

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 24TH SEPTEMBER 2026

REFERENCE FROM PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 14TH JULY 2026

“159 [PROJECT ZERO UPDATE REPORT \(DCR\)](#) –

The report provided an update on progress with the wide range of activity being undertaken to ensure the Council continued to deliver against commitments in the Climate Change Challenge Plan and to take forward Project Zero. This included the RAG (red, amber, green) rating of progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan (Appendix A to the report).

A presentation was given to the Committee by the Project Zero Programme Manager highlighting the key areas of the report, including the progress and updates against the 18 Challenges, 80 Steps of the Project, as well as the relevant resources, the work with the Public Services Board, and the Performance Measures for 2025/26 and 2026/27 (Appendix B and C to the report).

Members of the Committee raised several queries and comments, which were addressed by the Project Zero Programme Manager and the Head of Neighbourhood Services. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Sustainable Places also contributed to the discussion of the report.

Following discussion of the item and the points raised as part of this, Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the progress and funding detailed within the report and Appendix A in relation to the challenges within the Climate Change Challenge Plan and the work of the Public Services Board (PSB) to tackle the climate and nature emergencies be noted.

(2) T H A T the 2025/26 performance detailed at Appendix B to the report and the performance measures for 2026/27 detailed at Appendix C to the report be noted.

(3) T H A T the following comments be forwarded to the relevant Council officers for their action or consideration:

- To look at the potential use of section 106 funding to maximise support for tree planting;
- Committee to receive an update on the progress of securing a waste management site in the Rural Vale of Glamorgan as part of a future report on the strategic overview of waste priorities;

- To congratulate Big Fresh on removing Palm Oil from food produced for schools. For the relevant Council officer(s) to speak to Big Fresh also about not using soya fed meat and to provide feedback to the Committee on the status of this.

(4) T H A T the report and the following comments be referred to Cabinet for their consideration:

- The Council should ensure that funding is secured to monitor and control carbon footprint at the construction stage of any new schools and other major development work to ensure they are energy efficient;
- That the Vale of Glamorgan Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) should prioritise investment in public transport and active travel to reduce reliance on motor vehicles;
- That steps should be taken to enable the Council to maximise the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels at schools.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents and recommendations of the report, as well as the discussions at the meeting.

(3) To enable the relevant Council officers to consider the comments / proposals made by the Committee with regard to the report.

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

Attached as Appendix – Report to Place Scrutiny Committee: 14th July 2026

Meeting of:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Tuesday, 14 July 2026
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Place Scrutiny Committee
Urgent Decision Procedure Used (If yes, why)	N/A
Item Type	Part I
Report Title:	Project Zero Update Report
Portfolio Holder:	Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources
Strategic Leadership Team:	Director of Corporate Resources
Lead Officer:	Susannah McWilliam – Project Zero Programme Manager

1.0 What is this report about?

- 1.1. This report and Appendix A provide an update on progress with 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 (Appendix A).
 - 1.2. Progress and developments from October 2025 to March 2026 are detailed including the completion of a PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund, the roll out of soft plastic collections across the Vale, and planting of around 15,000 trees.
 - 1.3. 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.
- 1.1 The report also updates on the approach to programme management, the 2025/26 performance relevant to Project Zero at Appendix B, and the 2026/27 performance measure for the year ahead at Appendix C.

2.0 What are the Recommendations?



	Recommendations – What and How?	Reason for Recommendation – Why?
2.1	That the Committee consider the progress and funding 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 (PSB) to tackle the climate and nature emergencies.	To enable the committee to consider how Project Zero and the related work of the Public Services Board is being taken forward.
2.2	That the Committee considers the 2025/26 performance at Appendix B and notes the performance measures for 2026/27 at Appendix C.	To ensure that the Members are aware of the 2025/26 performance and performance measures for 2026/27.
2.3	That the Committee refer this report and any comments to Cabinet to be considered.	To enable Cabinet to consider the comments of the committee as part of its consideration of progress in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan.

3.0 What is the background to this report?

3.1. 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.

3.2. [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.

- 3.3. At the Council meeting in July 2021 a motion was also passed resolving to declare a Nature Emergency (Minute 289).
- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. 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 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.
- 3.6. 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 in this report reflects the progress from October 2025 to March 2026 only, and the ratings may fluctuate over time to reflect new opportunities and barriers in future reporting periods.

4. What issues are there to be considered?

- 4.1. This report and Appendix A provide an overall update on the wide range of activity being undertaken as part of Project Zero. Progress under each step is summarised, along with examples of activities undertaken against each challenge.
- 4.2. In addition, this report provides Performance Measurement data for 2025/26 at Appendix B. Highlights show a rise in the number of residents who say they are using public transport (64.8%), walking routes (75.8%), and cycling (18.5%). The number of electric vehicles has increased by 9 since last year, making up 11.7% of our fleet. The Council significantly increased the area of parks, open spaces and highways land managed as wildflower or naturalised areas, exceeding the annual target. Performance Measures for 2026/27 are at Appendix C.
- 4.3. Some of the key progress from October 2025 to March 2026 in delivering the Climate Change Challenge Plan is detailed below. In Q3&4 2025/26 the overall RAG rated progress is shown in table 1 below, with 69 of the 80 steps business as usual or on track.

Five steps show slower than expected progress, and there are 2 steps each for completed, no planned action, and no progress. Highlights from the period are shown in the bullets below Table 1.

Table 1. October 2025 to March 2026, RAG progress against the steps in the Climate Change Challenge Plan

RAG categories	Number of steps
Business as usual	25
On track	44
Slower than expected progress	5
No progress	2
Completed	2
No planned action	2

Demonstrate strong leadership - Challenges 1-4

- Engagement with resident groups was undertaken to support the evidence base for the PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment. We gathered a broad cross section of experiences of extreme weather from our communities including carers, young people, housing tenants and older people.
- A number of experts and consultants have supported work related to climate and nature: the outputs include the Vale PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment; the Economy, Employment and Skills Study of the Vale of Glamorgan; and energy audits of key buildings.
- Placemaking work, developed with Town Councils and residents, is moving forward with a number of priorities identified that support nature and decarbonising transport.
- Directorate Plans for 26/27 include a range of activities to take forward commitments in the Climate Challenge Plan and Vale 2030. These are also reflected in the [Annual Statement](#) for 26/27 which includes commitments for cleaner local environments, reducing carbon emissions in our supply chains, expanding soft plastics recycling and investments in public transport and our parks.

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

- Around 15,000 trees have been planted by multiple directorates during this period including a large proportion through the Restore the Thaw Landscape project.
- Section 106 funding has delivered projects with biodiversity and environmental benefits. This includes new innovative red lighting on paths running through green spaces, reducing the negative impact of light pollution on nocturnal animals.
- Enhancements to public transport and active travel infrastructure include the upgrade of 10 bus stops and expansion of real time information at stops. In addition, a consultation on the current Active Travel Network Map has taken place.
- A draft Economic Growth Strategy is in early stages of development, with wraparound themes of wellbeing and sustainability being considered.
- In work led by Food Vale, the Vale Food Strategy was launched in this period, and the Silver Sustainable Food Places award was achieved.

- The soft plastics pilot came to an end with a full roll out of the service now in place across the Vale, along with a new textiles waste pilot in Barry. During the pilot, 72 tons of soft plastics were collected and kept out of the residual waste stream.
- The Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has been reviewed and refined, and the Vale has been secured as a partner county to pilot a project with NESTA (the charity National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), on their Clean Heating Planning Tool.
- The Council participated in the Switch Together (formerly Solar Together) scheme, which in just over six months to December 2025 saw 109 households install 1,401 solar panels, creating 630kW of clean energy capacity and saving an estimated 89,916kg of CO₂ in the first year. The programme generated over £1 million of private investment in local homes and supported 40 Welsh installers.

Make a difference now - Challenges 13-18

- A procurement dashboard was launched in November 2025. This shows carbon and spend data by quarter raising visibility and awareness of the environmental impacts of supply chain spend.
- Phase 2 of the new build Social Housing development at Hayeswood Road, Barry, received Welsh Government Technical Approval in November 2025, which accepted the new pattern book layouts and the proposed Association for the Environment Conscious Building (AECB) CarbonLite Standard. This is a more rigorous energy standard than the typical SAP as it focuses on a higher thermal performance of the building fabric, a reduction in cold bridging, improved air tightness, and resulting in a lower need for heating.
- A new school's eco-directory has been launched and will help schools become more sustainable while reducing operational costs.
- Additional funding has been secured for decarbonisation feasibility studies - £20k from Welsh Government Energy Service for energy efficiency feasibility designs to be developed for Barry Library & Town Hall, and the Civic Offices, and £35k from Ystadau Cymru for feasibility studies in our leisure centres. Both projects will provide clearer guidance on future decarbonisation opportunities linked to the capital programme and other funding sources.
- New solar panels have been fitted at the Cosmeston Warden's office as part of a roof refurbishment. The solar panels fitted on the nursery roof of Rhyws Primary have supported a 20% reduction on grid energy use and have saved £6,000 on utility bills in their first year.
- Eight new EV vans are now operational and in use by the Highways team and waste supervisors. Travelling on average around 7,000 miles a year each, the switch from diesel to EV will significantly reduce related emissions.
- Over 2025/26, our printing volumes have reduced by 25% saving paper, ink and energy.

4.4. Performance Measures

- Appendix B details performance in 2025/26 against a range of measures. This information will also be considered as part of end of year reporting and the Annual Self-Assessment which will be presented to Cabinet on the 9th July and Joint Performance Scrutiny Committee on the 22nd July.
- Examples of 25/26 progress as captured in performance measures included increases in investment in EV vehicles for the Council's fleet. A significant number of trees have been planted, far exceeding targets, and further planting has been undertaken in our parks

including wildflowers. There is evidence of some positive change in how people travel, but this remains an area of focus. Figures are not yet available regarding carbon emissions and municipal waste.

- As part of the development of Directorate Plans for 26/27 performance measures were reviewed and there a number of additional measures to assist in monitoring progress. The measures that will be reported in 26/27 are detailed in Appendix C.

4.5. Programme Management

- The Project Zero Board continues to steer the programme and met three times in this period. The Board reviewed the new Procurement Spend and Carbon Dashboard, reviewed high emission areas in depth, discussed the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the environment, and heard from the new LAEP officer about next steps for the Local Area Energy Plan. During the period, presentations on the Council's 2024/25 carbon emissions were given to all directorates to raise awareness and prompt targeted discussion and action.
- The Welsh Local Government Association attended the Project Board to offer an opportunity to pilot their Carbon and Biodiversity in Business Cases toolkit. In 2026/27 we will be piloting the toolkit as part of the Holmview project.
- A Project Zero funding tracker was developed with the aim of gathering relevant funding opportunities from across the directorates into one place. The tracker will assist with monitoring our funding successes and opportunities.
- In addition, quarterly meetings between the Programme Manager and Senior Reporting Officers for the 18 challenges in the Challenge Plan focused on reviewing priorities for 2026/27.
- 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.
- The Project Zero Board also manages the corporate risk on climate change and considers actions being undertaken to mitigate the risk, risk appetite and scores. At present the residual risk is considered to be high and the controls in place are maintaining that position, however it is considered that in the longer term the risk is likely to increase as the target date of being net zero by 2030 grows closer.

4.6. 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 Pride in Place funding as well as Welsh Government grant including Transforming Towns and Energy Services have enabled projects.

- Several decarbonisation schemes were delivered or commenced in the 2025/26 Capital Programme. The schemes include removing Oakfield Gas boilers and installing air source heat pumps, installing PV panels at Penarth Learning Community and Barry Waste Transfer Station. There are decarbonisation schemes in the Capital Programme totalling £2.771M from 2025/26 to 2030/31 and this budget has been allocated across a number of schemes for installation of LED lighting, PV Panels, interface upgrades and air source heat pumps

4.7. 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.
- Consultants JBA Associates completed a Vale PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), funded by Shared Prosperity Funding. Using information gathered from partners on the impacts of climate on services to date, plus experiences of Vale communities, 44 recognised climate risks were assessed through an intensive, multi-stage process involving a range of stakeholders. The CCRA was reported to and approved by the PSB in April 2026, and the completed CCRA provides a shared evidence base to inform coordinated adaptation across the Vale.
- Following completion of the CCRA, partners are now working together to plan the next steps and consider the priority areas identified. The risk assessment will be incorporated into the PSB's Well-being Assessment to be published in 2027 and the Well-being Plan which will be published in 2028 and will be used by partners as part of their ongoing risk management and climate change activity.
- In addition to undertaking the CCRA during this period the group also shared learning from the 2024/25 Net Zero Carbon reporting with a particular focus on buildings decarbonisation.

5. How has evidence been used to inform the report, including the views of others?

- 5.1. This report provides details of a wide range of activity being undertaken across the Council with contributions to the report from officers across all services.
- 5.2. Appendix B details the end of year position for Project Zero performance measures and these will also be reported as part of the Council's end of year performance and Annual Self-Assessment.

6. What are the next steps if the recommendations are approved?

- 6.1. The comments and recommendations of this committee will be considered by Cabinet together with the report.
- 6.2. Any recommendations and comments will be considered by the Project Zero Board and relevant officers and responded to. Responses will be detailed in the next progress report.

7. How does this report support Vale 2030 and Reshaping?

- 7.1. Responding to the climate and nature emergencies are a priority in Vale 2030. Project Zero is the Council's response to the climate emergency and brings together work from across the Council in a co-ordinated response. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. Strengthening Communities is one of the five themes in the Reshaping programme and climate and nature are key elements of our approach to transformation.

8. How does this demonstrate the Five Ways of Working?

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. The activities set out in this report will contribute to the national well-being goals and help ensure we have a resilient Wales. The five ways of working are embedded throughout Project Zero as we work collaboratively through the PSB and with other partners. It is recognised that this is a long-term programme of work, but that action needs to be taken now and that prevention will be a critical element to this work. Involvement of the community in order for them to shape our activities and to understand the need for change is fundamental to us making a difference through our activities and we are integrating work on this agenda across the Council ensuring this is seen as the responsibility of all Directorates and staff.

Resources

9. Finance

- 9.1. There are no direct financial implications to this report, and details of funding to support the delivery of Project Zero are set out in the body of this report.

10. Workforce

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

11. Legal and Equalities

11.1. Does an Equalities Impact Assessment need to be completed? If not, why?

- 11.2. 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.
- 11.3. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for different projects detailed in this report as necessary.

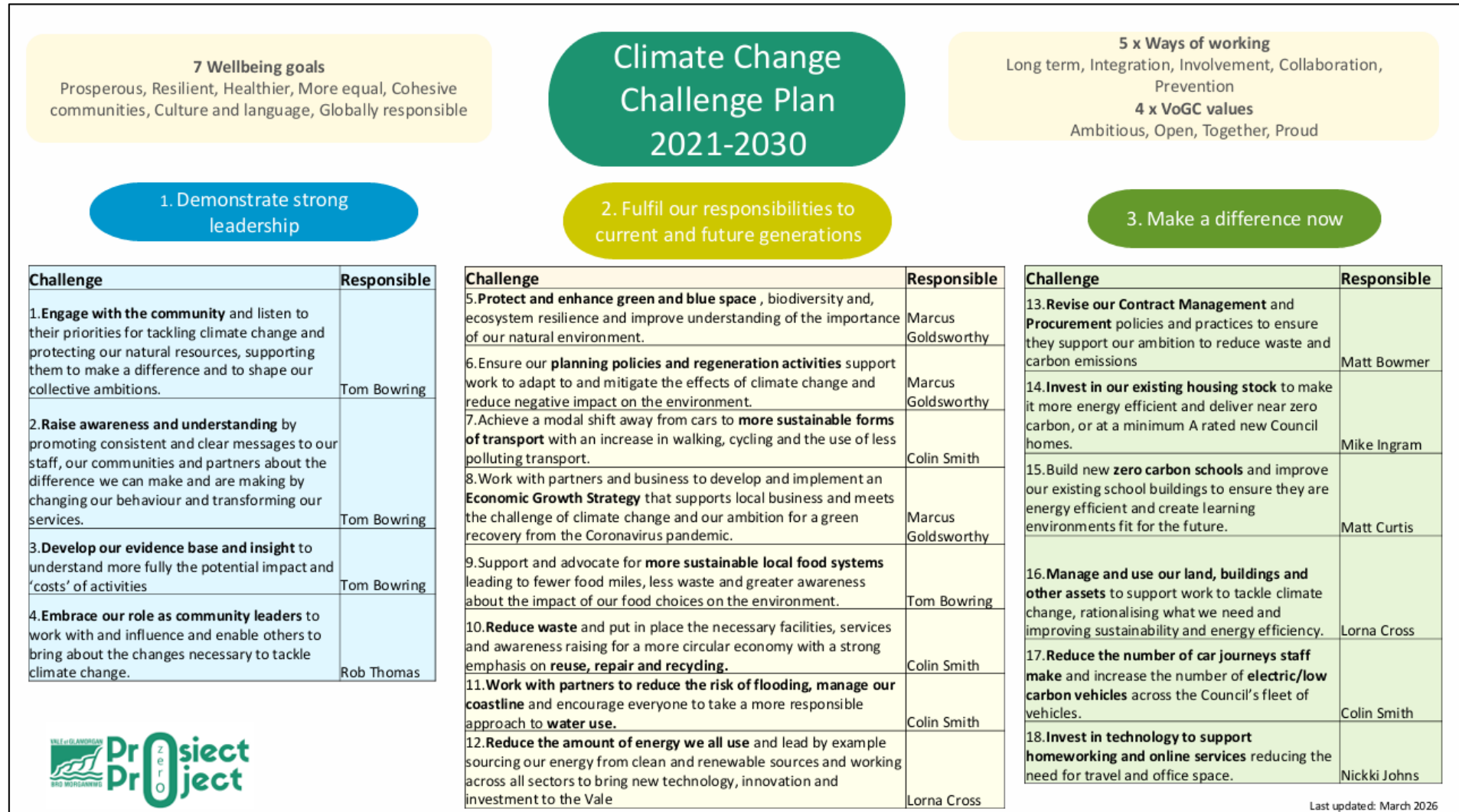
12. Key Contacts

12.1 Who are the primary officers to contact with any comments and/or queries on the report?

Lead Officer: Susannah McWilliam Project Zero Programme Manager projectzero@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk	Democratic Services Officer Mark Thomas Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer methomas@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
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Appendix A: Project Zero - Climate Change Challenge Plan progress, April 2025 to September 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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC1.1. Build momentum around the Climate Change Community Conversation as an ambitious campaign for change.	Business as usual
PZC1.2. Involve Stakeholder groups and develop a green ambassador's group to shape our plans and encourage behaviour change.	Business as usual
PZC1.3. Promote volunteering opportunities and community projects.	Business as usual

Highlights

The steps in Challenge One are now embedded into ways of working. The Council's Participation Strategy has been refreshed, and engagement to support Project Zero is embedded. During this period engagement with resident groups was undertaken to support the evidence base for the **PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment**. We gathered a broad cross section of experiences of extreme weather from our communities including carers, young people, housing tenants and older people. The Let's Talk survey results have shown that there is an increased awareness of what the Council are doing to address the climate emergency.



We continued to support and promote community participation in environmental and sustainability initiatives across the Vale. We highlighted opportunities for residents to get involved in local projects, celebrated volunteer contributions, and showcased examples of community-led action. As part of our '**Unsung Heroes - Spotlighting Volunteers in the Vale**' campaign, we caught up with the much-loved 'Tree Lady' of Rhoose. What started as one person wanting to improve Rhoose's tree canopy has grown into something truly incredible. Justine and the Replant Rhoose community have brought together over 400 volunteers to plant 8,500 bulbs, care for 250 trees, and plant 400 woodland saplings, all in just 5½ years. Countless hours, one shared passion, and a lasting impact on their community.

We also highlighted the success of the resident-led development of **Longmeadow Court in Cowbridge**, where a winter warm hub has evolved into a year-round community space featuring food growing areas, wildlife habitats and opportunities for volunteering, learning and social connection with 10,115 views on Facebook.

Project Zero: Challenge 2

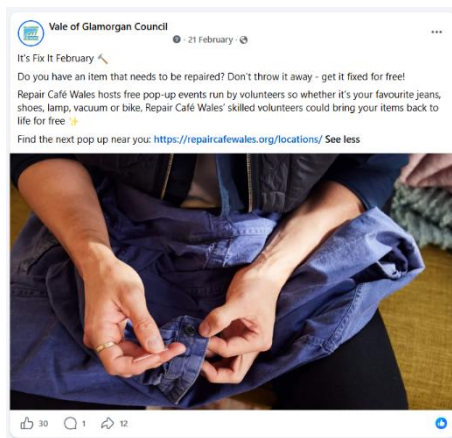
Raise awareness and understanding by promoting **consistent and clear messages** to our staff, our communities, and partners about the difference we can make and are making by changing our behaviour and transforming our services.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC2.1. Develop a co-ordinated programme of internal and external communications	Business as usual
PZC2.2. Report on the progress being made and the impact of the changes we make	Business as usual
PZC2.3. Showcase community projects across the Vale.	Business as usual
PZC2.4. Signpost people to information and services within their community	Business as usual

Highlights

Monthly Project Zero communications meetings ensure that opportunities to raise awareness are maximised, and this is now business as usual.

We delivered coordinated communications to raise awareness of sustainability initiatives, environmental campaigns and services available to residents and staff. This included signposting people to schemes that support sustainable choices, as well as promoting national campaigns that encourage positive environmental behaviours.



We promoted the **Solar Together group-buying scheme for solar panels**, with over 50 link clicks to apply, we raised awareness of the rollout of the **new soft plastic recycling service** and highlighted **sustainable travel improvements** such as new bat-friendly lighting along active travel routes and safer pedestrian crossings.

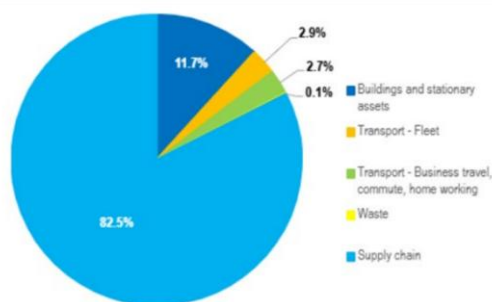
We also supported national and international campaigns including **Fix It February** which reached 58 link clicks to the 'find your nearest repair cafe' webpage, **Food Waste Action Week**, **Unison's Year of Green**, and **Earth Hour**. These communications were complemented by regular features showcasing community-led environmental projects and volunteering activity from across the Vale.

Project Zero: Challenge 3	
Develop our evidence base and insight to understand more fully the potential impact and ‘costs’ of activities.	
Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC3.1. Bring in external expertise and research best practice in other organisations inc. with PSB partners to understand our impact.	Business as usual
PZC3.2. Provide training for staff and Members.	On track
PZC3.3. Calculate and understand the Council’s carbon footprint and publish other key data detailing our performance and progress.	Business as usual
PZC3.4. Set meaningful targets towards reducing our negative impact on the environment.	On track

Highlights

During this period a number of **experts and consultants have supported work related to climate and nature**, including Jeremy Benn Associates who led the development of the Vale PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment, consultants Wavehill who worked with us to deliver the Economy, Employment and Skills Study of the Vale of Glamorgan (see Challenge 8 for more detail), and RSPB Cymru Nature Prescription booklet, codeveloped with Vale stakeholders, which supports people to connect better with nature to support and improve well-being. In addition, energy audits were undertaken by experts on Barry Library and Town Hall, plus the Civic Centre, the findings of which will support future decarbonisation priorities.

We continue to **promote the Project Zero suite through the Corporate Induction**. To date we have had 131 staff members take some part in the **Project Zero Learning suite**. A further 191 staff members have taken part in some of the **Biodiversity Awareness e-learning suite**. External Biodiversity training has been sourced by the Vale Local Nature Partnership, and 108 staff members attended these events. The Council's new Learning Management System (LMS) is bedding in and the current priority is ensuring that all learning is transferred accurately. Project Zero learning will remain unchanged through Q1



Breakdown of 2024/24 emissions by activity

with the plan in Q2 to review and identify different ways to raise the profile of Project Zero and the work being done. **External training opportunities** are regularly shared, including through Project Zero Teams, with Big Fresh staff undertaking Deforestation Free training from the Size of Wales, and a number of staff taking part in the Level 3 Carbon and Energy Management Course.

The [Carbon Management Plan Year 1 update](#) was presented to Cabinet in January 2026, and presentations on the 2024/25 Net Zero Carbon (NZC) data continued to colleagues across the council during Q3 and Q4. Presentations were held by Welsh Government Energy Service WGES during Q4 on the anticipated methodology changes for reporting 2025/26. The new methodology is anticipated to be released early May 2026. Alongside our annual NZC reporting, a Carbon Data PowerBi is being developed to improve the visibility of our carbon data and help compatibility year on year.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC4.1. Work with Welsh Government and influence policy change and legislation.	Business as usual
PZC4.2. Work within the Cardiff Capital Region to bring about change across the region.	On track
PZC4.3. Work with PSB partners to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.	On track
PZC4.4. Work with business and industry, Town and Community Councils, Community groups and the Third Sector to make a difference locally.	On track

Highlights

Our work to influence and enable is embedded across numerous work streams within Project Zero, and within the 2026/27 Directorate Plans.

Through the **Placemaking** process, Town Councils, local community groups and community members have been heavily involved in shaping plans, and setting out a vision for Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge. Numerous priorities linked to nature and the environment have been identified through Placemaking including upgrades to support active travel and public transport such as bus shelter improvements, new active travel crossings, improved streetlighting, and dropped kerbs. Other enhancements include tree planting, and replacement of standard street bins with new suites of public recycling bins to encourage behaviour change. Together, these enhancements create people-focused streets that encourage walking, cycling and social activity, reinforcing our placemaking ambitions and accelerating the Vale's transition to a low-carbon, connected future

During this period the PSB Asset Management and Climate Emergency Subgroup, which includes a representative from One Voice Wales, and from GVS representing the voluntary sector, has been working on the development of the **Vale PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)**. There is more detail in section 4.7 of the report. The next period will focus on each PSB organisation raising awareness of the CCRA within their organisations, and there are plans to come together in a workshop to explore collective next steps.

Work at **Cardiff Capital Region level and with CCR Energy** is explored in Challenge 8 and Challenge 12 in relation to the Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). Work with business has continued with the relaunch of the LAEP and progress is detailed in the relevant section of this report. In addition, work has continued through the Local Nature Partnership, schools and with different groups for example the Vale 50+ Strategy Forum and through Restore the Thaw.

Finally, the VoGC will continue to champion the important role of nature and climate through a range of meetings and networks including with Welsh Government as new policies and plans are developed.



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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC5.1. Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure including a survey of all trees in the Vale and an assessment of the current infrastructure.	On track
PZC5.2. Implement the biodiversity forward plan and raise awareness about the importance of nature and wildlife.	On track
PZC5.3. Replace lost trees and promote tree planting across the Vale including working with owners of large areas of land.	On track
PZC5.4. Improve existing and create more green and blue spaces through Council led schemes, s.106 funds and new transport schemes.	On track
PZC5.5. Work with local communities to increase the number of allotments and community garden space.	On track

Highlights



Over the period, a **consultation on the Green Infrastructure Strategy** was undertaken alongside the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). The new **Biodiversity and Ecological Resilience Plan for 2026 – 2029** has been approved by SLT and will be considered by Cabinet in July. A draft proposed **allotment agreement** has been completed and will be consulted on.

Tree planting is continuing at pace across teams. In the period, the Countryside team planted almost 15,000 trees across the Vale. The Restore the Thaw project planted almost 14,000 working with 25 landowners along the Thaw Catchment, including new hedgerows on local farms. This will boost biodiversity by providing food, shelter, and corridors for wildlife; improve soil health and water quality by reducing erosion and filtering pollutants; combat climate change through carbon sequestration; and provide advantages to local farms like livestock shelter, pest control, and extended growing seasons. In addition, the Local Nature Partnership planted over 350 trees working with seven

landowners / groups, and in Porthkerry Country Park almost 500 trees were planted across the site, with children from Ysgol Y Deri and Romilly Park schools planting out trees that they had grown from seed.

At the **Everyone's Garden project** on Margaret Avenue, Barry, a polytunnel for food growing was installed in November 2025, funded by the National Garden's Scheme. Community groups have transformed the site into a community garden for local tenants, residents, community groups and school children.

In addition, work has progressed on the creation of a **new beaver enclosure at Amelia Trust Farm**, providing training for the local community on monitoring beavers – ready for the expected release of a new beaver family in 2026/27.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC6.1. Produce Sustainable Urban Drainage Guidance.	No planned action
PZC6.2. Review/produce Supplementary Planning Guidance to support work on tackling climate change.	No planned action
PZC6.3. Maximise opportunities to meet our communities need for housing, employment and services through, where possible, the sustainable redevelopment of brown-field land in appropriate locations, through the existing Local Development Plan and the plan review	On track
PZC6.4. Work with developers to develop zero carbon buildings.	On track
PZC6.5. Create more energy efficient buildings through planning policy.	On track
PZC6.6. Require all new and significant developments to implement appropriate sustainable drainage system (SuDS) to appropriately manage surface water, water quantity and biodiversity.	Business as usual
PZC6.7. Use S106 agreements to invest in environmental and sustainable transport measures.	On track
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.	On track

Highlights

The majority of steps are on track during this period and are directly related to the development of the **Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)**. The RLDP was subject to public consultation between January and March 2026. It includes policies on requiring new buildings to be net zero carbon in operation, on 'presumption against demolition', on renewable energy, active travel and allocating land for active travel improvements. It sets out parameters in relation to development and flood risk and has a strategic policy on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation. Work on Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs) will follow in 2027/28 and may consider Sustainable Drainage Systems.

A new **green infrastructure statement and biodiversity enhancement proforma** has been developed for homeowners seeking planning for minor domestic work giving them a range of options for biodiversity enhancement to offset the impact of new works.

Thanks to **Section 106 funding**, a number of measures to support sustainable transport and biodiversity have been undertaken. Some are shared in Challenge 7, with the addition of **new wildlife-friendly red street lighting** installed at

Cross Inn Lane, Cowbridge and Cogan Pill. The lighting was designed in consultation with the Council's ecologist and operates via passive infrared sensors given the proximity to nearby trees and countryside. New benches were also installed at Wenvoe Recreation ground, South Road Sully, St.Nicholas and St. John's View, St. Athan. Wenvoe subway lighting installation is delayed due to contractor staffing issues, but due to be carried out in Q1 of 2026/27. Tree planting has taken place at Sully Linear Park with bulb planting, bee post installation, bat boxes and a nature day event planned for Q1 and 2.



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.

Step	Q 3 &4 RAG rating
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.	Business as usual
PZC7.2. Work with developers to ensure new business, leisure and housing developments plan appropriately for transport needs and encourage behaviour change.	Business as usual
PZC7.3. Increase active travel (walking and cycling) and improve the transport infrastructure in the Vale using Welsh Government grants to improve access, safety and the joining up of the active travel network.	Business as usual
PZC7.5. Work with all schools to ensure they have green travel plans and adequate cycling facilities.	Business as usual
PZC7.6. Establish a network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and support projects which promote alternatively fuelled vehicles.	Business as usual

Highlights

All actions are on track or embedded a business as usual, including **41 pairs of EV charges now installed in 33 sites**, working in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region and Connected Kerb. Other Investment has focused on improving accessibility and customer experience across the public transport network, including **the upgrade of 10 bus stops, and the expansion of real-time information at bus stops**. Multiple funding streams have helped deliver joined-up transport and **active travel outcomes** including: safer crossing points for school pupils on Coldbrook Road East and Ham Lane East, the extension of Barry Bike Club, Brompton Bike lockers at Cogan, and green roof cycle shelters at Cosmeston Country Park and at CF61 Llantwit Major (GVS).



Other activity includes the successful outcome of the planning application for the **Sully to Cosmeston active travel route**, consultation on the current **Active Travel Network Map** and completion of the design for the **footpath across the Police Fields in Cowbridge** – public consultation had 78% positive support for future construction.

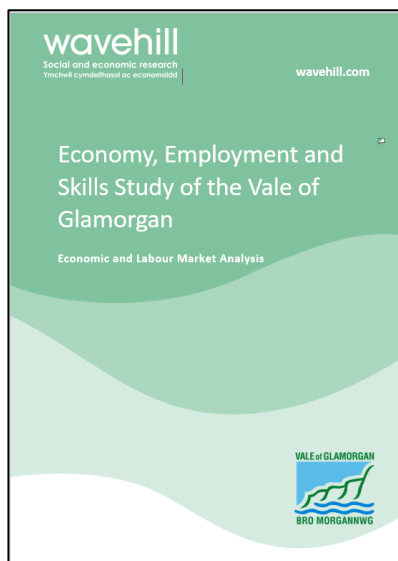
Positive feedback has been received from **Sully Primary and All Saints Church in Wales Primary on the previous award of FROG bikes and new bike sheds**, outcomes including: high success rate of children learning to ride by the end of their Nursery time; integration of bikes into outdoor play in reception; years 1 and 2 implementing Walk Wheel Cycle Trust's "Teach a child to ride a bike without stabilisers in nine steps" method, with each child using the bikes at least once weekly; year 3 timetabled bike sessions; and year 6 children using the bikes for their cycling proficiency lessons.

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.

Step	Q 1 & 4 RAG rating
PZC8.1. Develop and implement a sustainable and green Economic Growth Strategy.	On track
PZC8.2. Support increased digital access and literacy in the community.	Business as usual
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.	On track
PZC8.4. Work with businesses, colleges and universities to identify opportunities and promote new technology.	On track

Highlights



All steps against Challenge 8 are on track or embedded as business as usual during this period.

An Economy, Employment & Skills Study was completed in the period and a Skills and Economy Board is being set up, with the first meeting planned in July. Findings from the study show that there is a growing need to embed sustainability and green skills across all roles in the hospitality, retail and tourism sector. For the health, social care and early years sector, embedding sustainability, climate resilience, and nature based practice into curriculum design and staff upskilling is becoming increasingly important. For Construction & built environment jobs, Current skills needs centre on embedding green and digital competencies within traditional roles, rather than creating standalone “green jobs”.

The findings of the study have supported the scoping of a **draft Economic Growth Strategy**. A framework has been developed for the strategy which will now be tested internally. With a focus on three draft key priorities – growth, skills and innovation – two wraparound themes of wellbeing and sustainability will be considered. The team are currently consulting on how the Strategy will be developed with industry, from the baseline consultations already complete, to refine and agree a fit for purpose, high level strategy that meets the needs of the Vale of Glamorgan as a county and the Council’s priorities. The project is now in the delivery phase and poised to make swift progress.

An **Apprenticeship & Careers Fair** was delivered successfully in March with over 50 employers & education, training and support organisations attended and over 400 attendees, including Dwr Cymru and Morgan Sindall Construction. In addition, relationships with CCR Energy, with Cardiff and Vale College, and with local businesses are developing to complement Local Area Energy Plan priorities (see challenge 12).

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
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. <i>(Note the Plan has been rebranded to Good Food and Movement Plan)</i>	On track
PZC9.2. Work within Food Vale to obtain Sustainable Food City status and promote businesses that have sustainable practices.	On track
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.	On track
PZC9.4. Review procurement arrangements to support less food miles and less packaging and waste.	Business as usual
PZC9.5. Work with community groups and through the Green Infrastructure Plan to encourage people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.	No planned action
PZC9.6. Promote and facilitate food waste recycling for residents, business and schools.	On track

Highlights



The **Vale Food Strategy 2025–2030** was launched in October 2025, setting a clear strategic direction for improving access to healthy, local food while supporting environmental sustainability and local economic growth. Led by Food Vale, the Vale achieved **Silver Sustainable Food Places status**, reflecting strong partnership working and the impact of coordinated local action.

During this period, a range of practical initiatives have been delivered to support both producers and communities. Food Vale awarded over £20,000 through the **Sustainable and Resilient Growers (Capital) Grants 2026**, supporting 12 local horticultural businesses to invest in improvements that enhance productivity,

build resilience, and encourage more sustainable, agroecological growing practices. Alongside this, Food Vale secured **£24,400 in National Lottery funding** to further develop community growing, building on earlier mapping work and enabling more residents to participate in local food production.

Engagement with schools has been a major focus, with the launch of a **Food & Nature Schools pilot programme** in five schools. This has involved local growers delivering hands-on learning experiences to pupils, helping to build awareness of food, nature, and sustainability. Additional activity, including sessions delivered through Celtic Roots Farm as part of the Welsh Veg in Schools programme, has complemented this work. Looking ahead, a six-month programme will see more local producers engaging directly with schools, supported by a shared calendar of activities and resources being developed for rollout from September 2026, creating a lasting resource for our schools.

Big Fresh continue driving more sustainable practice: Fferm Tri Brawd near Cowbridge and Goldsland Farm in Wenvoe provide produce for 10 schools through the **Welsh Veg in Schools programme**, and all palm oil from unsustainable sources has been eradicated. Wars in Iran and Ukraine are impacting fuel costs which is pushing up food costs and this is creating challenges for growers and producers.

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.

Step	Q 3&4 RAG rating
PZC10.1. Adopt a new Waste Management Strategy with a strong emphasis on working with the community.	Business as usual
PZC10.2. Develop campaigns to change behaviour e.g. to reduce single use plastics and packaging and to increase reuse, recycling and composting.	On track
PZC10.3. Promote and signpost to community projects and services which encourage reuse and repair and a reduction in waste.	On track
PZC10.4. Establish a Reuse Shop to take in products, repair as necessary and sell them on.	Completed
PZC10.5. Roll out of recycling arrangements across the Vale and work with schools and business to reduce waste and improve recycling rates.	On track
PZC10.6. Build a new Resource Recovery Centre in the Western Vale.	No progress
PZC10.7. Commit to avoiding the export of any residual waste or recycling materials from the UK.	On track

Highlights

In this period the soft plastics pilot came to an end, with **full roll out of the soft plastics service across the Vale** beginning in April 2026. The Vale is the first Local Authority in Wales to roll this service out completely. During the trial period, residents collectively recycled more than 72.5 tonnes of soft plastics, including items such as carrier bags, wrapping and packaging that would otherwise have gone into the residual waste stream. Extending the collection range, a **textiles waste collection service** began in November 2025, with Barry as the pilot area.

We have significantly **expanded our reach into schools**, with 52 now signed up to our waste services. Previously many were using private commercial waste providers. We have a clear and structured onboarding programme in place through to January 2027. This growth has been driven by proactive engagement with schools, a streamlined onboarding process, and strong support arrangements to ensure each new schools integrate smoothly. Schools joining between now and January 2027 are being phased in to allow for effective training, relationship-building, and operational stability, ensuring consistent service quality as the programme scales.

All of our collected recycling is sent to properly **permitted materials recovery facilities within the UK**, where it is sorted and processed so that valuable materials can be reused and turned into new products. Green waste, food waste, and residual (non-recyclable) waste are managed locally in Cardiff, helping to reduce transport distances and support efficient, sustainable waste treatment. This local and national approach ensures waste is handled responsibly, in line with environmental standards, while maximising recycling and recovery wherever possible.

There is no progress against PZC10.6 as there are limited land options. There are ongoing discussions with WG on alternative possibilities.

New collections service for your unwanted textiles

Residents in the Vale of Glamorgan already recycle 70% of their waste, but we want to help you reuse and recycle even more.

From Monday 17 November 2025

We're launching a **free new weekly collections service** for your unwanted, good quality **textiles**. We're introducing this new service in phases across the county, starting in Barry. Other areas will benefit from this service from next year.

What should I do?

From **Monday 17 November 2025**, when you need to get rid of reusable textiles:

1. put them in a clear or partially see-through plastic bag,
2. tie the handles securely to keep the contents dry, then
3. place the bag on top of one of your recycling containers before 7am on your usual collection day.

Maximum size bag ~60 litres

Yes please

- ✓ Clothing
- ✓ Shoes
- ✓ Belts
- ✓ Handbags
- ✓ Towels
- ✓ Bed sheets, duvet covers and pillowcases
- ✓ Tablecloths, runners and napkins
- ✓ Curtains

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.

Step	Q & 4 RAG rating
PZC11.1. Implement a Flood Risk Management Plan and a Shoreline Management Plan.	Slower than expected progress
PZC11.2. Ensure Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are delivered.	Business as usual
PZC11.3. Promote water efficiency measures in our work and buildings.	Business as usual
PZC11.4. Encourage the re-use of rainwater where possible.	No planned action

Highlights

Progress in developing a **Flood Risk Management Plan** is slower than expected in this period due to staffing issues. Other activities are business as usual, with SuDS an integrated part of the planning process.

We continue to **promote water efficiency measures** in our work and buildings through regular monitoring / early intervention. Fortnightly water leak reports are produced using water leak data which are sent out to school and non-school sites. We encourage sites to pro-actively check for leaks and report issues, supported by clear guidance and steps. We review water usage through billing to highlight unusual consumption patterns and follow up when required. Ongoing communication with sites during this period has strengthened relationships and reinforced awareness to ensure issues are acted on promptly to reduce unnecessary water loss.

Housing schemes continue to deliver water efficiency measures. Developments at Clos Holm View Phase 2 and Cwrt y Chwarel incorporate SAB features, ensuring that drainage proposals for all new developments of more than 1 house or where the construction area is 100m² are designed and built in accordance with the national standards for sustainable drainage published by Welsh Ministers. Features in our schemes include rain gardens and attenuation basins which slow down and control the flow of stormwater to reduce flooding. Clos Holm View Phase 2 also incorporates rainwater harvesting systems on a number of dwellings.

Works commenced in November on the **new flood alleviation scheme at St Richard Gwyn school** in Barry. The scheme involves a 4m wide x 2+m deep trench around the perimeter of the site that manages on site surface water and also allows for surface water to be captured from Argae Lane, reducing the possibility of the road flooding and becoming impassable.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC12.1. Develop and implement a Local Area Energy Plan and contribute to the work of the Cardiff Capital Region.	On track
PZC12.2. Work with developers and businesses to move away from fossil fuels and explore opportunities for investment in alternative energy supplies.	On track
PZC12.3. Support community renewable energy projects and develop district heating networks.	On track
PZC12.4. Provide information about being more energy efficient in the home including raising awareness about grants and schemes for homeowners and tenants.	On track

Highlights



With the new LAEP officer in role, activities in this period include **reviewing and refining the LAEP priorities**, launching a dedicated [LAEP webpage](#) and building a communications presence, building relationships with key players such as Cardiff Capital Region, NGED (National Grid Energy Generation), NESO (National Energy System Operator) and Wales and West Utilities, along with building community networks.

Along with scoping a number of funding opportunities, the Vale has been secured as a partner County to **pilot a project with NESTA** (the charity National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts), on their Clean Heating Planning Tool. Originally piloted in Plymouth, the tool will support local areas in identifying which type of low-carbon heating is most suitable for groups of properties at neighbourhood level, and which may need help to deliver change for households.

In support of community decarbonisation, **four Vale sports sites have been awarded Sport's Wales Energy Saving Grants**. Collectively Penarth Bowling Club, Windsor Lawn Tennis Club in Penarth, Penarth Athletic Club and Glamorgan Golf Club have been awarded almost £84,000 for works by Sports Wales.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council participated in the **Switch Together** (formerly Solar Together) scheme, which in just over six months to December 2025 saw 109 households install 1,401 solar panels, creating 630kW of clean energy capacity and saving an estimated 89,916kg of CO₂ in the first year. The programme generated over £1 million of private investment in local homes and supported 40 Welsh installers. Following this success, a second tranche launched in January 2026, building on strong uptake.

Separately, the **ECO4 Flex scheme** concluded in March 2026 with 142 successful applications for fully funded energy efficiency improvements, with residents continuing to access guidance via council webpages.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC13.1. Revise the procurement policy and strategy and train staff on more sustainable procurement to reduce consumption and encourage a circular economy.	Slower than expected progress
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.	Slower than expected progress

Highlights

The procurement Staffnet page has been refreshed, and the focus on buying responsibly has been strengthened. The **procurement dashboard**, launched in November 2025, shows carbon and spend data by quarter raising visibility and awareness of the environmental impacts of supply chain spend

Our procurement partners Ardal continue to work at regional level and with the Welsh Government to drive more sustainable procurement, including piloting a new reporting tool to collect more accurate carbon data from suppliers which will in turn support better annual net zero carbon reporting to Welsh Government. During the next reporting period **Ardal will be contacting the top 10 suppliers** for each of the four Ardal councils and will provide those suppliers with the new WGES NZC supply chain reporting spreadsheet for 2025/26 to complete.

Step 1: Think before you buy

Before you start any procurement, whether you are buying office furniture or building a new school, it is important that you have read **An Introduction to Buying Responsibly** and that you consider the following:

- CHALLENGE WHAT YOU ARE BUYING**
Before starting any procurement process, you must challenge what you are buying and whether you even need to buy it.
- USE IN-HOUSE OR EXISTING CONTRACT**
You need to check the Supply Directory to see if there is any in-house provision or an existing contractual arrangement that can meet your requirements.
- CONSIDER THE WELLBEING IMPACT**
You need to consider the environmental, social, economic, and cultural impact of what you buy and how it is delivered.

During this period, Ardal has also worked with **WRAP to develop guidance on sustainable procurement** across several supply chain categories, ensuring we embed decarbonisation, circular economy and sustainable requirements into tenders where possible. Once finalised, the guidance will be shared with procurement colleagues and embedded into a co-pilot agent which, once tested, will be rolled out making it easier for service areas and procurement colleagues to embed sustainable requirements into tenders.

Ardal have also **reviewed their Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) thresholds** and have worked with other SEW authorities to develop minimum standards for CRPs. The region is working towards adopting the following thresholds, which Ardal has already implemented: for tenders over £5m, a CRP is required at tender submission; and for tenders between £2m and £5m, suppliers must confirm that they will provide a CRP within six months of contract commencement.

Ardal will be reviewing supplier Terms and Conditions to ensure that commitment from suppliers towards social (community benefits) and environmental issues is included. **Community Well-Being (CWB) benefits** are included in contracts over the value of £250k, and support local community projects through school engagement, employment pathways, community support and environmental initiatives. Ardal's CWB Benefits team helps contractors fulfil and record their community wellbeing benefit commitments via the Thrive Social Value database, with almost £2000 of CWB delivered in the Vale during this period.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC14.1. Deliver near zero carbon, or at a minimum A-rated new Council homes.	On track
PZC14.2. Improve the energy efficiency of the Council housing stock and utilise Optimised Retrofit Programmes.	On track

Highlights

Phase 2 of the new build Social Housing development at Hayeswood Road, Barry, received Welsh Government Technical Approval in November 2025, which accepted the new pattern book layouts and the proposed **Association for the Environment Conscious Building (AECB) CarbonLite Standard**. This is a more rigorous energy standard than the typical SAP as it focuses on a higher thermal performance of the building fabric, a reduction in cold bridging, improved air tightness, resulting in a lower need for heating. A future scheme at Myrtle Close, Penarth (32 units) also proposes to achieve the AECB Carbonlite Standard.



New housing schemes at Clos Holm View Phase 2 (31 units), Cwrt y Chwarel (20 units) and Olive Lodge (10 units) were completed, all **achieving an EPC 'A' and SAP 92+ rating**. Heating and hot water generation does not rely on fossil fuels (gas) and the schemes include highly efficient hot water cylinders, solar PV, high heat retention storage heaters on an economy 7 tariff, and infrared heating panels. The Clos Holm View site includes 10 properties with **rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing**. External EV chargers have been added at Olive Lodge, and provide a stop of point for our fleet team to recharge when en-route through Barry, which is more energy efficient than returning to the Civic or Alps buildings to recharge during the working day.

For our existing housing stock, **retrofit activities continue** supported by the Welsh Government's Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) grant. Work is ongoing on 26 properties including the addition of solar PV and batteries, heat recovery on waste water, and wrapping the buildings in additional external wall insulation. This work will continue through the summer of 2026. A second project to install solar PV in 44 social homes has progressed well with most homes taking up the offer. However, there have been a small number of homes who have refused this installation and alternative properties have been substituted in their place.

In addition, we have installed **data sensors** across a number of our void properties with known issues. These will monitor internal temperature, humidity, Carbon Dioxide and Carbon Monoxide. This project has gone well and we are keen to extend it over the next few years to all our homes to support early recognition of potential problems.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC15.1. Invest in carbon reduction measures across the educational estate.	Business as usual
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.	On track
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.	No progress
PZC15.4. Adopt a fabric first approach to achieve high thermal performance and install photovoltaic panels and/or air source heat pumps.	On track
PZC15.5. Improve school grounds biodiversity as a means of decarbonisation and map natural carbon sinks.	Slower than expected progress
PZC15.6. Focus on methods to further reduce in-use consumption, e.g. reducing catering, monitoring community usage.	On track

Highlights



Work at Ysgol Llyn Derw, a second site for Ysgol y Deri, continues with a new contractor after the original contractor went into administration. The building is **meeting both Net Zero Carbon in Operation (NZCiO) projections, and Welsh Government Carbon requirements**. Building of the St Richard Gwyn High School project began in Barry, the project is meeting the Embodied Carbon requirements, and additional opportunities are being scoped to meet NZCiO requirements as the green roof which is needed for SuDs has limited the number of solar panels that can be included. The work at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg primary school in Cowbridge has now completed the RIBA Stage 4 design: currently the development is meeting both Embodied Carbon and NZCiO. All of these new build projects exceed the threshold for the BREEAM Excellent standard, and collectively they include an array of carbon reduction measures such as solar panels, air source heat pumps, green roofs, EV charging, and a thermally efficient facade.

There has been **slower than expected progress against PZC15.5**: use of the Old Hockey Pitch at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Gurig has been proposed for use by the school and the Vale Local Nature Partnership as a nature reserve and is being considered. There has been no progress against PZC15.3 due to a lack of funding for the annual monitoring of performance of new schools post-completion. For future projects we are ensuring that visibility of energy saving technology is provided for all new developments at handover.

Other highlights in the period include the **launch of a new school's eco-directory**, a resource for Head Teachers, Eco-schools Leads and all other school staff working towards eco and decarbonisation goals. The directory is designed to help schools become more sustainable while reducing operational costs.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC16.1. Review the Asset Management Strategy.	Business as usual
PZC16.2. Progress the Space Project to modernise and rationalise Council buildings including the creation of more green areas.	On track
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.	On track
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.	Business as usual
PZC16.5. Encourage leaseholders to be more sustainable in how they use property leased from the Council.	Business as usual
PZC16.6. Implement plans to convert more street lighting and de-illuminate bollards.	On track

Highlights

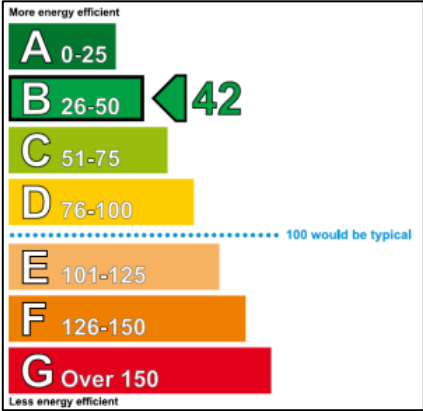
In Decarbonisation & Energy, more capacity has been added to the team with the successful recruitment of a Decarbonisation & Energy Officer and Principal Officer role, enabling **more focused work on behaviour change in schools, development of a new energy manager live handbook and a review of decarbonisation opportunities**. A new platform, iQVision, is now set up allowing for centralised controls of heating and building services systems across a significant proportion of the estate and is helping us to support sites monitor their energy use and reduce out of hours usage. Training sessions were held with the relevant schools during March to help them view their own pages and see how the platform could help them operate their sites more energy efficiently.



A new 18kW PV array was installed at the **Cosmeston Warden's office** as part of the roof renewal and WC refurbishment project. Feasibility works commenced at St Cyres and Ysgol y Deri (PLC) and continued project management of our retrofit air source heat pump and solar PV projects to be delivered 2025/26 and into 2026/7. PV (photovoltaic) arrays (15kW) have been installed at **Rhws Primary (nursery block)** this will reduce the Primary School site's electricity bill. When comparing 2025/26 with 2024/25 we can see the site experienced a 20% reduction in grid electricity use, a saving of more than £6,000 for on-site generation and behaviour changes.

Display Energy Certificates have been renewed across a large proportion of the estate during November / December 2025 the trend continues to improve across the estate with a larger proportion of buildings securing a C rating. Further updates will continue to be completed in 2026/27.

Grant funding worth £20k from Welsh Government Energy Services has **enabled energy efficiency feasibility designs to be developed for Barry Library & Town Hall, and Civic Offices**. Some of the recommendations for each site will progress during 2026/27 with capital funding. An additional £35k grant from Ystadau Cymru enabled our five leisure centres to have energy audits completed. Both projects will provide clearer guidance on future decarbonisation opportunities linked to the capital programme and other funding sources.



At Barry Island, new LED lanterns have been installed around the funfair area, improving light quality, reliability and energy efficiency. The scheme also incorporates smart Central Management System (CMS) technology, allowing lighting to be monitored and programmed remotely. Further upgrades along the Barry Island seafront footways will be undertaken in the near future using the same bespoke-style lanterns, creating a consistent and high-quality appearance across the area.

In addition, an innovative scheme is being trialled along Cogan Pill Road footpath. This route currently has no street lighting, and due to ecological considerations, the Council has installed **bat-friendly lighting** using low correlated colour temperature lanterns designed to minimise impact on wildlife. The scheme will also trial a **multi-use sensor system** which detects pedestrian movement. When activated, several lanterns will illuminate together and will automatically dim or switch off once no activity is detected. This approach improves safety for users while delivering further energy savings and reducing environmental impact.

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.

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC17.1. Develop an electric /alternative fuelled vehicle strategy.	On track
PZC17.2. Promote and incentivise more sustainable staff travel including 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.	On track
PZC17.3. Develop hub facilities for staff to work from to reduce the need to travel.	Completed

Highlights



In 2025/26 the **numbers of EV vehicles in our fleet has grown**, with 43 of our fleet fully electric and 9 hybrid from a total of 324. In Q3 & 4, eight new EV vans funded by a Welsh Government Energy Services (WGES) grant became operational. Six are being used by our Highways Inspectors and two by our Waste Team Supervisors. On average, 7,000 miles is travelled by each of these vehicles per year, meaning that the switch from diesel to EV will greatly reduce emissions, supporting our net zero goals, and improving air quality too.

In relation to **charging infrastructure**, WGES are undertaking a review of EV charging requirements at Atlantic Trading estate vehicle parking with a view to transitioning more of the waste fleet to EV. Two new EV charge points have been installed at Olive Lodge, a social housing scheme in Barry. This provides a useful recharging point for our fleet as staff move around the Vale.

In relation to supporting active travel and greener staff commuting, **39 bikes were purchased in 2025 through the cycle to work scheme, saving an estimated £344 each**. As well as reducing emissions, cycling helps the workforce stay active and reduce costs such as parking and fuel. In June / July we will be running the annual staff travel survey to understand staff travel patterns and support the data needed for the 2025/26 Net Zero Carbon submission to Welsh Government. During Bike Week in June we will be running cycle roadshows for staff and in the community. As more staff move to the Civic, car park barriers will be introduced and EV parking bays protected.

Project Zero: Challenge 18

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

Step	Q 3 & 4 RAG rating
PZC18.1. Utilise new technologies and digital practices to reduce electricity usage and reduce carbon emissions.	On track
PZC18.2. Implement a new Digital strategy to support increased use of technology and a reduction in office space and travel.	On track

Highlights

Through Q3/Q4, we **completed a migration to Amazon Web Services (AWS)** and moved the vast majority of our servers to cloud computing. AWS invest significantly in highly optimised computing power where the carbon usage is lower than in our own environment. Our in-house Data Centres will be decommissioned in Q1/Q2 of 26/27 and represent a saving and cost mitigation for the organisation.



Our Digital team has been working closely with colleagues across services to modernise how residents interact with the Council, for example, the introduction of the **new e-billing service for council tax**. Residents in the Vale are now able to view their bills and account information online - making information easier to access at any time, reducing printing and postage costs, and helping to free up resources that can instead support frontline services. Using less paper also reduces carbon emissions, supporting the Council's Project Zero ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.

As the new print strategy beds in, our **total print volume has decreased by over 25% year on year** with reductions in Q4 particularly high. Hybrid Mail utilisation has increased by 24% and is a more cost and carbon effective way of sending printed mail. Our net print reduction is 21%

Our planned activities to September 2026 include **decommissioning our server rooms, and continued communications on print reduction**.

Appendix B – 2025/26 Performance measures as relevant to Project Zero

Corporate Resources

Performance Measures	Q4 2024/25	Q4 2025/26	Target 2025/26	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	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%	18.8%	16%	Green	↑	This measure reflects residents' perceptions captured through the latest Let's Talk survey. While the percentage agreeing that the Council is doing enough to address the climate emergency remains relatively low, this mirrors national survey findings (e.g. YouGov public survey on attitudes to climate change, 13 % say government is getting the right balance in combating climate change) and reflects the scale and complexity of the challenge as experienced by residents. Importantly, the result should be viewed alongside the significant programme of action being delivered through Project Zero, including decarbonisation of the estate, fleet transition, biodiversity initiatives and partnership working through the Public Services Board. Work is ongoing to strengthen how	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective

						progress and impacts are communicated to residents, helping to improve understanding of what the Council is doing and how local action contributes to wider climate goals.		
CPM/264: Percentage of residents who agree that the council is doing enough to address the nature emergency.	12.6%	12.49%	12.6%	Amber	↓	Residents' views on action to address the nature emergency continue to highlight a gap between activity being delivered and public awareness of that work. Whilst the percentage agreeing remains modest, substantial progress is being made behind the scenes through biodiversity, green infrastructure and nature recovery initiatives, including partnership delivery via the Vale Local Nature Partnership. Future focus will be on improving visibility of this work to residents and communities, particularly where local action delivers tangible benefits for communities, well-being and biodiversity.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
Finance and Procurement								
CPM/332: Percentage of council contracts with social value targets to improve quality/	20 out of 23	No data available	N/A Establish baseline	N/A		20 out of 23 contracts (23 contracts above the threshold where Social Value should be included) awarded during 25/26. Social Value includes apprenticeship, work experience, employment, community initiatives, school support etc.	Being the Best Council We Can Be	Service Outcome

environmental outcomes.								
Property & Decarbonisation								
CPM/339: Corporate Plan Measure: Reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council's non-domestic buildings.	New for 2025/26	Data available September	1,300 tonne reduction	N/A	N/A	This is an annual measure based on the Council's full-year carbon emissions data, which is subject to detailed data collection, validation, and external reporting requirements. The final dataset is not available for reporting until September 2026 following submission to Welsh Government and subsequent analysis and verification.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

Environment and Housing Directorate

Performance Measures	Q4 2024/25	Q4 2025/26	Target 2025/26	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	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	58.40%	64.83%	58.40%	Green	↑	Use of public transport among residents remains relatively stable and in line with the previous survey baseline of 58.40. This reflects continued reliance on bus and rail services for commuting, education and access to services. The Council continues to work with transport partners to improve service reliability, accessibility and	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective

						integration with walking and cycling routes. Survey findings from the next Let's Talk Survey in 2027 will provide further insight into whether planned transport and placemaking initiatives are translating into increased uptake.		
CPM/262/ Corporate Plan Measure: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: b) Walking Routes	68.70%	75.85%	68.70%	Green	↑	Walking remains the most commonly used active travel option among residents, indicating strong reliance on local footway networks for short everyday journeys. This aligns with recent investment in pedestrian improvements and town centre public realm schemes. Ongoing work to improve accessibility, safety and connectivity, particularly for more vulnerable users, aims to sustain and further encourage walking as a low carbon travel choice.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
CPM/262/ Corporate Plan Measure: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options	18.30%	18.50%	18.30%	Green	↑	Cycling uptake remains comparatively lower than walking and public transport but is consistent with the previous survey baseline. This reflects known barriers including route continuity, perceived safety and	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective

in the Vale of Glamorgan: c) Cycling Routes						confidence. Continued delivery of active travel schemes, infrastructure improvements and network map updates is intended to address these barriers over time and support a gradual increase in cycling participation.		
CPM/262/ Corporate Plan Measure: Percentage of residents who use the following public or active travel options in the Vale of Glamorgan: d) Community Transport	3.20%	1.81%	3.20%	Red	↓	Use of community transport services remains low and is below other public and active travel modes. This reflects the targeted nature of these services, which primarily support specific groups rather than the wider population. The Council continues to support community transport provision as part of an inclusive transport offer, particularly for residents with limited access to mainstream services. Future survey results will help assess whether awareness and uptake improve alongside demographic change and service development.	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.	71.73%	No figures currently available.	71%	N/A	N/A	Performance in line with expectations, soft plastic collections have improved recycling and slightly decrease residual waste	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/377: Corporate Plan Measure: the number of residential and commercial properties suffering internal flooding.	New for 2025/26	5	N/A Establish Baseline	N/A	N/A	The number of properties experiencing internal flooding reflects the impact of severe weather events rather than the effectiveness of day-to-day Council services. Flooding incidents were largely associated with periods of intense or prolonged rainfall and named storm events, which are increasing in frequency due to climate change. The data is used to identify patterns, inform risk assessment and prioritise mitigation activity. Throughout	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

						the year, the Council fulfilled its role as Lead Local Flood Authority by investigating reported incidents, working with partners, and taking proportionate action where feasible. Ongoing work to develop the Local Flood Risk Management Plan will strengthen future resilience and targeted intervention.		
CPM/195: Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions	10.97%	11.73%	8%	Green	↑	Number of electric vehicles has increased by 9 since last year. Progress reflects the planned replacement cycle for vehicles and the availability of suitable zero-emission models for operational requirements. The increase achieved during the year has contributed to reduced vehicle emissions and supports the Council's wider decarbonisation objectives. Continued phased investment in electric vehicles will support further improvement as vehicles reach replacement point in future years.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/198: Percentage of Council Dwellings	No update provided	4.11%	10%	Red	N/A	Progress continued to be made towards achieving the Welsh	Supporting and	Service Outcome

meeting WHQS2 (2023)						Housing Quality Standard 2023 through targeted investment programmes addressing energy efficiency, building safety and property condition across the housing stock. While the overall percentage of compliant dwellings remains below target at year-end, this reflects a deliberate sequencing of works across a broad range of properties rather than focusing on a small number of dwellings to improve compliance figures in the short term. As a result, a larger number of tenants are already benefitting from tangible improvements, including better heating and reduced energy costs. This phased approach will support sustained improvement in compliance levels as programmes complete over the coming year.	Protecting Those Who Need Us	
CPM/108: Number of m2 of Parks, Open Spaces & Highways land has been sown with wildflowers or being maintained as	No update provided	21.23%	5%	Green	N/A	The Council significantly increased the area of parks, open spaces and highways land managed as wildflower or naturalised areas, exceeding the annual target. from 362020 to	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

a naturalised area						438,857 m2 (an increase of 21.23%). This has contributed to enhanced biodiversity, improved habitats for pollinators, and more resilient green spaces, while also supporting lower-maintenance, more sustainable land management practices. The progress achieved during the year strengthens the Vale's green infrastructure and supports longer-term environmental and climate objectives.		
CPM/200: Number of trees planted per year - NS&T	No data available	2,750	2,500	Green	N/A	The Directorate exceeded its annual tree-planting target, delivering new planting across parks, highways and other Council-owned land. This has contributed to increased tree canopy cover, enhanced biodiversity and progress towards carbon reduction objectives. The mix of standard trees (450) and whips (2300) planted during the year has maximised both immediate environmental benefit and longer-term growth, strengthening the Vale's green	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

						infrastructure and resilience to climate change.		
CPM/201: Number of local authority installed charging facilities for electric vehicles.	No update provided	41	5	Green	N/A	Significantly increased the number of electric vehicle charging facilities installed across the Vale, delivered primarily through partnership working with the Cardiff Capital Region and in partnership with Connected Kerb. 41 pairs of EV chargers have been installed at some 33 sites on-street, in car parks and community centres in areas where residential properties have limited off-street parking provision. This has improved access to charging infrastructure and supports increased uptake of electric vehicles. The expansion achieved during the year contributes directly to carbon reduction objectives and provides a strong foundation for supporting more sustainable transport choices in future years.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/116: Kilograms of local authority municipal waste that is not	116.6kg	No figures currently available.	115kg	N/A	N/A	Current performance data indicates that we are on track to achieve the target of less than 115kg of residual waste per	Respecting and Celebrating	Service Outcome

reused, recycled or composted during the year per person.						person by the end of the reporting period. Trends observed to date are positive and broadly align with the trajectory required to meet the target. However, as the year is not yet complete and final tonnages and population adjusted calculations are still subject to verification, it is not yet possible to formally confirm achievement. Performance will continue to be closely monitored, and confirmation will be provided once all final data has been validated.	the Environment	
CPM/348: Publicly available charging facilities for electric vehicles per 100,000 population.	New for 2025/26	31	5	Green	N/A	The council has been working with CCR in partnership with Connected Kerb on the installation of public EV Charging bays throughout the Vale. The calculation is based on the population of the Vale of Glamorgan being circa 132,000 people.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

Place Directorate

Performance Measures	Q4 2024/25	Q4 2025/26	Target 2025/26	RAG Status	Direction of Travel	Commentary	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).	75MW	59.80MW	Target not applicable	N/A	↓	2024/00002/DNS (Development of National Significance) - Land at PennOnn Farm = 49.9MW 2024/01020/FUL - Land East of Treoes = 9.9MW.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/363: Number of trees planted per year by the Countryside Service.	New for 2025/26	14,806	Establish baseline	N/A	N/A	Restore the Thaw project planted 13,948 trees and saplings on private land throughout the catchment area. Local Nature Partnership planted 362 trees and saplings across the Vale.	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

						496 trees and saplings planted at Porthkerry Country Park. All trees planted this financial year were supported by grant funding.		
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Appendix C – 2026/27 Performance measures as relevant to Project Zero

Corporate Resources

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2025/26	Target 2026/27	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.	18.8%	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.	12.49%	N/A	Biennial	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
Finance and Procurement					

CPM/332: Percentage of council contracts with social value targets to improve equality/environmental outcomes.	No Data available	TBC	Annual	Being the Best Council We Can Be	Service Outcome
Property & Decarbonisation					
CPM/339: Corporate Plan Measure: Reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council's non-domestic buildings.	Data available September	1,300 tonne reduction	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

Environment and Housing Directorate

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2025/26	Target 2026/27	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: d) Public Transport d) Walking Routes d) Cycling Routes d) Community Transport	a) 64.83% b) 75.85% c) 18.50% d) 1.18%	a) 58.40% b) 68.70% c) 18.30% d) 3.20%	Bi-ennial	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Citizen Perspective
CPM/195: Percentage of local authority vehicle fleet which are zero emissions	11.73%	8%	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

CPM/198 b) iii)"Percentage of Council Dwellings meeting WHQS2 (2023) in the following categories: b. By Category. iii. Environmental impact (This relates to homes being affordable to heat and have minimal environmental impact as per Section 3 of the WHQS'23 guidance. First requirement is for a full target energy pathway by 2027 and the second, is to achieve minimum SAP 75 rating on homes by 2029. Current SAP rating is 74.)"	New for 2026/27	10%	6 Monthly	Supporting and Protecting Those Who Need Us	Service Outcome
CPM/402 b)"Cardiff & Vale Strategic Housing Partnership: b) Number of affordable housing units delivered that are low energy consumption/energy efficient to meet a	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Creating Great Places to Live, Work and Visit	Service Outcome

minimum of EPC A (SAP 92+) or, preferably AECB CarbonLite Standard (subject to affordability)."					
CPM/403: Reduction in the carbon footprint of the Council's fleet and mobile equipment (total kgCO ₂ e of all fuels, EV, Diesel and Petrol).	New for 2026/27	Establish baseline and 4% reduction per year until 2030 as per CMP	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/404: Percentage of E&H supplier contracts that have verified carbon reduction plans / commitments in place.	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/405 a)"Percentage of E&H service contracts that: a) report their organisational carbon footprint."	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/405 b)Percentage of E&H service contracts that: b) % that are B Corp certified.	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

CPM/406The proportion of energy used from renewable sources in council run buildings: within the E&H directorate's remit.	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Creating Great Places to Live, Work and Visit	Service Outcome
CPM/408Reduction in carbon tonnage (CO2) at improved private rented sector properties.	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	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	21.23	5% increase on 2025/26 performance	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/200: Number of trees planted per year - NS&T	2750	1,500	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/201 a)"Number of local charging facilities for electric vehicles: a) CCR installations"	41	N/A Target Not Applicable	6 Monthly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/201 b)"Number of local charging facilities for electric vehicles:	New for 2026/27	N/A Target Not Applicable	6 Monthly	Respecting and	Service Outcome

b) Private installations on public areas (these relate to investments in the form of chargers, from private operators that the public have access to)"				Celebrating the Environment	
CPM/201 c)"Number of local charging facilities for electric vehicles: c) Council installations on Council premises"	New for 2026/27	N/A Target Not Applicable	6 Monthly	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.	No Data currently available	110	Quarterly	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/348: Publicly available charging facilities for electric vehicles per 100,000 population.	31	N/A	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service User
CPM/385: Percentage of council supplier contracts where the successful supplier has provided a verified carbon reduction plan.	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	Annual	Being the Best Council We Can Be	Service Outcome
CPM/386: Percentage of council tenders that have embedded sustainability, decarbonisation or circular	New for 2026/27	N/A Establish Baseline	Annual	Being the Best Council We Can Be	Service Outcome

economy requirements within the tender or contract.					
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Place Directorate

Performance Measures	Current Performance 2025/26	Target 2026/27	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).	59.80MW	Target not applicable	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/363: Number of trees planted per year by the Countryside Service.	14,806	N/A No Target Set	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/159: The area of public open space (ha) which would be lost as a	0	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating	Service Outcome

result of development granted planning permission during the year				the Environment	
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	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

CPM/161: Number of planning permissions granted for renewable and low carbon energy development during the year.	2	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/163: The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on previously developed land during the year.	2.4	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome
CPM/164: The area of land (ha) granted planning permission for new development on greenfield land during the year.	21.19	N/A Reporting purposes only	Annual	Respecting and Celebrating the Environment	Service Outcome

Background Documents

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

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

Biannual reports are available with the most recent below:

Project Zero report to Place Scrutiny Committee for period Q1&2, April - Sept '25: [Project Zero Update](#)