reflect new opportunities and barriers in future reporting periods.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

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

2.2 The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee made a number of recommendations at the January 2025 meeting. Updates on these are outlined below:

- That any future Carbon Management Plan and Project Zero reports be presented to the Committee alongside each other and that a discussion takes place in the future with Committee Members as to how to present progress against targets.
 - **Update:** The Carbon Management Plan updates will be considered by the Resources Scrutiny Committee. An overview is included in this report at section 2.5 to assist the Place Committee.
- That clarity be provided going forward on how the Council was or was not succeeding in relation to the RAG Status.
 - **Update:** RAG rating of the 80 steps is shown at appendix A, along with any barriers to progress. The Climate Change Challenge Plan runs from 2021 to 2030 allowing activity to take place in a staged approach. As such, we are not expecting progress across all 80 areas within each 6-month period. In response to the recommendation to clarify the overall position, some wording will be added to section 2.3.
- That RAG status information be provided to Members in relation to Flood Management Plans and surface water issues.

- **Update:** The status of challenge 11 (PZC11.1) is unchanged and as identified in Appendix A attached. Whilst progress on a draft new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) has been delayed it is currently anticipated that a draft strategy will be available for statutory public consultation at the end of the calendar year and the details and outcome can then be reported to Cabinet in Q1 2026/27.

2.3 Some of the key progress from October 2024 to March 2025 in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below and more information on each challenge, the steps within, and the RAG rating of progress during the period is provided in Appendix A together with information on future plans, risks and barriers. Overall RAG rated progress is:

- 57 steps are on track
- 20 steps have slower than expected progress
- 3 steps have no progress

Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4

- Volunteering opportunities in our green spaces included fifteen volunteer groups working with Restore the Thaw to build their skills while carrying out conservation activities including dormouse box installation, meadow management, and tree planting.
- Our communication activities have included [new case studies on the Project Zero Hub](#), which has had 1,400 visits in the period. The highest performing post during Wales Climate Week reached 2,800 users.
- We have brought in external expertise; consultant energy audits and feasibility studies enabled the council to secure a 2024/25 £125k Ystadau Cymru Asset Collaboration capital grant. This funded upgrades at four community centres, including new internal LED lighting at Margaret Alexander and Barry Island, and both LED lighting and 6kW solar arrays at Highlight Park and Lower Penarth centres.
- A biodiversity e-learning module, developed by Cynnal Cymru and funded by Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) was launched and is accessible to staff, schools, and Councillors. PSB partners have also undertaken the training.
- SPF funding for business decarbonisation came to an end in this period with businesses benefiting and an overall saving of 96 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- Project Zero Board met with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner to share successes and challenges.
- Vale 2030 the new Corporate Plan strengthens the Council's ambitions with regards to the climate and nature emergencies.

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

- The Vale Local Nature Partnership (LNP) had its Welsh Government funding confirmed for a further 2 years. Local Places for Nature grant funded the development of 5 management plans across Barry and Penarth, which will improve

biodiversity and contribute to the Welsh Government's 30 by 30 target. In addition, over 10,000 trees have been planted by the Restore the Thaw Landscape project.

- The [Tree strategy](#) has been adopted by Council and is now operational, including a commitment to plant a minimum of 1,500 trees annually, and to work towards a net increase in canopy cover in urban areas on Council owned land by 7.5% by 2039. Future tree planting areas have been mapped, with a focus on supporting connectivity and working with landowners to develop tree planting opportunities.
- Tai ar y Cyd, a partnership of Social Landlords including the Vale of Glamorgan Council, launched the standardised pattern book for net zero homes in January 2025 - this will also form part of the evidence base for the further development of the Replacement Local Development Plan.
- Since December 2024 we have achieved a 55% reduction in the average m3 of water lost a day due to leaks through drawing attention to unusual water usage patterns.
- Progress on delivering 22 additional EV chargers under Phase 3 of the rollout is delayed due to concerns from ward members and residents about on-street parking impacts.
- Active travel enhancements include enhanced pedestrian routes, new off-street cycle paths in East Barry, and 80 new bike / scooter parking spaces installed at schools and on-street locations.
- Big Fresh has joined the steering group for the Welsh Government funded Welsh Veg in Schools project and successfully participated in its first year, using Welsh organic vegetables in school meals across 10 Vale schools.
- Preparation for the soft plastic collection pilot, which went live in April 2025, providing a weekly collection for 16,000 households in the Penarth and surrounding areas. By June 2025, 20 tons has been collected, well ahead of our forecasted target.
- Work to secure funding for an Officer to take forward the Local Area Energy Plan was undertaken. SPF funding was subsequently secured in April, with Project Zero reserves funding confirmed in May to part fund this role.

Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18

- Work has taken place to establish a social value framework which will ensure a Council wide approach to procurement to generate benefits, building on the work undertaken through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.
- During 2024/25, 112 council housing properties (combination of new build and retrofit on existing properties) have had Photovoltaic (PV) systems installed and 2 properties had air source heat pumps installed.
- Residents' energy usage in our Severn Avenue council housing shows measurable savings thanks to carbon reduction measures undertaken by the Housing Team. Over the first 10 months, the solar panels and batteries installed saved an estimated 6.6 tonnes of carbon, generated over 29,000 kWh of solar power, and collectively saved

residents a total of over £5,300 on their electricity bill. The average saving per flat was £177.60.

- Ysgol Llyn Derw is on target to meet the Net Zero Carbon in Operation targets and the Welsh Government embodied targets. The design will be monitored monthly through construction to ensure these targets are retained once in operation. Materials include a green roof and external timber cladding, all aiding the embodied carbon target.
- Works were completed at four community centres, all benefitting from new LED lighting and two from PV solar arrays.
- New PV arrays were installed at Ty Dyfan (30kWp) and Flying Start Skomer Road (8kWp) as part of re-roofing projects.
- Over 24/25, electricity consumption for fleet EV charging has increased by 55% compared with 23/24, showing a shift towards greater EV fleet use.
- 2 EV recycling vehicles have been purchased and delivered. The vehicle roll out has been positive.
- A cross directorate working group has been set up to explore opportunities to incentivise a greener staff commute.
- An extensive review of on-premises servers has taken place, including the consideration of cloud migration. If approved by Cabinet, once the cloud migration takes place, there will be a sizable reduction in operational energy related carbon emissions.
- A new print provider has been implemented and a revised print strategy workstream will focus on reducing the volume of printed material, lowering resource use.

2.4 Programme Management

- The Project Zero Board continues to steer the programme through bi-monthly meetings, with senior representation from across all directorates. Items considered in this period included a review of the corporate risk relating to climate change, operationalising the Carbon Management Plan, discussions on resourcing the Local Area Energy Plan, investigating our scope 1 & 2 emissions, and a review of our responsibilities and opportunities in supporting the Wales-wide net zero by 2050 target.
- The Project Zero Programme Manager and the Decarbonisation & Energy Manager have run a series of carbon data roadshows with all directorates to raise awareness of the 2023/24 carbon data and the Carbon Management Plan.
- During this period, we submitted evidence to [Climate Emergency UK](#) for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. The scorecards ask questions about the Council's activities in relation to building and heating, transport, planning and land use, governance and finance, biodiversity, collaboration and engagement, and waste and food. Results from all Local Authorities across Wales, Scotland and England were

published in June 2025. Ranking above the UK average, we performed most strongly in relation to governance, waste reduction and food.

- In line with the new performance reporting arrangements to deliver Vale 2030, all performance measures, including those for Project Zero, will now report formally to a Joint Performance Scrutiny Committee twice a year at Q2 (December 2025) and at Q4 with the End of Year performance for 2025/26 incorporated within the Council's Annual Self-Assessment (to be reported in July 2026). Project Zero performance measures for 2025/26 are at Appendix C for Members' information and consideration. Performance Indicator results for 2024/25 are at Appendix B. 2024/25 indicator successes include an increase in the amount of public realm / green infrastructure created and a rise in the number of private rented properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services.
- The Project Zero Programme Manager continues to engage with other Local Authorities and Public Sector bodies to learn and share good practice. This includes the WLGA Climate Officers group, the PSB Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group, and membership of the Shaping Places for Well-being programme being run by Public Health Wales and funded by the Health Foundation.
- The Project Zero Programme Manager and the communications team continue to meet regularly to roll out the dedicated communications plan. In this period a new [Project Zero Portal](#) has been developed and launched on Staffnet, bringing information and resources into one place.
- The awarding of Project Zero reserves continues to be predominantly on hold during the period due to in year pressure on the Council's budget. Despite this, schemes have continued to be scoped and will be considered when appropriate. At the same time, other sources of funding continue to support decarbonisation, as laid out in section 2.6.

2.5 Carbon Management Plan updates

- The focus of work during this period has been on raising awareness of our 2023/24 Net Zero Carbon reporting to Welsh Government and how this data links to our Carbon Management Plan.
- The 2023/24 Net Zero Carbon reporting data showed the following trends, with work taking place to address this:
 - A 1.4% increase in our total emissions
 - An increase in our supply chain emissions – we will be exploring the trends when the 24/25 data is available, and Ardal are launching new communications material in 2025/26 to raise awareness of decarbonisation
 - An increase in our electricity consumption (to be expected supporting EVs and electric heat pumps replacing gas boilers)

- A decrease in our natural gas consumption – during 2025/26 we are exploring removing gas heating from two sites and continue to replace failed gas water heaters with electric
 - Emissions associated with waste generated at our organisational sites and municipal waste reduced slightly – 2025/26 sees the introduction of a soft plastic waste pilot in our municipal waste service
 - Transport also showed a slight reduction - we continue to decarbonise fleet with an increase in our EV fleet
 - Staff commute and business travel emissions have reduced - we continue to support active travel and flexible working which supports decarbonisation and staff wellbeing
- Deep dives into the Carbon Management Plan activity areas have been held at Project Zero Board meetings, with focuses on fleet, business travel and staff commute, buildings and our procurement. These sessions have helped review the data afresh and link activity up across teams. PZ Board have disseminated these slide decks to their teams to continue to engage staff on our need to decarbonise.
 - Action and progress against the Carbon Management Plan during 2024-25 will be reported to Resources Scrutiny Committee in the summer of 2025.

2.6 Resources

- Much of the work reflected in this report is resourced within existing capacity, supported by established internal budgets and annual capital funds. External annual funding pots also support work, including from the Welsh Government, for example funding for the schools building programme, for transport, and for Council housing. In addition, time bound UK Government funding pots such as the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Welsh Government Assets Collaboration Programme Wales have enabled projects.
- During 2024-25, Project Zero reserves were used to match fund the air source heat pump at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and the litter bins and recycling banks for source separated materials scheme. The final outturn position will be reported to Cabinet in July 2025, which will report the commitments in 2024/25 and carried forward balances in these reserves to 2025/26. In addition to reserves, there are grants, funds and other budgets from within directorates that are used to undertake work that supports our goal to become net zero by 2030.
- Of the £669k included in the 2024/25 Capital Programme, £278k of this has been spent, the balance will be slipped to the 2025/26 Capital Programme. A budget of £250k is allocated against schemes for 2026/27 to 2028/29. Schemes have been presented to and approved by the Project Zero Board, with those completed or

started in the last six months of 24/25 including Penarth Leisure Centre PV Panels and Rhws Primary School PV Panels.

- Building on prior year's work, a grant was awarded to deliver further decarbonisation works at four Community Centres in 2024/25 as outlined in Appendix A at PZC16.3.
- The Council delivered schemes for Active Travel with funding from the Welsh Government in the sum of £1.92 M. These schemes, including the Albert Road Zebra Crossing (see figure 1) increase levels of active travel, improve health and well-being, improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, connect communities and improve active travel access to employment, education and key services, destinations and public transport.

Figure 1. Albert Road Zebra Crossing



- External funding from UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund has helped provide grants to community groups and businesses to undertake decarbonisation measures, with carbon savings outlined in Appendix A PZC4.4.
- Section 106 money has also been used to undertake a number of biodiversity, active travel and transport schemes, as highlighted in Appendix A, PZC5.4 and PZC6.7.
- The Vehicle Replacement Programme scheme out turned at £1.370M. Three grants were utilised in the sum of £380k to help fund electric vehicles including 2 Romaquip recycling vehicles.

2.7 The Public Services Board

- The Vale of Glamorgan Council and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) co-chair the Public Services Board (PSB) Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group which meets quarterly and reports to the PSB.
- The group has co-developed a [Climate and Nature Emergency Charter](#) to strengthen the previous Climate Emergency Charter, highlighting the role of

nature and laying out how partners will demonstrate progress. The Charter was published on Earth Day on 22nd April 2025, supported by a communications campaign.

- In this period, meetings explored the circular economy and climate change risk, with guests from external organisations and other PSBs sharing their learning.
- A proposal to undertake a Vale of Glamorgan PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment was submitted for consideration for SPF funding. The proposal was co-developed with PSB partner Natural Resources Wales, drawing learning from similar work undertaken by Cardiff PSB and Rhondda Cynon Taff PSB. The application was successful, the work is going out to tender, with an appointment expected in July 2025.
- A number of members of the Vale PSB are taking part in the Shaping Places for Well-being programme being run by Public Health Wales and funded by the Health Foundation. The programme will run until 2026 and will provide a national resource to support PSBs in taking a theory and evidence-informed systems approach in their work, in order to influence the wider determinants of health within the context of their well-being plans. The learning will be shared between PSBs, and across the UK. Learning Groups are focusing on three themes, which have commonality across the PSB Well-being Plans: Climate and nature emergency, Poverty and inequalities and Neighbourhood well-being.

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.

2.3 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.
- 4.2** This report includes details of progress spanning across the 18 challenges and 80 steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan at Appendix A. This includes progress towards our 2030 net zero goal through decarbonising our estate including schools, our fleet, waste and supply chain. Our wider work supporting county-wide decarbonisation by 2050 and tackling the nature emergency is also reflected in Appendix A including raising awareness of the climate and nature emergency within our community, our work in green spaces across the Vale, strengthening active travel routes across the Vale, and ensuring our new and existing council homes meet high standards in energy and water efficiency.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** The details of the Council's reserves and other funding to support the delivery of Project Zero are set out in the body of this report.

Employment

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

Legal (Including Equalities)

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

6. Background Papers

Council Notice of Motion 29 July 2019 - Minute 209

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

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

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

Vale of Glamorgan Council Corporate Plan April 2020

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/achieving_our_vision/Corporate-Plan.aspx

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

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

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

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

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

[Cabinet Report 22 March 2021 Minute C526 – Project Zero - Draft Climate Change Challenge Plan](#)

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

Council Minutes 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

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 \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

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

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 21st June 2023 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

[Minutes \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17th January 2024 Minute - Project Zero Update Report: [Project Zero Update Report \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 17th January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](#)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 16th January 2024 [Minute - Project Zero Update Report](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 19th June 2024 [Minutes and Project Zero Update Report](#)

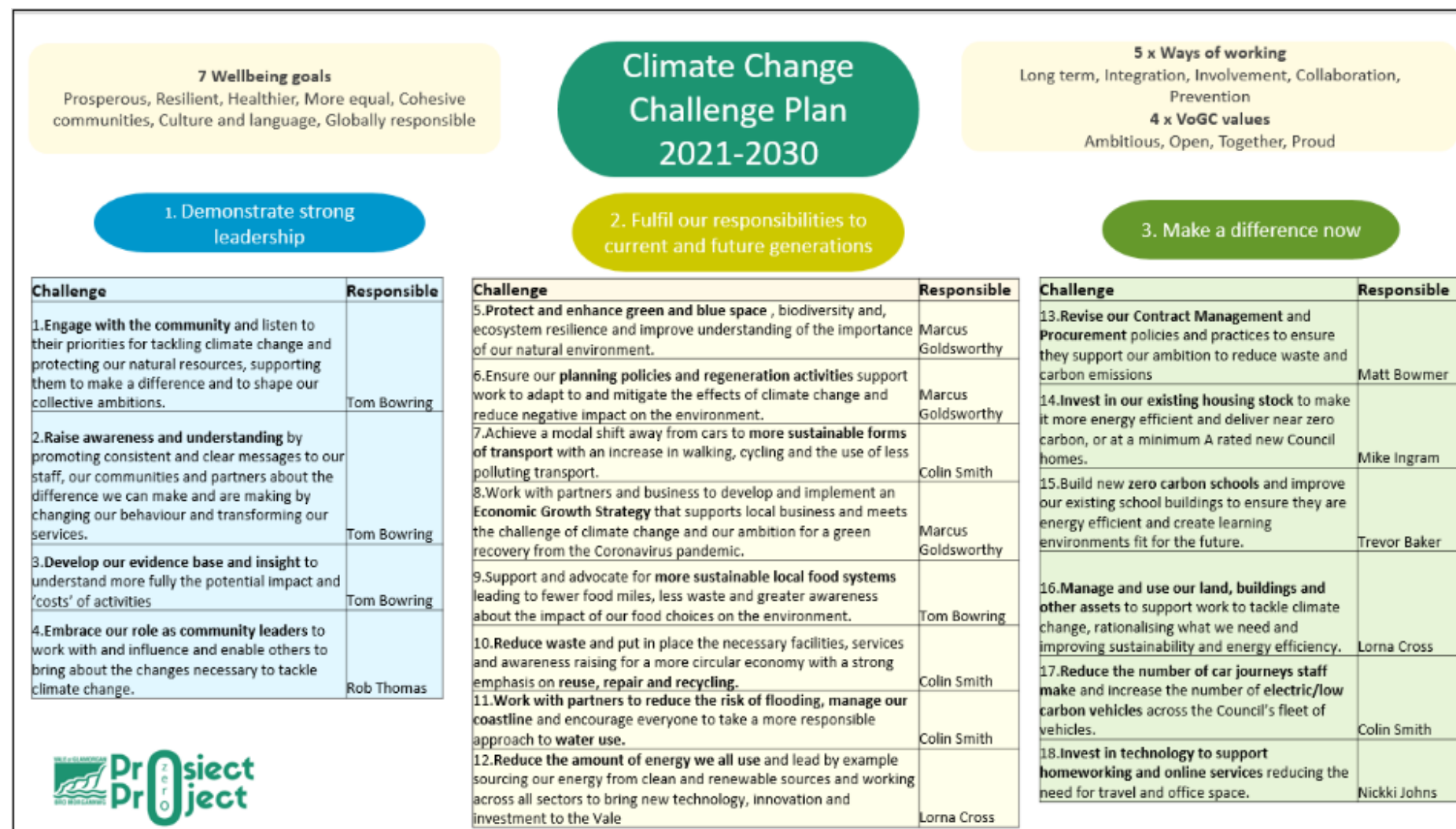
Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 18th June 2024 [Minutes](#) and [Project Zero Update Report](#)

Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee Report 15th January 2025 [Minutes and Project Zero Update Report](#)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Report 14th January 2025 [Minutes](#) and [Project Zero Update Report](#)

Appendix A. Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress, October 2024 to March 2025

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

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Tom Bowring

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC1.1 Build momentum around the Climate Change Community Conversation as an ambitious campaign for change.	Council presence at Ogmore and Penarth community events helped raise awareness of Council initiatives and strengthen local engagement.	N/A	On track	Updating case studies and maximise opportunities for community engagement. Vale roadshow to promote the Tree Strategy.
PZC1.2 Involve Stakeholder groups and develop a green ambassadors group to shape our plans and encourage behaviour change.	Met with families and carers at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant school to explore experience and attitudes to waste and energy saving. Work through FoodVale continues to build relationships with different groups and stakeholders. see PZC1.1 for community see PZC 3.2 on update on learning Cafe	N/A	On track	Event at Colcot Primary to explore attitudes to waste and energy saving. see PZC1.1 for community see PZC 3.2 on learning Cafe
PZC1.3 Promote volunteering opportunities and community projects	Community group activities were promoted on social media: a Restore the Thaw project Facebook post reached 4,200, with 76 interactions. The Value in the Vale webpage has 33 organisations involved in nature, food, and environmental initiatives. Vale Homes is supporting over 7 smaller projects, including gardening schemes in sheltered housing. 15 x volunteer work parties working with Restore the Thaw carried out conservation activities including dormouse box installation, meadow management, tree planting. Water quality testing and wildlife surveys (e.g., adder and otter). Further details at PZC5.2.	Lots of volunteer interest, but lack of staff capacity to oversee more activities	On track	Meet Keep Wales Tidy to raise awareness of community litter picking champion roles. Restore the Thaw to start a new partnership with Innovate Trust (funded by Welsh Water grant) working with a dedicated new volunteer co-ordinator officer.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Tom Bowring

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC2.1 Develop a co-ordinated programme of internal and external communications	We planned our 2025 campaigns around key eco dates. PZ Hub has been updated with new case studies and has had 1,400 visits in the period. The highest performing post during Wales Climate Week reached 2,800 users. Staffnet articles, direct email and end of week messages are used, including promoting the Cycle to Work Scheme.	N/A	On track	Launch a Project Zero Portal to enable staff to access information in one place. Campaigns planned to include Bike week and Big Green Week.
PZC2.2 Report on the progress being made and the impact of the changes we make	2023/24 carbon data has been presented to Directorates at senior team meetings, and 'deep dive' sessions on the Carbon Management Plan undertaken at Project Zero Board to explore successes and decarbonisation priorities. Relevant progress against 2024/25 Performance Indicators is reported at Appendix B. New Directorate Plan Performance Indicators for 25/26 have been agreed and are at Appendix C.	N/A	On track	Gather and submit 2024/25 carbon data to Welsh Government. Run a staff travel survey.
PZC2.3 Showcase community projects across the Vale.	See PZC1.3.	See PZC1.3.	See PZC1.3.	See PZC1.3.
PZC2.4 Signpost people to information and services within their community	We have updated the 'What can you do- Energy' pages to highlight new resources and to make them more accessible. We have also added a 'Make a pledge for 2025' function on the 'What can you do' section of the PZ Hub.	N/A	On track	Update the content on the grants and benefits, household energy bills, and help with food, pages on the Cost of Living Hub.

Project Zero: Challenge 3

Develop our **evidence base and insight** to understand more fully the potential impact and 'costs' of activities

Accountable: Tom Bowring

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC3.1 Bring in external expertise and research best practice in other organisations inc. with PSB partners to understand our impact.	Previous energy audits and feasibility studies enabled the council to secure a 2024/25 £125k Ystadau Cymru Asset Collaboration capital grant. This funded upgrades at four community centres, including new internal LED lighting at Margaret Alexander and Barry Island, and both LED lighting and 6kW solar arrays at Highlight Park and Lower Penarth centres. Through an Ystadau Cymru grant, Consultant Soltys Brewster produced 10 biodiversity improvement reports for high-potential sites plus a blueprint biodiversity action plan for all Vale community centre sites The PSB Asset Management and Climate Emergency Group shared learning on the circular economy and climate risk at their quarterly meetings. Some PSB members attended our Biodiversity training.	Risk of reduction in availability of external funding to support community based projects.	On track	Using SPF funding, appoint a consultant to undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Vale of Glamorgan PSB. Work with legal on agreements to enable community centres to undertake biodiversity work.
PZC3.2 Provide training for staff and Members.	During this period, 27 additional staff accessed Project Zero modules, bringing the total number of staff and elected members engaged to 116. The Biodiversity e-learning module, developed by Cynnal Cymru, was launched and is accessible to staff, schools, and Councillors. In March 2025, 56 individuals attended the in-person workshops, and an additional 51 accessed the online module, totalling 107 participants across all directorates and some schools.	Risk of take up being lower than desired, to be supported by targeted communications and sharing examples of the impact training has for colleagues.	On track	Promotion of Project Zero modules, including at induction, to include a focus on schools and elected members.
PZC3.3 Calculate and understand the Council's carbon footprint and publish other key data detailing our performance and progress	See PZC2.2 Review of Wales and county wide carbon data undertaken and shared with Project Zero Board. Ongoing work and opportunities to decarbonise by 2050 explored.	N/A	On track	See PZC2.2 PSB sub-group agenda item in June to share learning and experiences.
PZC3.4 Set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment.	The Carbon Management Plan which sets out carbon reduction targets was ratified by Cabinet. Progress made against the Carbon Management Plan is provided in brief in section 2.5 of this report and will be reported in more detail to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in September 2025.	Staffing capacity and constrained capital funding for decarbonisation projects across all directorates.	Slower than expected progress	Promote the Carbon Management Plan and 2024/25 net zero reporting across all staff to embed low-carbon behaviours.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Rob Thomas

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC4.1 Work with Welsh Government and influence policy change and legislation	Project Zero Board met with the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner to share successes and challenges. We have raised concerns with Welsh Government colleagues over the removal of the Ystadau Cymru Capital grant for decarbonisation related projects, which puts the breadth of our decarbonisation work at risk. Our procurement partners Ardal are members of a number of WG Carbon Reduction Groups including the Local Government Climate Strategy Panel - Procurement Group. Ardal will be part of Welsh Government Energy Service pilot of a Net Zero Reporting Tool starting in May.	Reduced community centre decarbonisation related schemes due to lack of this funding stream. Potential poor engagement of suppliers in the WG Pilot.	On track	As concerns over funding gaps have been highlighted a few times with WG, no further action in this respect is planned. Ongoing engagement of Ardal with WG policy leads on procurement.
PZC4.2 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change across the region.	Regular meetings with Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) energy have taken place. The Council have worked with CCR Energy on a supply chain project during this period to ensure that local businesses benefit from opportunities emerging from the development.		on track	Regular meetings will continue with CCR Energy.
PZC4.3 Work with PSB partners to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.	PSB meeting explored key charter themes, and a new Climate and Nature Emergency Charter was completed and strengthens the role of nature.	Variable engagement of PSB partners.	On track	Launch new PSB Climate and Nature Emergency Charter and report against annual Well-being Assessment.
PZC4.4 Work with business and industry, Town and Community Councils, Community groups and the Third Sector to make a difference locally	Paperwork is in process for a proposed role to take forward work with businesses and across sectors in relation to the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). SPF proposals submitted to part fund a LAEP Officer and extend the Food and Farming Officer Role. SPF funding for business decarbonisation came to an end in this period with businesses benefiting and an overall saving of 96 tonnes of CO2 emissions.		Slower than expected progress	Recruitment of LAEP Officer role pending Project Zero approval and carry over of funds from previous years.

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.

Project Zero: Challenge 5

Protect and enhance **green and blue space, biodiversity and, ecosystem resilience** and improve understanding of the importance of our natural environment.

Accountable: Marcus Goldsworthy

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC5.1 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Plan including a survey of all trees in the Vale and an assessment of the current infrastructure	No updates	Risk of lack of capacity and agreed approach to take this work forward	Slower than expected progress	Review approach to be taken forward. Green Infrastructure strategy will be included in the development of a Replacement Local Development Plan.
PZC5.2 Implement the biodiversity forward plan and raise awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife	Draft Biodiversity Forward Plan started. Vale Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Welsh Government funding confirmed for a further 2 years. Local Places for Nature grant funded the development of 5 management plans across Barry and Penarth, which will improve biodiversity and contribute to the council's 30 by 30 target. These sites have worked with community groups to support them in managing the green spaces and the LNP have hosted green skills training including hedge planting, orchard care and woodland management. Restore the Thaw Landscape (RTTL) project has constructed ponds at Fonmon, planted over 10,000 trees and run engagement activities. The Great Glamorgan Way project (GGW) has been hedge laying, fencing, and planted 35 oak and beech trees to replace ash trees removed.	Staff capacity to work on Biodiversity Forward Plan. Swift tower build delayed due to gap in staff training. GGW contractors have limited capacity, and were hindered by poor winter ground conditions and spring bird nesting	Biodiversity Forward Plan is Slower than expected progress. All other activities in track	Complete draft Biodiversity Forward Plan and consult with lead officers. Swift tower to be erected. LNP will be delivering the Vale's Nature Recovery Action Plan, will run a Vale Nature Festival, and deliver the 'Our Nature Neighbours' project. RTTL to release 180 water voles into the River Thaw. GGW awaiting confirmation of SPF funding.

PZC5.3 Replace lost trees and promote tree planting across the Vale including working with owners of large areas of land.	Tree strategy adopted by Council and operational. Future tree planting areas have been mapped, with a focus on supporting connectivity. We worked with landowners to develop tree planting opportunities. Tree planting in our Countryside services is reported at PZC5.2. In our parks, open spaces and highways we planted 370 standard or larger trees in addition to whips in 2024/25 - almost double the amount of standard or larger trees compared to 2023/24.	N/A	On track	Scope third party funding for tree planting to improve connectivity across the Vale, in partnership with private landowners. RTT to plant 10,000 trees in partnership with local landowners in 2025/26.
PZC5.4 Improve existing and create more green and blue spaces through Council led schemes, s.106 funds and new transport schemes.	Celtic Way Park, Rhosce: New play area completed plus new junior bike stands. Sully Primary School Area: Completed pedestrian enhancements Cowbridge: Footway improvements near Y Bont Faen Primary School. Murchfield Community Space: work includes planting, multifunctional seating, and basketball/netball courts. Sully: Enhanced bus shelter installed Alexandra Gardens, Barry: Replacement benches and new tree planting.	Additional funding and member consultation needed for Borough Close. Works. Delays at Murchfield Community Space due to design decisions and contractor co-ordination.	On track	Complete schemes and start enhancement near Conybeare Road in Sully and at Wenvoe Recreational Ground. Start work on controlled crossing in Llantwit Major and on 2 bus stops in Dinas Powys.
PZC5.5 Work with local communities to increase the number of allotments and community garden space.	See PZC 9.5	See PZC 9.5		See PZC 9.5

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Marcus Goldsworthy

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC6.1 Produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.	No further progress to date due to limited resource and other ongoing flood action priorities.	Resource, funding and competing priorities	No progress	Consider Project Zero funding application subject to resource.
PZC6.2 Review/produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on tackling climate change.	No progress	Risk of insufficient funding/lack of resources.	No progress	Consider Project Zero funding application subject to resource.
PZC6.3 Maximise opportunities to meet our communities need for housing, employment and services through, where possible, the sustainable redevelopment of brown-field land in appropriate locations, through Local Development Plan	Preparation of the RLDP in accordance with the agreed Delivery Agreement has slipped but good progress has been made on the preparation of evidence to inform the RLDP.	N/A	Slower than expected progress	A targeted non-statutory public consultation on growth in Barry is planned. This will form part of the evidence base for the plan. Work on the RLDP and its evidence base will continue.
PZC6.4 Work with developers to develop zero carbon buildings.	Spring Design completed the final stage of the Net Zero Buildings Feasibility Study and Cost Assessment, recommending that policies require new dwellings to be net zero carbon in operation, and setting embodied carbon targets. Tai ar y Cyd, a partnership of Social Landlords including the VoGC, launched the standardised pattern book for net zero homes in January 2025 - this will also form part of the evidence base for the RLDP. The Tai ar y Cyd launch event included engagement with the development industry.	N/A	On track	Based on the evidence base from the Spring Design study and the Tai ar y Cyd project, the RLDP will include policies requiring new dwellings to be net zero carbon in operation, as well as setting embodied carbon targets. The Deposit RLDP will continue to be prepared.
PZC6.5 Create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy.	See PZC 6.4	See PC 6.4	On track	See PZC 6.4
PZC6.6 Require all new and significant developments to implement	This action represents business as usual. Team has recently expanded with Apprentice role to assist with workload. Also considering other posts to assist with inspections and enforcement arrangements associated with SAB.	Limited resource to undertake enforcement activities subject to	On track	Ongoing review of resources and service delivery to improve effectiveness.

appropriate sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to appropriately manage surface water, water quantity and biodiversity.		review of posts and funding.		
PZC6.7 Use S106 agreements to invest in environmental and sustainable transport measures.	See PZC5.4 Plus: New and improved lighting implemented on Subway Road, Barry. Section 106 contributions continue to be used towards the Greenlinks service.	N/A	On track	Consider enhancements to Conybeare Road play area in Sully and Bearfield in Cowbridge. Opportunities for match funding will also be explored to support relevant schemes.
PZC6.8 Work with Cardiff City Region to explore opportunities to promote and develop clean growth hubs capitalising on Barry as a dock and maximising renewable energy potential.	The Council continues to hold monthly meetings with Associated British Ports to review progress on Barry Dock and other projects they are developing.	N/A	On track	Business as usual meetings with CCR and Associated British Ports.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Colin Smith

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC7.1 Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to improve public transport options for the region and implement taxi charging points as well as a future network of car park and bus charging points.	Progress on delivering 22 additional community EV chargers under Phase 3 is delayed due to concerns from ward members and residents about on-street parking impacts. Funding has been extended to September 2025 to address these issues and implement as many sites as possible.	Objections from residents and ward members have prevented EV charger installations at some proposed locations, placing associated funding at risk.	Slower than expected progress	Continue the Phase 3 implementation of EV Chargers wherever practicable. Prepare a highways EV Charging policy for approval by cabinet.

PZC7.2 Work with developers to ensure new business, leisure and housing developments plan appropriately for transport needs and encourage behaviour change.	The highway development team continue to work with the local planning authority and developers as part of the normal business activities to optimise active travel and public transport opportunities and facilities provided as part of all new development to reduce reliance on private cars for journeys and thereby reduce carbon emissions.	Risk of lack of resource and competing priorities within the service area. Risk of siting new schools in areas with limited sustainable travel options.	On track	Continued engagement with all key stakeholders as new developments are identified and submitted for detailed planning consideration.
PZC7.3 Increase active travel (walking and cycling) and improve the transport infrastructure in the Vale through the use of Welsh Government grants to improve access, safety and the joining up of the active travel network.	Active Travel improvements include enhanced pedestrian routes and 4km of off-road cycle paths in East Barry (WG AT funding), with lighting upgrades near St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School. An additional 6.6km of pedestrian routes to Barry town centre were delivered via SPF funding. Nine further routes on the Active Travel Network Map were upgraded to Active Travel walking standards. Across the Vale, an additional 80 bike/scooter parking spaces were installed at schools and on-street locations. Wayfinding signage was added from Culverhouse Cross to Barry to support AT.	N/A	On track	Pedestrian improvements planned for Penarth area. AT work funded for signalised crossing on Coldbrook Road East.
PZC7.4 Expand the Nextbike e-cycle hire scheme into other parts of the Vale following on from the implementation of the scheme in the Penarth area.	2 further Brompton Bike lockers installed in Barry and Penarth. No further action taken on a wider bike hire scheme in the Vale.	Difficulties with Network Rail processes to install bike hire stations on their land.	On track	Plan Brompton Bike locker at Cogan Train Station using SPF funding.
PZC7.5 Work with all schools to ensure they have green travel plans and adequate cycling facilities	Schools contacted to develop/improve their Active Travel school plans. To date there are 20 schools in the Vale with an ATSP.	Risk of insufficient time for school staff to develop their plan.	Slower than expected progress	Work with schools to ensure current ATSPs are kept updated and work with schools without a plan.
PZC7.6 Establish a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and support projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles.	See PZC7.1	See PZC7.1	Slower than expected progress	Tendering process undertaken and partner company identified to deliver a fast EV charging service adjacent to Cardiff Airport on land owned by the Council.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Marcus Goldsworthy

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC8.1 Develop and implement a sustainable and green Economic Growth Strategy.	Progress on Placemaking Plans remains on track with Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge nearing completion.	Approval from Cabinet and Town Council required. The Destination Management Plan (DMP) is subject to funding.	On track	DMP progressed subject to funding. Cabinet approval of Placemaking plans begins.
PZC8.2 Support increased digital access and literacy in the community.	There is good engagement at weekly digital skills sessions at The Pod, run in partnership with Adult Community Learning. These help individuals get online and build digital literacy. With new Chromebooks available, participants now use The Pod as a hub for job searching and practicing online assessments.	N/A	On track	5 week digital skills sessions continue, and The Pod will continue to be a digital space for individuals using the service.
PZC8.3 Support employment opportunities linked to a green economy and work with the Cardiff Capital Region to explore green jobs growth potential in areas such as renewables.	CCR/CCR Energy will not proceed with the Aberthaw/VoG skills assessment project at this time. However, they are advancing a CCR-wide LAEP skills and supply chain assessment, including VoG, and are in discussions with CAVC and CCR Energy on a strategic talent outreach initiative starting on the southern belt.		Slower than expected progress	CCR LAEP skills assessment supplier should be appointed in early May. The assessment is to be completed by end July 2025. Economy, employment and skills study is being commissioned through SPF funding, to be completed by January 2026.
PZC8.4 Work with businesses, colleges and universities to identify opportunities and promote new technology.	We have connected the Cowbridge Business Forum with CRS, a Vale-based consultancy supported through the Innovation Net Zero programme, to scope opportunities for free waste audits which can help increase recycling and cut waste and related carbon emissions.	Lack of dedicated staff resource	On track	CRS to pilot waste audits with Cowbridge Business Forum

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Tom Bowring

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC9.1 Work through the PSB and Food Vale to implement the Move More Eat Well Plan and to promote buying local produce and shopping locally	Published in December 2024, the Good Food and Movement Framework (2024-2030) and Implementation Plan (2024–2026) replaced the Move More Eat Well Plan as the region’s strategy for promoting healthy lifestyles through a whole-system approach. Developed with input from community groups, data, and past learnings, the plan focuses on four key themes: Healthy Environment, Healthy Settings, Healthy People, and Leadership and Enabling Change. Work in underway to plan the summer 2025 Vale Food Trail including activities and events showcasing local producers and promoting buying locally. A Vale Community Food Growing Mapping Project—led by Social Farms and Gardens— has identified 54 growing spaces across the area. The project engaged with 17 Town and Community Council wards and received responses from 9 community-led growing spaces.	N/A	On track	The Vale Food Strategy to be finalised. The Vale Food Trail will return in summer 2025. A Community Food Growing Mapping report will be completed.
PZC9.2 Work within Food Vale to obtain Sustainable Food City status and promote businesses that have sustainable practices	See PZC 9.1: the Framework and Implementation Plan supports the achievement of the Silver Sustainable Food Places Status.	N/A	On track	See PZC 9.1
PZC9.3 The Big Fresh Catering Company which serves nearly 2 million meals a year will take steps to further reduce its impact on the environment	Big Fresh has joined the steering group for the Welsh Veg in Schools (WVIS) project and successfully participated in its first year, using Welsh organic vegetables in school meals across 10 schools. Planning for this year’s harvest is underway, with local growers having planted for the summer and autumn terms. Progress is also being made to involve our contracted supplier, and we’ve identified six independent growers in the Vale of Glamorgan to collaborate with.	High cost of produce from independent small growers means that WG financial support is needed.	On track	Engage with local growers to explore opportunities for collaboration and facilitate their integration with our contracted supplier.

PZC9.4 Review procurement arrangements to support less food miles and less packaging and waste.	The Regeneration Team, in collaboration with Big Fresh, Procurement, and Ardal, have embed local supply chain clauses into the fruit and veg tender, awarded to WR Bishop & Son, who committed to working with local growers through WVIS. To prepare for the 2025 season, Big Fresh and the Regeneration Team engaged with WVIS stakeholders and growers, with seven Vale growers attending a national summit—the highest county representation in Wales. Four of these growers have now committed crops to meet Big Fresh’s 2025 produce needs. Quarterly catering meetings with care home cooks and managers now in place including discussions on minimising waste and reducing food miles.	Steep learning curve for new growers and wholesaler with support needed. Organic certification is costly and rigid. See PZC9.3 risks	On track	Key local supplies resume in 2025 Autumn term, with 10 schools taking increased volume. Monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken.
PZC9.5 Work with community groups and through the Green Infrastructure Plan to encourage people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.	Survey has gone to schools to support the development of a more coordinated approach to school food-growing activities in the Vale. Food Vale commissioned Social Farms & Gardens to carry out a community food mapping study, identifying local growing spaces, access barriers, and the need for more sites.		On track	School food growing survey results to be reviewed. Community food mapping report to be completed. A digital map will be developed and hosted on the Food Vale website.
PZC9.6 Promote and facilitate food waste recycling for residents, business and schools	The waste team have been working closely with schools regarding promoting food waste recycling. A new, more competitive, pricing schedule has been developed	There may be collection issues if all schools join at the same time.	On track	Carry on working with schools: recycling officers to undertake some awareness sessions.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Colin Smith

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC10.1 Adopt a new Waste Management Strategy with a strong emphasis on working with the community.	Recycling officers are continuing to work with housing on a weekly basis to assist residents increase recycling. The recycling officers are also working with housing associations to again improve recycling rates.	Risk of insufficient resources and other work commitments	On track	Continue to work with Housing to increase recycling.

	Our recycling rates for 24/25 were over 71%, subject to NRW validation in October 2025. This is above the WG target of 70% and is an increase on 2023/24. We remain in the top quartile of Welsh Local Authorities. 0.25% of municipal waste went to landfill in 2024/25, well below the WG target of 5%.	within the waste service.		
PZC10.2 Develop campaigns to change behaviour e.g. to reduce single use plastics and packaging and to increase reuse, recycling and composting.	Soft plastic collection pilot went live in April 2025, providing a weekly collection for 16,000 households in the Penarth and surrounding areas. This has been supported by a comms campaign and has been well received by the public.	Risk of potentially low participation rates in soft plastics pilot.	On track	Evaluation of the soft plastic pilot.
PZC10.3 Promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste.	see PZC10.4	see PZC10.4	see PZC10.4	see PZC10.4
PZC10.4 Establish a Reuse Shop to take in products, repair as necessary and sell them on	The Reuse shop is well established and continues to do well. We have agreed with Enfys to hold another 2 pop up shops this year to provide an opportunity for residents to attend a reuse shop. Including the Reuse shop and textile recycling, over 630 tons of waste was reused, and increase against 208 tons in 2023/24.	Enfys staffing issues may limit ability to host pop-ups.	On track	Plan additional pop-up shops for with Enfys and FCC
PZC10.5 Roll out of recycling arrangements across the Vale and work with schools and business to reduce waste and improve recycling rates	See PZC9.6: We have continued to update our Commercial offer to schools by developing a new pricing strategy that will attract more of our schools in the Vale. The Regeneration Team have connected CRS (Circular Resource Specialists) consultancy with businesses in Cowbridge for a waste reduction pilot	Risk of schools deciding to remain with their current supplier and competitors lowering their prices.	On track	Continue to work with schools to increase the number of contracts within the Vale. CRS pilot roll out to businesses around Cowbridge.
PZC10.6 Build a new Resource Recovery Centre in the Western Vale.	We are continuing to work with the property section to locate land that will allow us to build a new facility in the Western Vale.	Risks of unavailability of land or cost escalation.	On track	Continue to work with the property team to locate some land in the Western Vale.
PZC10.7 Commit to avoiding the export of any residual waste or recycling materials from the UK	Through working with WRAP we have procured a supplier to take our soft plastic material: Jayplas will used the material to manufacture bags for life.	Reliant on Jayplas, but they are expanding and building a new facility in Swansea	On track	Consider expanding soft plastic collection into the rural Vale and Barry.

Project Zero: 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**.

Accountable: Colin Smith

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC11.1 Implement a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan.	No progress in last quarter.	Risk of lack of resource and competing priorities within the service area.	No progress	Progress internal consultation to develop LFRMS aims objectives and measures prior to public consultation.
PZC11.2 Ensure Sustainable-Drainage Systems (SuDS) are delivered.	See PZC6.6	See PZC6.6	See PZC6.6	See PZC6.6
PZC11.3 Promote water efficiency measures in our work and buildings.	We are continuing to monitor and provide regular reports to sites. We are encouraging people to view their data on Energy Manager live and question anomalies especially out of hours usage. Since December 2024 we have achieved a 55% reduction in the average m3 of water lost a day due to leaks through drawing attention to unusual water usage patterns.	Risk of low engagement from end users, data loss due to logger failures or damage, and Welsh Water delays in completing logger installations.	On track	Continue providing site reports and encouraging colleagues to monitor their own data. Maintain communication with suppliers to complete outstanding work and monitor performance to quickly identify and resolve issues.
PZC11.4 Encourage the re-use of rainwater where possible.	No progress within the planning system: this is within the SuDs hierarchy, but we are unable to compel developers to use such systems and generally not economically viable. Council housing schemes continue to prioritise SuDS and rainwater harvesting.	RLDP is mostly outside the influence of Neighbourhood Services.	Slower than expected progress	Discuss inclusion of rainwater reuse within RLDP complimentary to a future SuDs Special Planning Guidance.

Project Zero: 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

Accountable: Lorna Cross

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC12.1 Develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan and contribute to the work of the Cardiff Capital Region.	Following adoption of the LAEP in July 2024, a prospective LAEP Officer role discussed at Project Zero Board. Job description developed, and proposal submitted for SFP match funding.	Potential LAEP Officer funding and recruitment barriers and delays.	Slower than expected progress	Following confirmation of funding, undertake recruitment of new LAEP role to support the delivery of the Local Area Energy Plan.
PZC12.2 Work with developers and businesses to move away from fossil fuels and explore opportunities for investment in alternative energy supplies.	Decarbonisation funding continued to be issued to businesses during the final quarters of the Shared Prosperity Fund, with business grants ending in March 2025. See PZC4.4 for information on the LAEP Officer role.	See PZC12.1	Slower than expected progress	See PZC 12.1
PZC12.3 Support community renewable energy projects and develop district heating networks.	See above – reliant on LAEP Officer role	See PZC12.1	Slower than expected progress	See PZC12.1
PZC12.4 Provide information about being more energy efficient in the home including raising awareness about grants and schemes for homeowners and tenants.	To date, 99 ECO4 Flex applications have been approved, with additional staffing now in place to support. Regular meetings with E.ON and three regional councils help track progress and address issues. Residents are signposted to Warm Wales for free energy advice and awareness efforts continue through the website, resident enquiries, and comms outreach. Since December 2024, three owner-occupier loans have been approved, supporting energy efficiency. South East Wales residents can now join the Solar Together group-buying scheme.	Several ECO installers have been suspended UK-wide due to poor-quality installations. Access to benefits data remains unavailable, limiting targeting low-income households. Reduced E.ON funding has impacted Warm Wales support.	On track	Plan for the end of ECO4 Flex (including our agreement with E.ON) when it comes to an end in 2026.

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.

Project Zero: Challenge 13

Revise our **Contract Management** and **Procurement** policies and practices to ensure they support our ambition to reduce waste and carbon emissions

Accountable: Matt Bowmer

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC13.1 Revise the procurement policy and strategy and train staff on more sustainable procurement to reduce consumption and encourage a circular economy.	The Council's procurement arrangements have had a higher profile with the new Procurement Act 2023 and regulations coming into force with awareness raising in advance, training sessions and amendments to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The partnership with Ardal is bedding in and new documentation is enabling greater engagement with the category managers. Work to update the procurement policy and strategy has begun. See PZC4.1 for Ardal's work on a Net Zero Carbon reporting tool.		Slower than expected progress	Complete update of procurement policy and strategy. Undertake a review of spend categories to better understand emissions. Circulate Ardal sustainable procurement animation to staff.
PZC13.2 Explore social and environmental clauses in contracts which place an increased focus on local supply chains and business, with a commitment to supporting the foundation economy.	Work has taken place to establish a social value framework which will ensure a Council wide approach to generating the benefits building on the work undertaken through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Where possible, extra weighting is applied to solutions that increase our reduction of CO2 (higher cost/impact contracts). See PZC9.4 for work to introduce local supply chain clauses into school fruit and veg tenders.		Slower than expected progress	Progress work on the social value framework and raise awareness internally and externally.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Mike Ingram

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC14.1 Deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A-rated new Council homes.	The Delivering Net Zero Pattern Book, now known as 'Tai ar y Cyd' was successfully launched in January 2025 – See PZC6.4. A preferred bidder has been appointed to conclude legal arrangements.	N/A	On track	Net Zero Pattern Book prototyping and pilot schemes will begin the design phase with 10 landlords (including the VoGC).
PZC14.2 Improve the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock and utilise Optimised Retrofit Programmes	During 2024/25, 112 council housing properties (combination of new build and retrofit on existing properties) have had Photovoltaic (PV) systems installed, and 2 properties had air source heat pumps installed. Carbon reduction works have been completed at Severn Avenue and four Airey properties in St Georges, following PAS 2035 guidelines. Over the first 10 months, the solar panels and batteries installed saved an estimated 6.6 tonnes of carbon, generated over 29,000 kWh of solar power, and collectively saved residents a total of over £5,300 on their electricity bill. The average saving per flat was £177.60. The PAS 2035 pilot scheme has been delayed due to procurement issues, with works now expected to begin in the next reporting period.	Risk of securing funding and meeting technological requirements within the proposed timelines. This is reviewed annually to optimise resource use and maximise outcomes. Some properties may not fully comply due to technical limitations.	On track	Launch the PAS 2035 Pilot Scheme. Complete surveys for 300 homes under the next PAS 2035 retrofit scheme and begin procurement for the following tranche of properties. Continue developing the carbon zero routemap for the housing stock.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Trevor Baker

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC15.1 Invest in carbon reduction measures across the educational estate.	As part of our ongoing school construction projects, the main contractor appointed an external consultant to monitor performance. The consultant provides monthly reports and data to our Corporate Energy and Decarbonisation Department. The reports have helped identify issues with solar PV and battery systems which we are working to address.	N/A	On track	Begin long-term planning to assess costs and operational impact.
PZC15.2 Design new schools to meet BREEAM Excellent standard, delivering energy efficient buildings, enhancing habitats for wildlife, and reducing the carbon cost of construction.	Ysgol Llyn Derw: Main contractor appointed; offsite works underway. St Richard Gwyn: Cost review in progress. Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg: Main contractor appointed for RIBA Stages 2–4. Onsite start scheduled for February 2026.	Risk of costs not aligning with available budgets.	On track	Review of Employers Requirements for future SCFL Rolling Programme projects to ensure alignment with corporate policies and sustainability goals. Onsite work to begin on Ysgol Llyn Derw and St Richard Gwyn
PZC15.3 Monitor and control carbon footprint at the construction stage and investigate options to address embodied carbon through natural materials and modern methods of construction.	Ysgol Llyn Derw (the only project in construction currently) is on target to meet the Net Zero Carbon in Operation targets and the Welsh Government embodied carbon targets - the design will be monitored monthly through construction to ensure these targets are retained once in operation. Materials include a green roof and external timber cladding, all aiding the embodied carbon target.	Risks of lack of availability of construction materials.	On track	Continuing to review progress on site against the design.
PZC15.4 Adopt a fabric first approach to achieve high thermal performance and install photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pumps.	Ensuring fabric first principals are delivered through the new projects - Ysgol Llyn Derw, St Richard Gwyn and Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg through regular design team meetings.	Designs have not yet fully demonstrated compliance with required criteria. Some sites may not support all carbon reduction measures needed for new buildings.	On track	Confirmation of Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCiO) and Embodied Carbon targets to be presented for review. Each project stage will include assessments to identify and address any issues.

PZC15.5 Improve school grounds biodiversity as a means of decarbonisation and map natural carbon sinks.	In discussions with Big Fresh to fund another wormery for Ysgol Bro Morganwg after they took part in the Food waste action week and undertook a food waste audit.	Monitoring of new ponds and planters has not taken place due to resource limitations.	Slower than expected progress	Continue discussion with Big Fresh for YBM wormery funding and monitor their food waste. Monitor ponds and planters that have been installed in schools.
PZC15.6 Focus on methods to further reduce in-use consumption; e.g. reducing catering, monitoring community usage.	Exploration of Eco-Directory output: scoping options to host the on the Participate Vale website.	Risk of limited capacity to dedicate to this area of work.	Slower than expected progress	Work to host the Eco-Directory on Participate Vale website

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Lorna Cross

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC16.1 Review the Asset Management Strategy. (corporate man plan)	Work continues on the actions set out in the plan. The Annual update is due in July 2025	Risk that property-owning Directors do not provide timely updates.	On track	The Corporate Asset Management Plan update will be presented to Cabinet during September 2025.
PZC16.2 Progress the Space Project to modernise and rationalise Council buildings including the creation of more green areas	The next phase of Eich Lle has been progressed with the Business Case being developed for this phase.		On track	Office moves are taking place to accommodate the relocation of the Place Directorate to the Civic Offices during the Summer. Social Services colleagues will move floors in the Dock Offices.

PZC16.3 Invest in and implement a programme of energy saving projects to reduce energy use across our buildings as part of the carbon management plan.	Works completed at four community centres, Highlight Park, Barry, Barry Island Community Centre, Lower Penarth and Margaret Alexander, all benefitting from new LED lighting and two from PV solar arrays. The air source heat pump has operated successfully through the winter at Ysgol Bro Morganwwg. New PV arrays were installed at Ty Dyfan Residential Home and Flying Start Skomer Road as part of re-roofing projects. We have commenced upgrades to our Building Management System which will help us manage the heating and building services across all our schools and buildings more effectively.	Risk of insufficient funding to deliver works.	On track	Solar PV arrays to be tendered. A number of sites where new roofs are being provided will benefit from solar PV e.g. Llanfair Primary School. Air source heat pump installation being considered for number of school sites.
PZC16.4 Maximise the potential of Council owned land and assets in the production of renewable energy and exploring ways in which this could benefit the local community	Project Management Unit currently considering next steps following receipt of consultancy report and marketing exercise outcome for Cardiff Airport EV site. Solar PV panels have been installed at Cogan Leisure Centre, Llangan Primary School, and our Flying Start Offices, Skomer Road as part of a re-roofing project.	Capacity challenges due to ongoing delivery of carbon reduction projects.	Slower than expected progress	Meet as a team to explore further opportunities. Rhws Primary School PV Panels installed.
PZC16.5 Encourage leaseholders to be more sustainable in how they use property leased from the Council.	Continues as business as usual		On track	Continues as business as usual
PZC16.6 Implement plans to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.	All LEDs for Zebra Crossings and high lift brackets have been installed. St Richard Gwyn has also been fully upgraded to LED.	.	On track	Exploring the upgrade of all non-LED lanterns to energy-efficient LED models at Barry Island.

Project Zero: 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.

Accountable: Colin Smith

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC17.1 Develop an electric /alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.	While limited progress has been made with the development of a written EV strategy, over 24/25, VoGC electricity consumption for EV charging has increased by 55% compared with 23/24. 2 EV Romaquip recycling vehicles have been purchased and delivered. The vehicle roll out has been positive. 9 EV vehicles have been bought throughout the year as part of the replacement programme, bring the total to 11 new EV vehicles. All EV vehicles were purchased via grant funding for the difference in costs.	Without additional funding, the purchase of EV vehicles will be limited.	Slower than expected progress	Approval of parking plans at Barry waste site. EV charging points to be considered in the build. Trial vehicles before purchase. Continue prioritising electric vehicles in the replacement programme.
PZC17.2 Promote and incentivise more sustainable staff travel including corporate membership for Nextbike, pool bikes, local bus services and TfW rail service with reduced charges for staff, non-car parking days for staff and a cycle to work scheme.	'My Travel Pass' materials have been received and distributed. Promotional posts for both schemes continue. Traveline Cymru (TfW) has been offered the opportunity to advertise on in-shelter digital displays, pending provision of suitable bilingual advert files. A cross directorate working group has been set up to explore opportunities to incentivise a greener staff commute.	Transport for Wales have not supplied posters and leaflets by Traveline Cymru (TfW) despite requests.	Slower than expected progress	Collaborate with Traveline Cymru to display information in bus shelters and on electronic displays. Promote bike week including a 'Dr Bike' session for staff. Explore options to open bike expenses claims to staff.
PZC17.3 Develop hub facilities for staff to work from to reduce the need to travel.	See PZC16.2	See PZC16.2	On track	See PZC16.2

Project Zero: Challenge 18

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

Accountable: Nickki Johns

Step	Q 3 & 4 Progress October '24 - March '25	Q 3 & 4 Risks and barriers	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating	Q 1 & 2 Planned actions April '25 - September '25
PZC18.1 Utilise new technologies and digital practices to reduce electricity usage and reduce carbon emissions	The most extensive use of electricity for the provision of Digital services is our Data Centre. In this period we undertook an extensive review into our on-premises servers and the option of cloud migration. We developed a business plan to deliver this and submit to Cabinet for consideration. The proposed outcome is a 15T CO2 reduction for energy utilisation.	Risk that detailed discovery period identifies any reasons not to proceed.	On track	On approval by Cabinet, we will begin implementation of the Cloud Migration.
PZC18.2 Implement a new Digital strategy to support increased use of technology and a reduction in office space and travel.	A new print provider has been implemented and a revised print strategy workstream will focus on reducing the volume of printed material. A wide range of upgrades have taken place which allow customer facing colleagues to provide reports or updates digitally, removing the need for excess printing and need to return to the office, which will cut the resource and travel related carbon footprint. A digital meeting room booking system has been delivered allowing us to use space more effectively within the council.	N/A	On track	Continuation of the digitisation of customer journeys to prevent the need to attend a Vale office. Implementation of new Cloud telephony system.

Appendix B: Corporate Performance Indicators results for Project Zero, 2024/25

Performance Indicator	Q4 2023/24	Q4 2024/25	Target 2024/25	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overarching							
CPM/264 - Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.	New 2024/25	12.6%	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	Let's Talk survey established baseline performance.	Environment & Regeneration
Green and blue spaces							
CPM/200 - Number of trees planted per year.	16,384	No data available.	No Target	N/A	N/A	No data is available for collection. During the year, there was no tree planting across our new programmes, as construction of these sites had not commenced. The Sustainable Communities for Learning Team does work towards Net Zero and reduction in carbon measures, but this isn't done through tree planting schemes alone. The schemes take a range of approaches to deliver carbon measures which includes putting in ponds on sites etc.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/108 - Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land that has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as a naturalised area.	348,090m 2 (up 35,687.62 m2)	No updated provided.	5% increase from last year	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/193 - Amount of Public realm / green infrastructure improved / created	19 + 11941m2 from ND	3450	1600m2	Green	↑	3,450m2 of public realm improvement at Porthkerry Country Park, this has included new public pathways, seating areas, all weather canopy and improved all weather parking	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/156: Number of local nature projects financially supported.	37	32	8	Green	↓	32 – projects supported	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/298: Percentage occupancy of Council allotment plots.	New 2024/25	100%	Establish Baseline	N/A	N/A	10 Allotment sites across the Vale of Glamorgan each with a waiting list. Plots that are available to be offered out are carried out following the process in place.	Healthy Living & Social Care Environment & Regeneration

Planning and Regeneration							
CPM/199 - The number of private rented properties where energy efficiency has been improved through direct action from Shared Regulatory Services.	44	93	50	Green	↑	During the year engagement has taken place with landlords of properties identified as not having an EPC in place which to date has resulted in a further 93 EPCs being validated rated C to Previous engagement with landlords of properties identified as having F and G ratings which are now rated B to E has resulted in an approximate total reduction in CO2 of 134 tonnes and 132459 kWh of energy across the 52 properties that responded to our engagement since 2023/24. In terms of enforcement activity officers are currently in the process of preparing penalty charge notices for those landlords that have not complied with the compliance notices served during Qtr. 3.	Homes & Safe Communities Environment & Regeneration
CPM/159: The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.	0.13ha	0	No Target	N/A	↓	This figure is for reporting purposes only as we have no influence over whether applications that will result in a loss of Public Open Space are made to the LPA	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/160: The area of public open space (ha) which would be gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.	0	0.46	No Target	N/A	↑	This figure is for reporting purposes only as we have no influence over whether applications that will result in a gain of Public Open Space are made to the LPA	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/161: Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	2	1	No Target	N/A	↓	This figure is for reporting purposes only as we have no influence over whether applications that will result in renewal and carbon energy are made to the LPA	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/162: Total energy output capacity (MW) granted planning permissions for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	7.3MW	25MW	No Target	N/A	↑	This figure is for reporting purposes only as we have no influence over whether applications that will result in renewal and carbon energy are made to the LPA	Environment & Regeneration
Transport							
CPM/066: Satisfaction with public transport including a) accessibility and b) road safety.	Data not provided	27.89%	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration

CPM/067: Satisfaction with public transport in the Vale of Glamorgan.	Data not provided	27.89%	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/068: Percentage of adults 60+ who have a concessionary bus pass.	Data not provided	72.65%	20%	Green	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/262: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: a) Public transport b) Walking routes c) Cycling routes d) Community transport	New 2024/25	A) 58.40% B) 68.70% C) 18.30% D) 3.20%	Establish Baseline	N/A	N/A	Figures from Lets Talk About Life in the Vale survey.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/263: Most used form of transport by Vale of Glamorgan residents: a) Car or van b) motorbike c) bus d) train e) cycle f) walk	New 2024/25	A) 75.10% B) 0.60% C) 5.50% D) 2.80% E) 1.70% 11.60%	Establish Baseline	N/A	N/A	Figures from Lets Talk About Life in the Vale survey.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/047: Value of investment levered into the Council that is dedicated to transport improvement schemes.	£6,372,795	£3,976,805	No Target	N/A	↓	This includes Welsh Government transport grant funding and Shared Prosperity funding (S106 not available at this time)	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/120: Number of passenger journeys undertaken on the Greenlinks service	1137	1398	1500	Red	↑	Passenger journeys have increased with the increase in volunteer drivers and an emphasis on more localised journeys being undertaken.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/121: Number of Members who used the community transport service over the year	170	123	150	Red	↓	Steady increase in members using the service due to availability.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/201 - Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.	24	No update provided.	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/202 - Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network	0.750	0	3000	Red	↓	No segregated infrastructure completed in FY24-25.	Environment & Regeneration

CPM/203 - Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network	0.300	0.148	39700	Red	↓	Works this year focused on pedestrian improvements and design of future cycle routes.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/195 - Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions.	6.8%	10.97%	No Target	N/A	↑	EV's have been purchased using Council budget and WGES grant	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/196 - Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are hybrid.	2.5%	2.90%	No Target	N/A	↑	Only one additional hybrid purchased for SRS. Main focus has been on EV vehicles.	Environment & Regeneration
Business decarbonisation							
W29 SPF (non-corporate)- Number of decarbonisation plans developed [by businesses]							
W29 SPF (non-corporate)-							
Waste							
CPM/116 - Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.	117kg	116.6kg	155kg	Green	↑	The smaller the amount of municipal waste not reused, recycled or composted the better which is why this is green when a lower than target amount is reported.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/307 (PAM/030) - 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.	70.35%	71.73%	71%	Green	↑	Draft figures may be liable to change as WDF submission is validated and verified by WG regulators for publication Oct/Nov'25.	Environment & Regeneration
Schools							
CPM/256: Percentage of building materials sourced locally as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme	New 2024/25	No data available	No Target	N/A	N/A	No data is available to report against this measure. All projects under the programme are at the beginning stages of construction so no data is available on sourcing of material locally. This data will only become available once construction on site commences.	Learning & Culture Environment & Regeneration
Flood management							
CPM/204 - Financial investment in flood protection measures in the local authority (annually).	£141,175.04	No data provided.	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration

Council housing							
CPM/139 - The average number of SAP rating for the Council's housing stock.	Data not provided	No data provided	75	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Homes & Safe Communities Environment & Regeneration
CPM/197 - Percentage annual reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across council housing stock.	Data not provided	0%	No Target	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/198 - Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting WHQS2 (2023)	Data not provided	No update provided.	10%	N/A	N/A	No commentary provided.	Environment & Regeneration Homes & Safe Communities
Council buildings and assets							
CPM/097 - Percentage of change in the average Display Energy Certificate (DEC) score within local authority public buildings over 1000 square metres.	-20	10.6	3%	Green	↑	The DEC rating average has continued to improve across our estate.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/098 - Percentage change (reduction) in carbon dioxide emissions in the non-domestic public building stock.	14.4%	No data available	3%	N/A	N/A	Data not available until Q2.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/100 - Percentage of Council streetlights that are LED.	93%	96.5%	96%	Green	↑	Quotes received for another LED upgrade scheme for Catle Creep subway. Ornate lanterns are being looked at to upgrade to LED. More funding available to target the more expensive ornate style lanterns.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/264 - Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.	New 2024/25	12.6%	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	Let's Talk survey established baseline performance.	Environment & Regeneration
CPM/217 - Volume of EV charges through the use of our EV fleet (in kWh)	New 2024/25	36,344 kWhr	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	Electricity consumption for EV charging has increased by 55% compared with 23/24.	Corporate Performance & Resources

							Environment & Regeneration
CPM/218 - Total Photovoltaic (PV) installed (kW per year) within Council Housing.	New 2024/25	194,825 kW per year	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	During 2024/25 112 properties (combination of new build and retrofit on existing properties) have had Photovoltaic (PV) systems installed. Housing and Building Services have installed individual systems on single properties, along with the Solshare system on blocks of flats which shares the solar power equally between flats.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/219 - Total Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installed (kW per year) within Council Housing.	New 2024/25	8570 kW per year	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	During 2024/25 2 properties had new ASHPs. The Estimated KWh/year for each property from a 7KW ASHP in a 3 bedroom property is 4285 KWh/per year.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/220 - Total Photovoltaic (PV) installed (kW per year): Council buildings and assets	New 2024/25	194,825 kW per year	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	During 2024/25 112 properties (combination of new build and retrofit on existing properties) have had Photovoltaic (PV) systems installed. Housing and Building Services have installed individual systems on single properties, along with the Solshare system on blocks of flats which shares the solar power equally between flats.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/223 - Overall carbon emissions (in Kg CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/222 - Overall carbon emissions from fleet (in Kg CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration

CPM/227 - Overall carbon emissions from commuting (in KG CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/228 - Overall carbon emissions from land use (in KG CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/225 - Overall carbon emissions from supply chain (in KG CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration
CPM/226 - Overall carbon emissions from our buildings (in Kg CO2)	New 2024/25	No data available.	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	24/25 reporting methodology not yet available from WG. Anticipated reporting Sept 2025.	Corporate Performance & Resources Environment & Regeneration

Appendix C. 2025/26 Performance measures as relevant to Project Zero

Corporate Resources

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2023/24 (or Q3 2024/25 if quarterly reported PI)	Target 2025/26	Reporting Frequency	Alignment to CP Well-being Objectives	Indicator Type
Citizen Perspective					
CPM/216/ Corporate Plan Measure: Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the climate emergency.	16%	N/A	Biennial	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
CPM/264: Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.	12.6%	N/A	Biennial	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
Finance and Procurement					
New PI 2025/26: Percentage of council contracts with social value targets to improve equality/environmental outcomes.	New for 2025/26	N/A Establish baseline	Annual	Being the Best Council We Can Be	Service Outcome
Property & Decarbonisation					
New PI 2025/26/ Corporate Plan Measure: Reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council's non-domestic buildings.	7,753.17 tonnes CO2e	1,300 tonne reduction	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

Environment and Housing Directorate

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2023/24 (or Q3 2024/25 if quarterly reported PI)	Target 2025/26	Reporting Frequency	Alignment to CP Well-being Objectives	Indicator Type
CPM/262/ Corporate Plan Measure: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: a) Public Transport b) Walking Routes c) Cycling Routes d) Community Transport	58.4% 68.7% 18.3% 3.2%	N/A	Bi-ennial	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
CPM/307(PAM 30)/ Corporate Plan Measure: 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.	71%	71%	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
NEW PI/ Corporate Plan Measure: the number of residential and commercial properties suffering internal flooding.	New for 2025/26	N/A Establish Baseline	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service User
CPM/195: Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions	6.8%	8%	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/198: Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting WHQS2 (2023)	No Data	10%	Annual	Supporting and Protecting Those Who Need Us	Service Outcome

CPM/108: Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as a naturalised area	No Data	5%	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/200: Number of trees planted per year - NS&T	2393	2,500	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/111: The percentage of reported fly tipping incidents which lead to enforcement activity.	70.83	11%	Quarterly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/201: Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.	No Data	5	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/116: Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.	116.73	115	Quarterly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
New PI: Publicly available charging facilities for electric vehicles per 100,000 population.	New for 2025/26	5	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service User

Place Directorate

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2023/24 (or Q3 2024/25 if quarterly reported PI)	Target 2025/26	Reporting Frequency	Alignment to CP Well-being Objectives	Indicator Type
CPM/162: Total energy output capacity (MW) granted planning permissions (including Development of National Significance) for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year (only recorded where schemes produce at least 1MW as per WG guidelines).	7.3MW (not including DNS figures) (2023/24)	Target not applicable	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
Number of individuals engaged as part of the placemaking process.	1100 (Q3 2024/25)	400 To reflect higher level as part of plan x 4 development	Annual	Creating Great Places to Live, Work and Visit	Citizen Perspective
New PI 2025/26: Number of trees planted per year by the Countryside Service.	New PI for 2025/26	Establish baseline	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM159: The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a result of development granted planning permission during the year	0.13 Ha (2023/24)	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM160: The area of public open space (ha) which would be gained as a result of development granted planning permission during the year.	0 (2023/24)	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

CPM161: Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	2 (2023/24)	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM163: The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on previously developed land during the year.	10.325 Ha (2023/24)	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM164: The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on greenfield land during the year.	1.121 Ha (2023/24)	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome