

CABINET
17TH OCTOBER 2022

NET ZERO CARBON PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose:

To approve the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report for referral to Cabinet.

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report be approved for referral to Cabinet, and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report

Reasons:

The Net Zero Carbon Plan was approved by County Council on 12th February 2020.

The attached draft report is submitted in accordance with Action NZC-28 of the Plan that requires annual performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.

Cabinet Decision Required	YES
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Council Decision Required	NO
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CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate Environment Rhodri Griffiths	Designations: Head of Place and Sustainability Sustainable Development Manager	rdgriffiths@cararthenshire.gov.uk 01267 228351 5351 jkdavies@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Kendal Davies		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
CABINET
17TH OCTOBER 2022

Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report

Overview

1. The County Council approved a Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan on 12th February 2020.
2. Action NZC-28 of this NZC Plan requires performance reports on progress towards becoming a net zero carbon local authority by 2030 to be published annually.
3. The first Progress Report (March 2021) reflected on our 2019/20 carbon emissions.
4. This second Progress Report reflects on our 2020/21 carbon emissions.
5. In 2020/21, our overall carbon footprint reduced by 14.1% compared to 2019/20, with all four areas showing a reduction in both consumption and carbon emissions i.e., Non-Domestic Buildings; Street Lighting; Fleet Mileage; and Business Mileage.
6. Whilst these reductions are in part attributable to the impact of COVID-19, the continuation of staff home working, together with changes in working practices such as an increased use of video conference facilities and online communication, should see a lasting reduction in carbon emissions in the longer term.
7. This Progress Report is a comparatively focused document as we will be publishing a revised NZC Plan by 31st March 2023 to incorporate recent NZC-related developments and guidance, plus the declaration of a Nature Emergency by the County Council on 9th February 2022.
8. Some of our wider actions that contribute towards addressing the climate emergency are being collated in advance of the Pre-Cabinet meeting.

Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide

9. The Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide (May 2021) introduces a voluntary annual reporting framework across the Welsh public sector to help monitor progress towards achieving Welsh Government's ambition for a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.

10. As our NZC Plan (February 2020) predates this Reporting Guide, there are differences in the reporting methodologies. This has the consequence of increasing our 2019/20 reported emissions from 20,477 tCO₂e to 28,547 tCO₂e. This total will further increase as we are awaiting revised guidance from Welsh Government on how to calculate emissions arising from staff commuting.

11. This implication was reported to the Pre-Cabinet meeting on 4th October 2021 with the following recommendations agreed:

- Report annual emissions to Welsh Government in accordance with the Reporting Guide, and
- Continue with the existing scope of our NZC commitment but adopt the corresponding methodologies prescribed in the Reporting Guide.

Recommendations

12. It is RECOMMENDED that:

- (1) the draft Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report be approved for referral to Pre-Cabinet, and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make typographical or factual amendments as necessary to improve the clarity and accuracy of the Net Zero Carbon Plan – Progress Report

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
None	None	None	None	None	None	None

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination

YES

Scrutiny Committee

Place, Sustainability & Climate Change

Date the report was considered:-

4th October, 2022

Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-

Resolved to recommend to Cabinet that the Net Zero Carbon (NZC) Plan be endorsed and that the delegated authority be given to Officers.

2. Local Member(s) N/A

3. Community / Town Council N/A

4. Relevant Partners N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE