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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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Annwyl Cyngorydd,

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

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Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Gwener, 23 Rhagfyr 2022

CYFARFOD ARBENNIG O'R PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG CHRAFFU TESTUN 3

Cyfarfod Arbennig O'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg Chraffu Testun 3 O Bell Trwy Timau Microsoft ar **Dydd Mercher, 4 Ionawr 2023** am **16:00**.

AGENDA

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Galw Penderfyniad y Cabinet i Mewn: Strategaeth Di-Garbon Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr 2030 3 - 88

Gwahoddwyr:

Cyngorydd John Spanswick - Aelod Cabinet Cymunedau

Janine Nightingale - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Cymunedau

Zak Shell - Pennaeth Gweithrediadau - Gwasanaethau Cymunedol

Nodyn: Bydd y cyfarfod cael ei recordio i'w drosglwyddo drwy wefan y Cyngor. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yn ddiffuant

K Watson

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Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwyr

S J Bletsoe

N Clarke

C Davies

P Davies

Cynghorwyr

M J Evans

P W Jenkins

MJ Kearn

W J Kendall

Cynghorwyr

J E Pratt

G Walter

I Williams

MJ Williams

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

4 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES, HR & CORPORATE POLICY

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: BRIDGEND 2030 NET ZERO CARBON STRATEGY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider the decision of Cabinet of 13 December 2022 in relation Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 2. **Helping people and communities to be more health and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council’s well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 7.23 of the Council’s Constitution, three Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and one Scrutiny Chair, have requested that an Executive decision made by Cabinet on the 13 December 2022 be Called-In.
- 3.2 For the purposes of informing the Committee more fully regarding the reasons for Call-In, the following appendices have been attached:
- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record of 13 December 2022;
 - **Appendix B** – Notice of Call-In Form;
 - **Appendix C** – Report of the Corporate Director - Communities: Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy on 13 December 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding to account the Cabinet for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.
- 4.2 Three Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and one Scrutiny Chair have requested to Call-In the Cabinet decision of 13 December 2022.
- 4.3 The role of the Committee within the Call-In process is to consider the proposed decision taken by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, factors taken into account by Cabinet when making the decision and whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies. Further details as to the reasons for Call-In are provided at **Appendix B**
- 4.4 Following consideration of the decision, the Committee may recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the Cabinet, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. If referred to the Cabinet, it must be reconsidered by Cabinet within a further 7 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Cabinet, the decision may be determined on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The equality implications are outlined in Section 6 of the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 An assessment under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been made and is outlined in Section 7 of the Cabinet report attached at **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined in Section 8 of the Cabinet report attached as **Appendix C**.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet decision of 13 December 2022 relating to Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy and to determine whether it wishes to:

- i) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration;
- ii) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet.

Kelly Watson

Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

23 December 2022

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Background documents: None

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DECISION RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN COUNCIL CHAMBER/REMOTE ON TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2022 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor – HJ David – Leader/Chairperson

Councillors

J Gebbie, J Spanswick
H Williams, JP Blundell, R Goode, N Farr

Officers:

M Shephard, C Marchant, L Harvey, J Nightingale, K Watson, M Pitman, MA Galvin, A Rawlin, D Webb, S Howell, D Exton, R Keepins, M Morgans and L Ronan,

Apologies for absence

Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.

Declarations of interest

None.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of Cabinet dated 15 November 2022 were approved.

Title of Report	Update Fostering Allowances Policy
Decision Made	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet noted that the error in the Fostering Allowances Policy as set out in paragraph 3.3 was amended and has been implemented. 2. That Cabinet also noted that the Policy has been further amended for 2022/23 to include the 7%

	increase to Foster Care Allowances, agreed by Cabinet in July 2022.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Appointment of Local Authority Governors
Decision Made	That Cabinet approved the appointment detailed at paragraph 4.3 of the report.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Porthcawl Welsh-Medium Seedling School and Childcare
Decision Made	That Cabinet gave permission to consult on a proposal to establish a Welsh-Medium Seedling school and childcare provision for the Porthcawl area on land at the Porthcawl Primary School site
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Housing (Wales) Act 2014
Decision Made	That Cabinet approved that the Council applies the 'intentionality test' to the new category of households 'Street Homeless' and publishes its intent to do so in accordance with Welsh Government direction.

Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Continuation of Housing Support Services on Coity Road
Decision Made	That Cabinet approved a modification in the form of a 6-month extension of the contract BCBC has in place with the Wallich for the delivery of Housing Related Support Services on Coity Road, Bridgend.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Amendment to Contract Procedure Rules
Decision Made	That Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the change to the lower financial threshold from £5,000 to £10,000 for obtaining three quotations within the Contract Procedure Rules as shown at Appendix 1 to the report, to take effect from 1 January 2023. 2. Recommended to Council an amendment to the Constitution to incorporate the revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Consultation process for Traffic Regulation Orders
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Decision Made	That Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved that the Consultation Procedure for Road Traffic Regulation Orders 2014, as set out in the Cabinet Report attached at Appendix 1, is amended as outlined at paragraph 4.5 (subject to the deletion of the words in brackets in the first sub-bullet point in paragraph 4.5.1 of the report) and that authority is delegated to the Corporate Director – Communities to make the necessary amendments. 2. Further approved that all future traffic management and road safety proposals follow the amended procedure as set out in the report.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None

Title of Report	Bridgend County Borough Council Destination Management Plan 2022-2027
Decision Made	That Cabinet: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved the Bridgend County Borough Council Destination Management Plan, 2022-2027. 2. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director – Communities, to implement the Destination Action Plan contained within Appendix 1 to the report.
Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

Title of Report	Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy
Decision Made	That Cabinet agreed to formally adopt the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

Date Decision Made	13 December 2022
Personal or Prejudicial Interests Disclosed	None.

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Notice of 'Call-In'

Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1. Decision Subject To Call-In:

Title: Details inc date

Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy 13th December 2022

2. Member(s) of the Committee Wishing to Call the Decision In

Name

CLlr Martin Williams, CLlr Ian Williams, CLlr Tim Thomas.

CLlr Freya Bletsoe (Chair Scrutiny 2)

3. Reasons for the Call-In

It is recognised that the Authority has to comply with Welsh Government declared 'Climate Emergency' and legislation for the public sector in Wales to achieve Net Zero by 2030.

It is clear that this target is ambitious and will have significant implications for Bridgend County Borough Council. The pursuit and achievement of the target will have a profound influence on all aspects of the Authority's operation and services. There are therefore concerns that the *Bridgend Net Zero Carbon Strategy* agreed by Cabinet on 13th December 2022 was subject to insufficient scrutiny and indeed such a significant strategy should have been subject to scrutiny prior to Cabinet deliberation.

This call in is not about the Net Zero 2030 target or the overall vision set out within the strategy document. However, there are shortcomings within the strategy that require further scrutiny that will provide assurance to all members and the public that the strategy is robust, affordable and deliverable. Most importantly there needs to be assurance that the strategy is the best that could be adopted.

The following aspects, though not exhaustive, require more robust scrutiny.

Financial Implications – Although this was discussed very briefly within Cabinet there was no conclusion or even high-level estimate regarding the costs of achieving 'Net Zero' by 2030. The cabinet appears to have committed the Authority to an un-costed strategy in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. This cannot be acceptable. There must be more scrutiny of this including a profiling of estimated costs over the next 7 years. The Authority needs to understand the cost of delivering the strategy and it needs to provide guidance to council taxpayers.

Performance and Monitoring – There is insufficient clarity as to how the strategy will be monitored and on what frequency. What are the risk thresholds and trigger points? What is the monitoring and evaluation framework, will a dashboard system be constructed to allow council to consistently monitor and evaluate against the charts on pages 16 & 17? Whilst the charts provide some illustration, they suggest linear progression from 90,241t to zero which is not credible for a corporate strategy of this significance or complexity. Furthermore, who should be responsible for setting annual targets? A credible strategy would include annual targets. Effective cabinet scrutiny would have questioned it.

Oversight & Governance – It is noted that a Programme Board will be established chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities but given the significance of this strategy is that appropriate or sufficient. Should ownership of the strategy not be held by full council will delivery devolved to a Programme Board chaired by the Leader? What will the scrutiny arrangements be? Once clear targets have been set the evaluation of the first year against the plan will need to consider areas for improvement and creation of longer term goals. This matter requires much further consideration.

Resources – The papers refer to the intention to recruit additional expertise to support the strategy including a *Decarbonisation Programme Manager*. The paper also indicates that the existing post of *Climate Change Response Manager* is only accountable for delivery in relation to land use within this strategy. Action 'CM1 on page 28 references the intention to appoint a 'technical expert' how does this role fit in? There appears to be a lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities within the strategy. As with oversight and governance should these roles not sit more corporately within the Chief Executive's Directorate? Again, further scrutiny is required.

4. **Date of Call-In:** 22nd December 2022.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO CABINET****13 DECEMBER 2022****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES****BRIDGEND 2030 NET ZERO CARBON STRATEGY****1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval to formally adopt the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy. The report recommends that the strategy should be adopted and the action plans detailed in it implemented so that Bridgend Council can achieve net zero status by 2030.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) produced a report on the state of global warming. The report identified that a continued warming of global temperatures will significantly increase the likelihood and resulting impact of floods, droughts and extreme heat. The report stated the importance of limiting global warming and a requirement for an unprecedented scale and speed of action.
- 3.2 In November 2018, the Councils of Bristol and Manchester were among the first to pass motions that declared a 'Climate Emergency' and set ambitious targets aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 and 2038 respectively to support efforts to limit global warming.
- 3.3 Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in April 2019. Following this the Welsh Government has now committed to achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.
- 3.4 In June 2020 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Cabinet approved a report that set out the crucial roles that BCBC has to play through the management of its

own resources and assets and the way in which it works with and supports local residents, organisations and businesses to respond to the challenges set out in the IPCC report.

- 3.5 BCBC's latest Corporate Plan highlights 'decarbonisation and environmental sustainability' as a priority area for the Council up to 2023. A new Corporate Plan is being developed for approval by Council and the Bridgend Net Zero 2030 Strategy will feed into that. Alongside this BCBC ensures that the climate is considered at an everyday decision-making level. This is underpinned by The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Bridgend Public Service Board Well-being Plan.
- 3.6 In 2021, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 were introduced which amended the initial target of net Welsh emissions account for the year 2050 from at least 80% to 100% lower than the baseline. The Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 were also introduced which amended the Climate Change (Interim Emissions Targets) (Wales) Regulations 2018 so that the maximum amount for the net Welsh emission account for 2030 is 63% lower than the baseline instead of 45%.
- 3.7 A target for Local Authorities in Wales to be net-zero carbon by 2030 is an ambition set by Welsh Government. In response, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGGA) with local government Leaders established a Decarbonisation Strategy Panel, supported by all 22 local authorities, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cardiff University. The Welsh Government published its Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide in May 2021. The timing of publication of the Welsh Public Sector net zero reporting guide and BCBC's work is such that BCBC has been advised by the Carbon Trust – a commissioned expert guide on the route to Net Zero, sharing experience from the climate change frontline; pioneers for more than 20 years, driving real change with leading businesses, governments and organisations - that it is the first Local Authority in Wales to be fully reviewing its base line and developing its Decarbonisation Strategy in line with the protocol.
- 3.8 Following appointment of the Carbon Trust to work with BCBC on the development of a Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, officers have undertaken the following activities:
- Commence work – April 2021
 - Data gathering – April 2021 – June 2021
 - Scoping workshop Communities Directorate Management Team (DMT) – June 2021
 - A report and presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 – July 2021
 - Initial headline figures presented to BCBC 2030 Programme Board – July 2021
 - Officer workshop series – September – October 2021
 - Draft Strategy officer workshops – January 2022
 - Corporate Management Board (CMB) presentation – February 2022
 - BCBC Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board presentation – February 2022
 - Draft Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Strategy presented to Cabinet – March 2022
 - Public consultation of the draft strategy – June – August 2022

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The final version of the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy is attached to this report at **Appendix 1**. It was developed following an in-depth review of data in line with the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide and engagement with internal and external stakeholders. Importantly, this Strategy will not be the only driver for net zero. It will be a part of the Council's Corporate Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all need to reflect the commitment to net zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.
- 4.2 A public consultation on the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was undertaken over a twelve-week period from 8th June to 30th August 2022. The consultation received a total of 360 online survey completions, with a further 35 face to face engagement completions. The consultation report is included at **Appendix 2**.
- 4.3 Analysis of the responses shows that the majority of respondents are in support of the draft Bridgend 2030 Net Carbon Zero Strategy and the priorities within. There was no clear signal from respondents to remove or change any of the commitments or initiatives in the strategy and therefore no changes to the draft strategy document are recommended.
- 4.4 Given the necessary focus on the Council's own estate and Welsh Government's carbon reporting methodology the strategy does not address some of the key themes and messages captured in the consultation, such as a desire for low carbon public transport. The consultation report will be shared with relevant officers and the 2030 Programme Board so that the feedback gathered through the consultation can be used to inform activity beyond the immediate Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy remit.
- 4.5 The Carbon Leads for taking forward the delivery of the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy are:
- Carbon Management – Group Manager - Economy, Natural Resources and Sustainability
 - Waste – Head Of Operations - Community Services
 - Transport – Group Manager - Highways and Green Spaces
 - Buildings – Group Manager - Corporate Landlord
 - Land Use – Climate Change Response Manager
 - Procurement – Corporate Procurement Manager

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal at this stage.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy demonstrates the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is evidenced through the 5 ways of working as follows:

- **Long Term:** A Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy will provide the pathway for Bridgend County Borough to develop a decarbonised, digitally advanced transport, buildings power and heat systems and green space enhancements that meet the UK decarbonisation targets that are supported by BCBC's Local Area Energy Strategy and Smart Energy Plan and Green Infrastructure Plans.
- **Prevention:** A Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy will provide an opportunity for all to benefit from the decarbonisation transition and ensure that solutions are designed and available for everyone within Bridgend County Borough.
- **Integration:** A Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy offers an opportunity to develop a range of transport, buildings power and heat systems and green space enhancements options to communities, public and business partners offering carbon reductions, reduced fuel bills and create economic opportunities through a clearly identified value chain for the area.
- **Collaboration:** BCBC will continue to work in partnership with our communities, public sector partners and UK and Welsh Government and private sector partners to deliver a Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.
- **Involvement:** Creating and delivering a Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy has, and will continue to, involve working with a variety of stakeholders, notably local public service partners, to jointly deliver sustainable solutions.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The resource challenge faced by all public bodies in Wales in their efforts to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 is significant. Whilst the process for developing the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy has been led by the Communities Directorate there has been a Council wide approach towards its creation and its delivery must be seen as a corporate responsibility. Delivery will also require an on-going partnership approach with key external stakeholders and a wide range of funders.

8.2 Much has been achieved by BCBC in securing external resources to date, often matched on a case-by-case basis with BCBC resources, for a number of the early

phase actions being delivered to support the Council to reach net-zero carbon, such as work on the Bridgend District Heat Scheme, HyBont project, active travel and the Re:Fit scheme.

- 8.3 Like these schemes, many of the initiatives in future years will require feasibility funding to finalise their detailed cost and delivery profiles. Such funding is available on an annual basis via bids to BCBC's Corporate Feasibility Fund.
- 8.4 As initiatives that require additional resources are taken forward it is noted that the Corporate Director Communities, in consultation with the Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change will submit proposals to secure external resources to fund 2030 initiatives through appropriate funds. As initiatives are developed, each one, including their potential resource requirements and carbon reduction potential, will be considered based on the information available at the time.
- 8.5 It is noted that, depending on fund criteria, an element of match funding may be required from BCBC. As the specific detail of individual funding packages are not yet known at this stage it is considered that any match funding requirement would be highlighted by the Corporate Director Communities, and the most appropriate source of match funding identified, where possible, which could require further reports to Cabinet and Council, particularly if capital match funding is required.
- 8.6 BCBC does not currently have a dedicated capital resource to deliver the 2030 programme in its entirety within its capital programme. The Council is facing a number of capital pressures which it needs to address, and if a specific ringfenced fund was to be created within the current Capital programme solely for decarbonisation then it may prevent other pressures being funded.
- 8.7 A revenue budget growth pressure proposal was developed by the Corporate Director Communities as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy process to provide revenue resources on an annual basis going forward in support of the delivery of the Strategy. If this is not made available then any future work to support the delivery of the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Strategy would have to be supported through existing revenue budgets across all Directorates.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to formally adopt the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

Janine Nightingale
Corporate Director, Communities
13 DECEMBER 2022

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Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy

Foreword

Climate change is recognised as the biggest threat facing our planet today. Resulting in the World Health Organisation placing climate change and air pollution at the very top of its list of threats to public health. It is also why Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared its own climate emergency in June 2020, developing a Climate Emergency Response programme, with a commitment to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the world worked together to combat the public health crisis created by a global threat. This brought to light what can be achieved when communities and organisations come together in the face of an emergency.

Building on the capacity for collaborative action that communities and organisations demonstrated during the pandemic – we are optimistic that we can work at a scale and pace needed to respond to the climate emergency.

The Bridgend 2030 Strategy and the commitments and initiatives within sets out how the council intends to achieve some of its climate aspirations.

This strategy sets out how we will enable, support, and deliver action to meet our net zero ambition. It includes six priority actions plans aimed at reducing the organisation's greenhouse gas emissions to achieve a net zero position by the 1 April 2030. We will assign a Corporate Manager as Senior Responsible Officer for each Action Plan, who will be responsible for reporting on progress to the 2030 Programme Board. The Action Plans include carbon management, buildings, transport, procurement, land use and waste.

To achieve our carbon neutral goal, we need to improve air quality, protect, and enhance our thriving green spaces, support sustainable travel, and continue to create energy efficient, good quality places to live and work to make the county borough a healthier and happier place to live.

This strategy will not be the only driver for Net Zero, it will be an integral part of the council's Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all reflect the commitment to Net Zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.

We recognise that achieving our vision will not be easy. But we hope that by working collaboratively, we will have significant impact on reducing emissions to enable us to create a thriving Net Zero future for the benefit of everyone.

We encourage people who live, work, visit and invest in Bridgend County Borough to work with us on this exciting period of transformation. We will look to engage widely to understand how we can work together to achieve the ambitions set out in this strategy. Since declaring a climate emergency in June 2020, the council has not been standing still, significant progress has already been made to reduce carbon emissions both within the organisation and across the county borough, some examples of which you will see in the strategy.

The Bridgend 2030 Strategy provides a focus and direction for the decarbonisation of the council's own emissions as an organisation. However, as a council there is a critical leadership role in supporting a Net Zero transition in communities, businesses, and infrastructure across Bridgend County Borough.

This strategy is a call to action. We recognise that we will require full support and engagement from all parts of the county borough to ensure the climate emergency can be overcome. Everyone will need to work together as one to reach Net Zero and support the wellbeing of future generations in Wales.

Mark Shephard

Chief Executive, Bridgend County Borough Council

Councillor Huw David

Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council



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The Climate Emergency in Wales

Immediate and bold action to tackle climate change is more crucial now than ever before.

There is now unprecedented political recognition of a global Climate Emergency. In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report detailing the short amount of time we have left to tackle widespread climate breakdown. They stated that we have until 2030 to cut our carbon emissions to a level that limits global warming to a maximum of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This has culminated in the Paris Climate Change Agreement in COP 15, in which 189 countries united to ratify a legally bound commitment to act to limit global temperature rise this century¹, and now in the recent COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, in October 2021, specific climate change mitigation actions are agreed to stop deforestation, cut methane, and end coal emissions.

The five warmest years on record have occurred in the five years succeeding the Paris Agreement.

Climate change is recognised as the most significant threat to the health of humanity on a global scale. We are already seeing consequences of 1°C of global warming in Wales through rising sea levels, more extreme weather, flooding and the warmest winter on record in Wales in 2019. The State of the UK Climate Report 2020 prepared by the Met Office set out that in the space of 30 years, the UK has become 0.9°C warmer and 6% wetter.

In April 2019, with cross-party support, the Senedd was the first Parliament in the world to declare a Climate Emergency².

Increased public awareness has led to calls for greater action to be taken to tackle climate change. This has also led to growing pressure on governments and businesses to act rapidly to mitigate climate change, calling for the UK and devolved governments to formally declare a Climate Emergency. Wales declared its Climate Emergency in April 2019.

To lead the way on climate action in Wales, Welsh Government has legislated for a Net Zero Wales by 2050 with the public sector leading by example to be Net Zero by 2030³.

Since the Climate Emergency declaration in April 2019, Welsh Government has accepted the Climate Change Committee's recommendation to increase Wales's 2050 emissions target⁴.

In March 2021, Welsh Government published the 'Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021'⁵. These updated the initial 80% target to a net zero emission, which is a 100% legislated requirement by 2050. The updated Regulations also set the requirement for a 63% Wales-wide emission target by 2030 (increased from 45%).

· The public sector has a critical leadership role to play on the journey to Net Zero.
· In recognition of this, Ministers have set the target for the Welsh public sector to achieve Net Zero status by 2030. Welsh Government have published a route map for decarbonisation across the public sector⁶ to provide overarching guidance. Alongside this, progress to Net Zero will be tracked by yearly public sector carbon accounting⁷.

Bridgend County Borough Council has committed to the Net Zero 2030 target as an organisation and recognises the leadership role to enable wider Net Zero for businesses and communities in the county borough.



Bridgend's Declaration of a Climate Emergency

As the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) was underway in Glasgow in October 2021, Welsh Government released its second carbon budget to progress towards Net Zero emissions, 'Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25)'⁸. This plan further underpins the public sector's role in a 'Team Wales' approach to achieving Net Zero.

A summary of Welsh Government legislation, strategies, and ambitions to drive carbon reduction activity in Wales is shown below.

Legislation	Strategy	Ministerial ambition
Well being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	Prosperity for All - Economic Action Plan (2017)	Net zero Public Sector by 2030
Environment (Wales) Act 2016	Prosperity for All - A Low Carbon Wales (2019)	70% of Wales electricity consumption to be renewable by 2030
The Climate Change (Carbon Budgets) (Wales) Regulations 2018	Prosperity for All - A Climate Conscious Wales (2019)	1GW of electricity generated in Wales to be locally owned by 2030
	Programme for Government 2021 - 2026 (2021)	All new developments by 2020 to have an element of local ownership



Bridgend's Climate Emergency Response Programme

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared its own climate emergency in June 2020 and set up its Climate Emergency Response programme. This has a commitment to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations. This Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy ("Bridgend 2030 Strategy") is the initial strategic step in achieving this commitment. Importantly, this strategy will not be the only driver for Net Zero, it will be an integral part of the council's Corporate Plan and Wellbeing Plan, whilst policies, strategies and ongoing plans will all reflect the commitment to Net Zero. This will ensure it is fully embraced across the organisation.

The council's Corporate Plan⁹ highlights 'decarbonisation and environmental sustainability' as a priority area for the council up to 2023. Alongside this, the Council ensures that the climate is considered at an everyday decision-making level. This is underpinned by The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Bridgend Public Service Board Wellbeing Plan¹⁰.

“One Council working together to improve lives”



CORPORATE PLAN 2018-23
reviewed for 2021-22

Bridgend County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

BRIDGEND

bridgend county
sir pen-y-bont

Bridgend Public Services Board Well-being Plan

Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend
Public Services Board

2018-2023

Maer ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh

PSB Support Team, c/o
Bridgend County Borough Council,
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What have we achieved to date?

Since declaring a Climate Emergency in June 2020, the council has not been standing still. Significant progress has already been made to reduce carbon emissions in the council and county borough with active projects (excluding new school buildings), totalling circa £20m. An example of an active project is the Re:fit Cymru energy efficiency retrofit programme which will provide £1.17m of investment across 19 buildings in its current phase.

A summary of recent and active schemes progressing decarbonisation across the themes of buildings, transport, land use and procurement are shown in the table below.

Transport	Buildings	Land Use	Procurement
LED street lighting	Re:fit Cymru -retrofit programme	Coastal protection Scheme	Regional procurement networks
Porthcawl - New Bus Terminus	Bridgend District Heat Network	Extending area of Local Nature Reserves	Green energy tariffs
Civic Centre - 8 charging points	Bryncethin Depot - PV, LED & Battery Storage	Feasibility - land-based renewables	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy
ULEV infrastructure	Roof mount Solar PV - multi-site	Tree planting - I-Tree eco study	
Active Travel provision	21st Century Schools Programme	Local Development Plan update	

Climate resilience – How are we preparing?

Alongside the work of the 2030 strategy and the efforts to reduce the carbon baseline, the Council is also actively engaged in other projects to increase our overall climate resilience in the county borough. This includes the following: -

- Developing a Flood Risk Strategy, investing in flood prevention equipment and the investment of £6m in the coastal flood defences at Porthcawl.
- Ensuring that we implement the new Sustainable Draining Systems and that all new developments have appropriate attenuation and drainage systems such as green roofs or natural drainage systems.
- Increasing our Tree Canopy Cover and Biodiversity Schemes, including planting 10,000 trees in the Borough in 2021/22 as part of the Queens Green Canopy project.

Sustainable Recovery from the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the economic and social context in Wales, the UK and globally. This will, in turn, affect how the transition to a Net Zero carbon position is planned.

By drawing on the principles set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Welsh Government have produced the Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission¹¹ which outlines the pathway to recovery following the pandemic.

The mission sets three targets: 'prosperous', 'green', and 'equal' as outlined in the diagram below. It aims to create a just, green recovery – addressing the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic while simultaneously tackling the Net Zero challenge.



This Bridgend 2030 Strategy and the commitments and initiatives within will support a just and green recovery for the county borough from the pandemic.

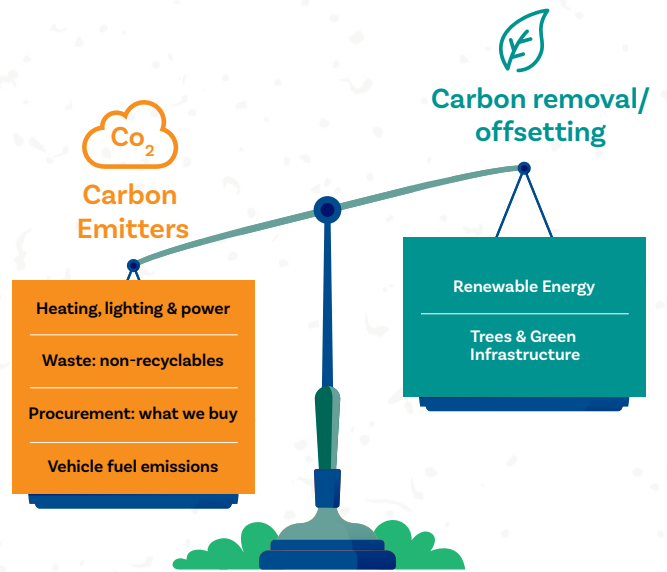
The response to the pandemic has demonstrated how significant and impactful change can be enforced into the day-to-day life of the public and the approach to work. The council undertook an additional assessment of its carbon footprint for 2020/21 to understand the impact of the pandemic on operations. It demonstrated that remote working during

the Coronavirus lockdown within this period reduced fleet and business travel emissions by 16% and 47% respectively, and reduced emissions in buildings by 20% across the estate. With the pandemic demonstrating that rapid and significant societal change is achievable, the goal now must be to stir similar urgency and commitment to tackle the Climate Emergency.

Carbon Neutral by 2030 – What does this mean?

Carbon neutrality or Net Zero Carbon means balancing the greenhouse gas emissions we produce with the number of gases we are removing from the atmosphere. This is shown in the diagram below. Currently, the world is producing more greenhouse gas emissions than it absorbs which is causing global warming and climate change.

Carbon neutrality, or having a net-zero carbon footprint is the balancing of carbon emissions against carbon removal, often through carbon offsetting, with the net result being zero.



What is Bridgend’s Carbon Footprint?

The council commissioned a carbon footprint assessment for its own operations. This is shown below and provides a baseline to measure performance against the 2030 Net Zero target.

Total Bridgend Council Carbon Emissions 2019/20:

90,241 tonnes
CO₂e

The council carbon footprint from 2019/20 has been calculated as approximately 90,241 tonnes of CO₂e, using Welsh Government Carbon Reporting methodology. This represents around 0.23% of Wales’s total greenhouse gas emissions¹².

Welsh Governments Carbon Reporting looks at emissions being attributed to the three categories or scopes: -

Scope 1

Direct Emissions - are those that occur from an organisation at source, for example by heating buildings or from the exhausts of vehicles.

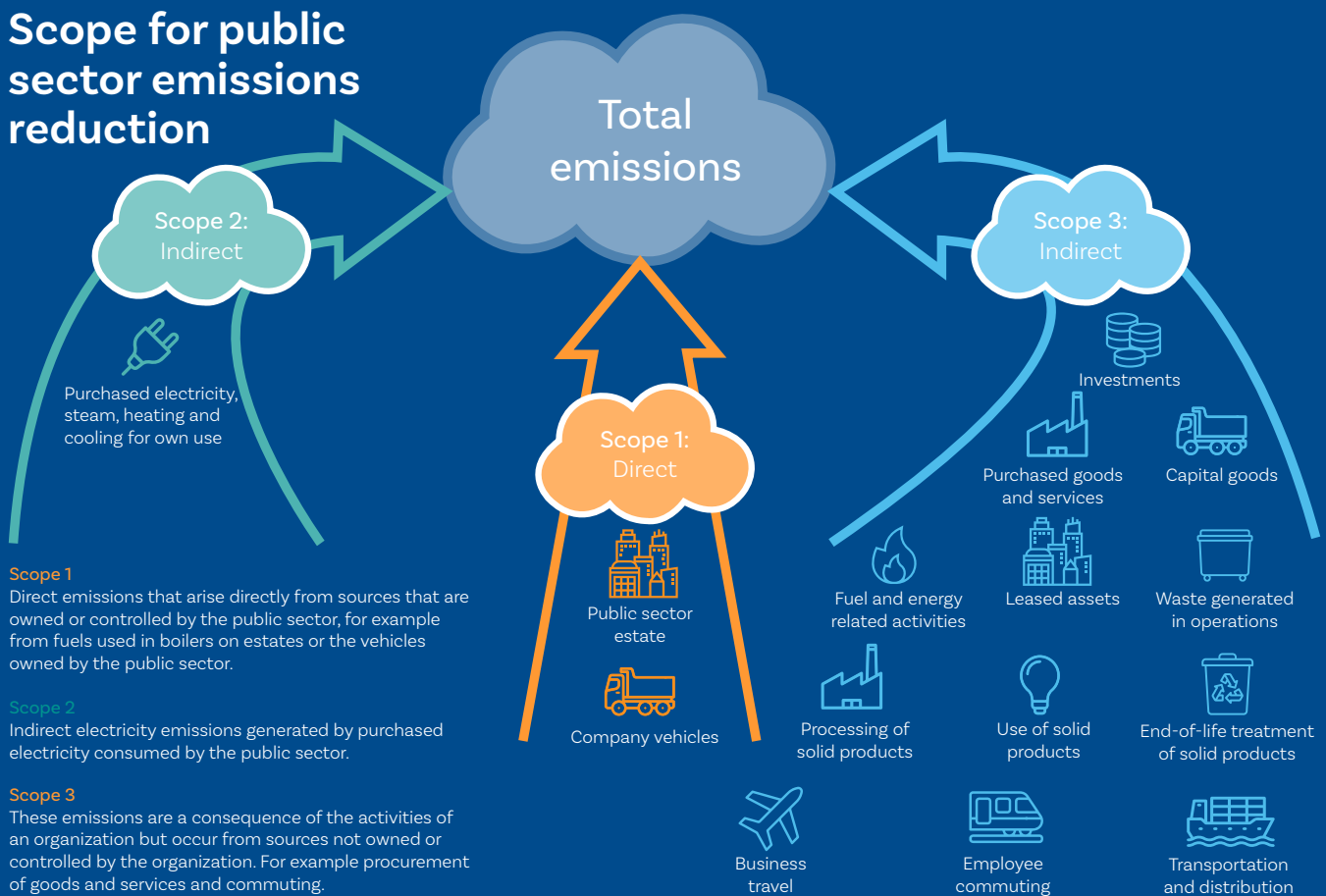
Scope 2

Indirect Emissions - are those that occur mainly from electricity used in our activities but where generation and associated emissions are elsewhere.

Scope 3

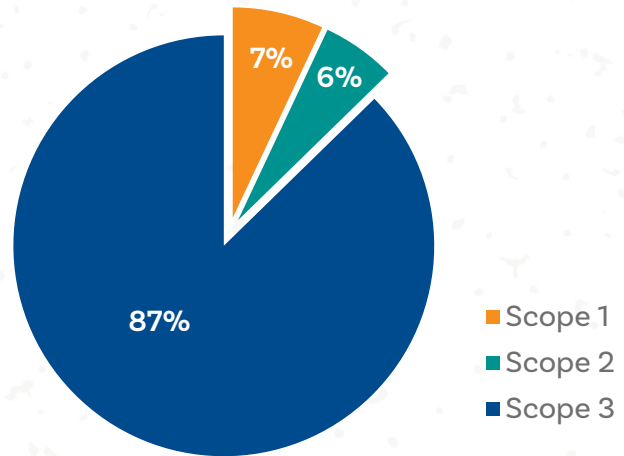
All other indirect emissions - this covers emissions associated with areas such as procurement, staff commuting and direct waste.

Scope for public sector emissions reduction



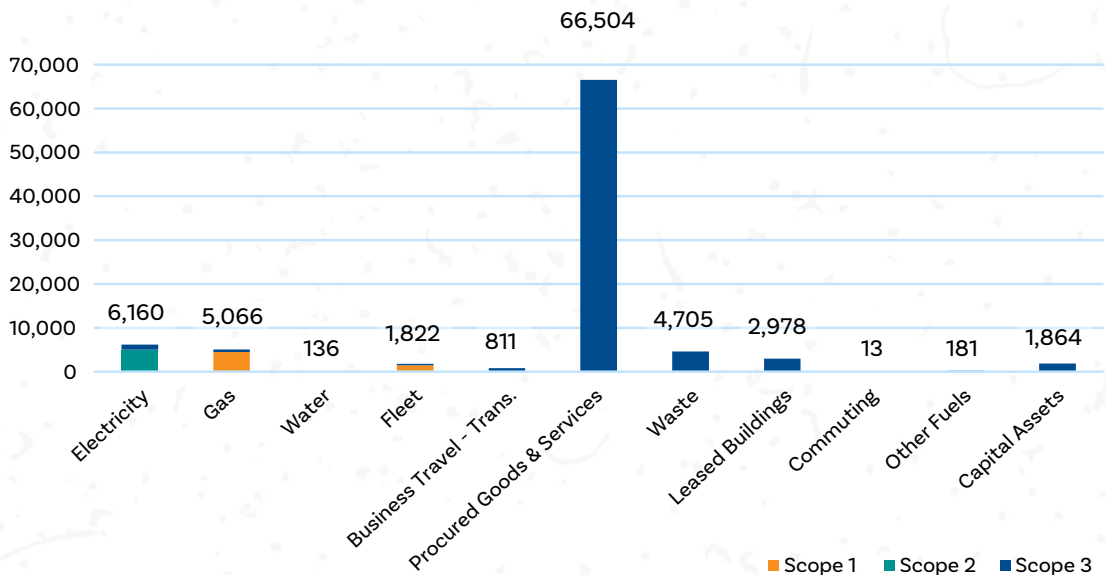
The diagram below illustrates what percentage of the council's emissions are in which Scope. As is evident below, Scope 1 and 2 contain the lowest levels of carbon emissions, whilst 87% of the Council's emissions come via Scope 3. These are indirect emissions in areas including the supply chain, business travel, commuting and direct waste.

Total BCBC Emissions by Scope 2019/20



When we examine further the Council's carbon emissions by source, it becomes clear that one area, in particular, generates over two-thirds of the Council's emissions; the procurement of goods and services. The graph below shows the further categorisation of the footprint by emissions source, effectively outlining all areas of the Council's operations that are included within the carbon footprint calculations as directed by the Welsh Government.

BCBC Carbon Emissions by Source (tCO2e)



The Council recognises that there is a need to improve data accuracy and coverage in some areas of its Carbon Footprint assessment. The requirement for ongoing data improvement is needed, in particular for business travel and employee commuting related emissions.

Carbon Management Plan

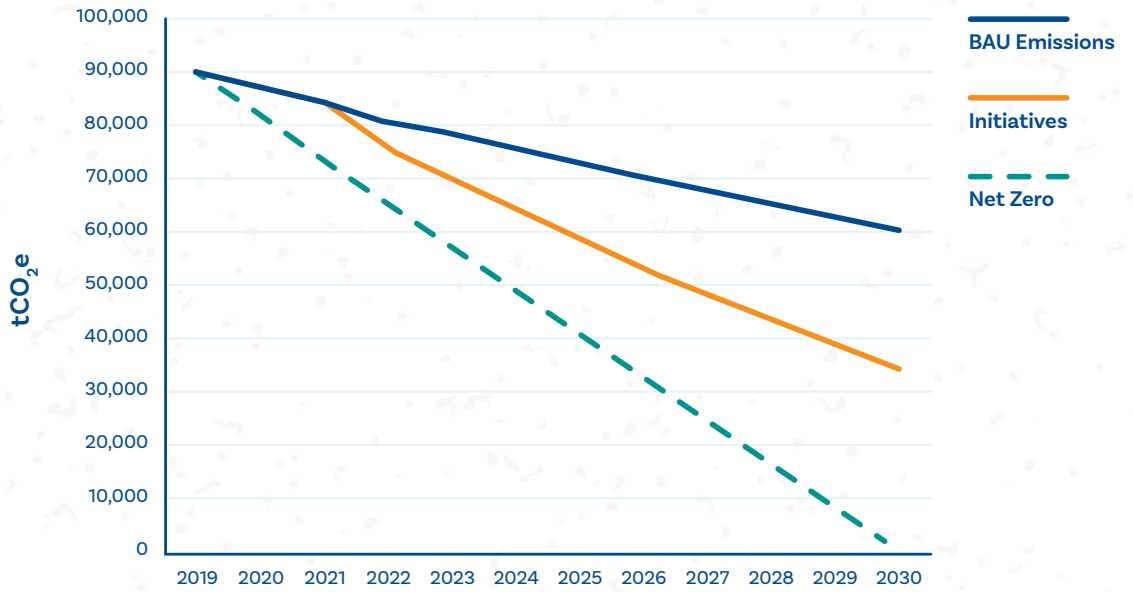
Working with The Carbon Trust, the council has been able to calculate its total carbon emissions from its activities in 2019/20 as a baseline figure of 90,241 tonnes. This has been achieved by using actual measurements where they were available. However, some areas like the current level of sequestration (carbon offset from natural features) across the council-owned estate have not been possible to calculate at this point.

It is recognised that it will not be practical or possible for the council to stop all carbon emissions entirely from its operations. This will be the same for all local authorities across Wales. The council must strive to reduce its emissions as far as possible before using offsetting measures as the final step to Net Zero.

This calculation is called the “Gap to Target”, which is the gap that will require offsetting measures. A gap to target has been estimated in 2030 as 34,155 tCO₂e. This represents the council’s estimated residual carbon emissions in 2030, plus the initiatives that were unquantifiable at this point in terms of carbon savings. The council will need to offset the remaining carbon emissions using the correct and approved methods. The graph below gives a visual representation of these savings as the council ‘Decarbonisation Pathway’ to 2030. A business-as-usual (BAU) and Net Zero 2030 pathway have also been included for context.

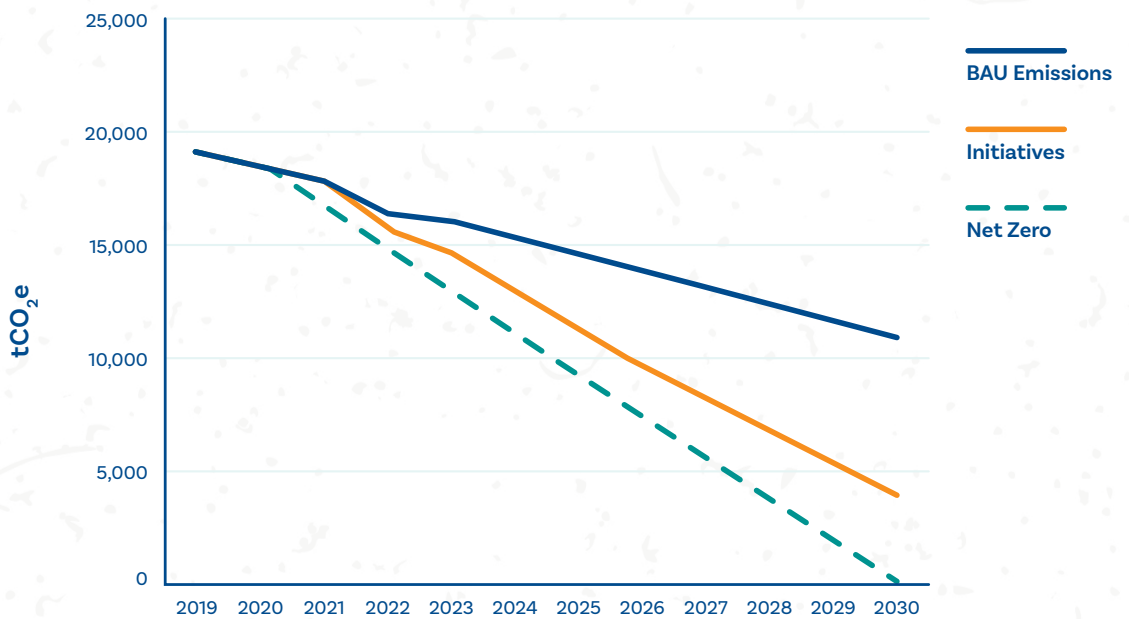


Total Emissions Forecast



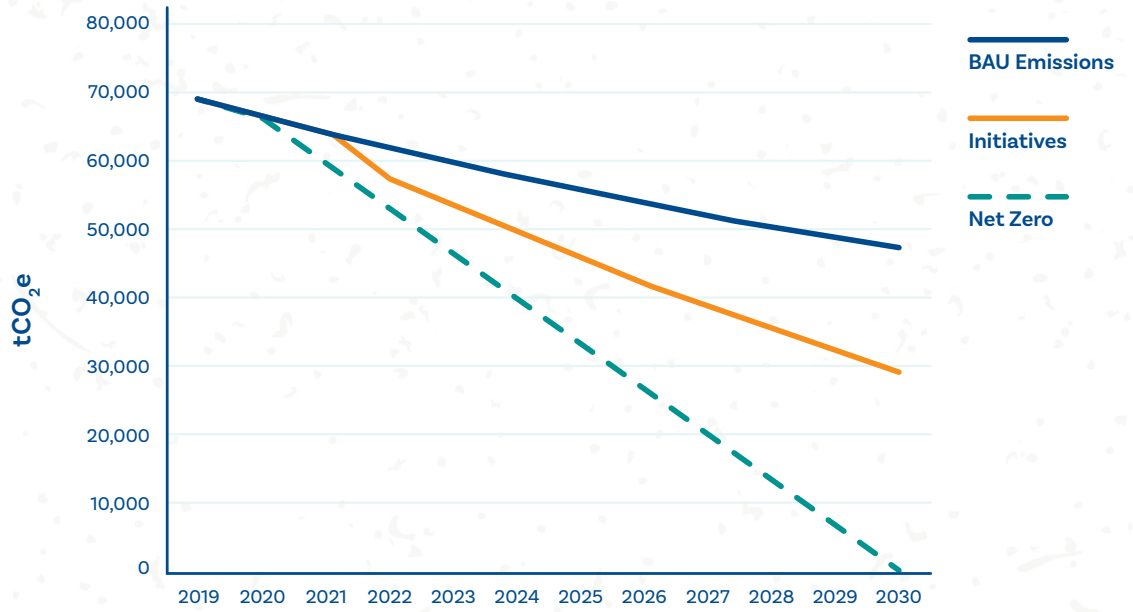
Further decarbonisation pathways are outlined below for supply chain, buildings and transport emissions. These represent in more detail the high-level modelling that has been undertaken as part of this strategy. The Council recognises that further, more detailed ‘bottom up’ modelling will need to take place as it continues the journey to Net Zero 2030.

Buildings Emissions Forecast

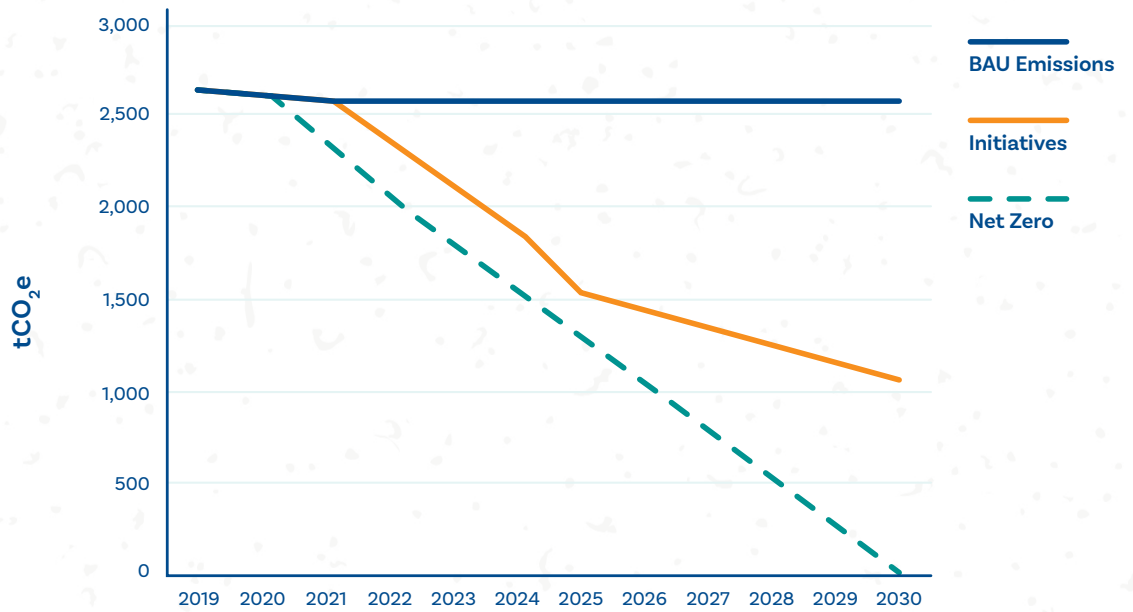


Buildings include – Electricity, Gas, Other Fuels, Water and Waste projections.

Procurement Emissions Forecast



Fleet & Business Travel Emissions Forecast



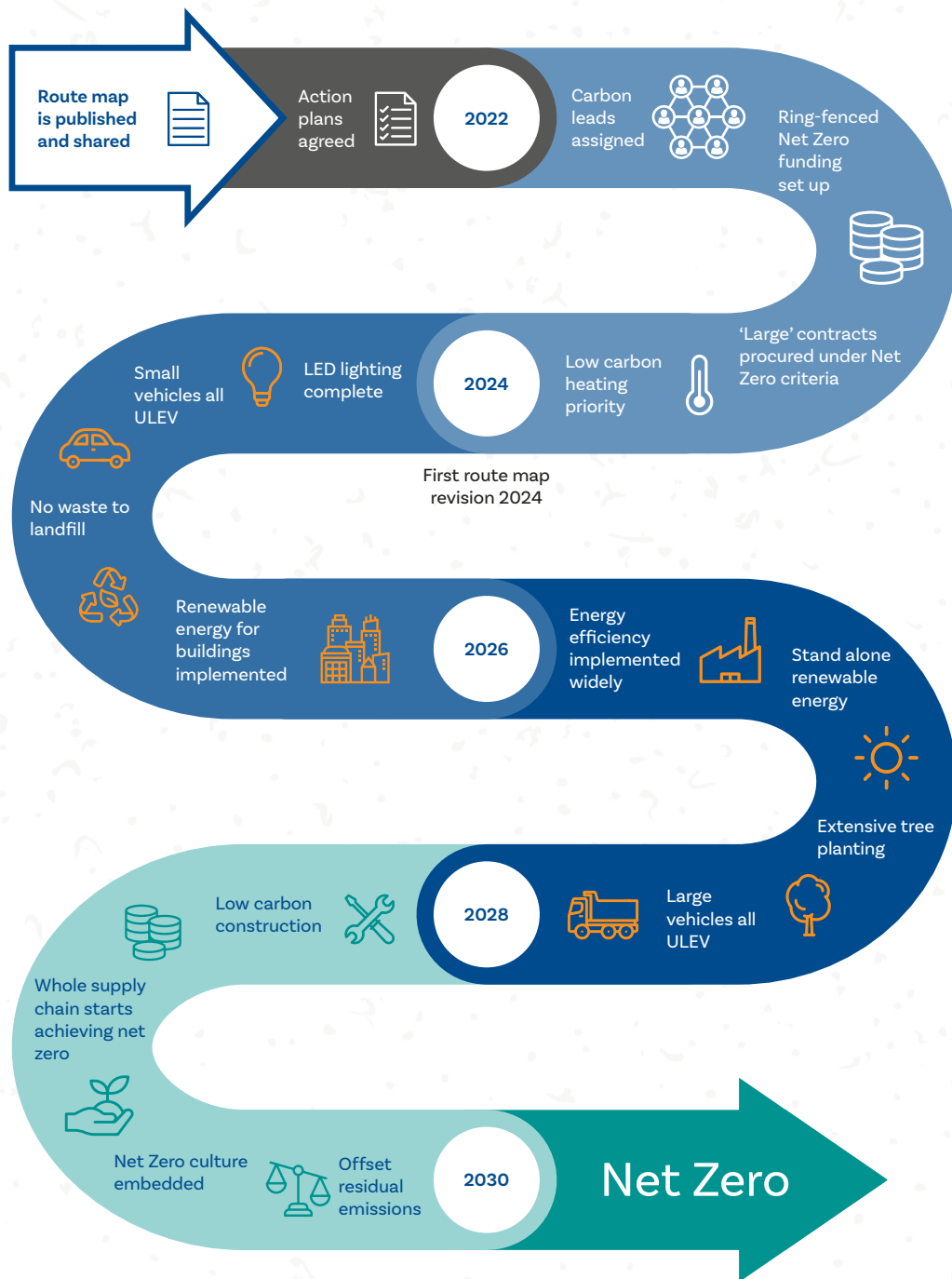
Bridgend's Net Zero Commitments

The council has aligned its Net Zero target with the Welsh Government ambition of achieving a Net Zero public sector by 2030. This will require understanding the priorities, costs, stakeholders and wider impacts of actions associated with council operations, whilst improving understanding of the public sector's role in influencing change in society and the wider economic system. The council's eight Bridgend 2030 commitments are as follows:-

Commitment 1	The council will demonstrate leadership and commitment to deliver the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, to address the Climate Emergency as declared by Welsh Government, the Senedd and the council.
Commitment 2	The council will integrate low and zero-carbon behaviours throughout the organisation and carbon impact will become a key consideration in all strategic decisions.
Commitment 3	The council will decarbonise its built estate by 2030 with a strong focus on energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable generation.
Commitment 4	The council will undertake a programme of fleet renewal to ultra-low emission vehicles, such that all vehicles are ULEV by 2030.
Commitment 5	The council will promote active and low-carbon travel options throughout its own operations.
Commitment 6	The council will decarbonise its procurement activity by engaging the supply chain, supporting and mandating suppliers to decarbonise, and progressing sustainable, local procurement practices.
Commitment 7	The council will ensure its land holdings are developed and maintained to support Net Zero objectives through high levels of carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
Commitment 8	The council will decarbonise its waste streams by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture alongside sustainable methods of disposal.

Route map to a Net Zero Bridgend

The route map below lays out key milestones that need to be achieved on the way to 2030 and a fully Net Zero Council. It is ambitious and will be challenging to achieve, with partnerships integral to an effective delivery. Detailed Actions plans have been prepared against the eight 2030 Corporate Commitments and these are set out in Appendix 2.



Next Steps to achieving Bridgend 2030

There is no doubting that the Bridgend 2030 Strategy is ambitious in its commitments and will be equally challenging to deliver. Key to this will be ensuring that a robust and effective governance structure is in place to make decisions, sustain momentum and action over the long term and monitor and review progress against our carbon reduction plans. The implementation of this strategy is detailed in Appendix 1.

It is also critical that focus is placed on putting the actions presented within the strategy into motion immediately. We will use the content and quantifications (energy, carbon and cost-saving potential) developed through our work with the Carbon Trust and included throughout this document, as a building block for the development of detailed business cases for action going forward. The Action Plans that build on the eight Bridgend 2030 Commitments are included in Appendix 2.

It must also be recognised that access to additional resources and finance is critical to ensure the success of the 2030 Strategy. Whilst many projects are already resourced and funded via the Council's Capital Programme or external grant schemes and providers, such as UK Government, Welsh Government and the Cardiff Capital Region, there will be a requirement for additional resources in the future to deliver new initiatives or schemes. The Council will continue to identify partnership opportunities and funding streams to progress this decarbonisation agenda.

We will review our Action Plans annually to include new projects as they are developed and approved and to monitor and measure progress both on emission reduction but also against a broader spectrum of sustainability and wellbeing metrics. By reviewing annually, we can ensure a dynamic response and evolving action plans that reflect the needs and priorities of the county borough and its residents. However, much progress can still be made by championing decarbonisation within the decision-making processes of the Council, and by integrating this into corporate behaviours.

This Bridgend 2030 Strategy provides the direction for decarbonisation of the Council's own emissions as an organisation. However, as a Council there is a critical leadership role in supporting a Net Zero transition across the communities, businesses, and infrastructure for the county borough. It is recognised that the Council will require full support and engagement from all parts of the county to ensure the climate emergency can be overcome. Everyone will need to work together as one to reach Net Zero and support the well-being of future generations in Wales.



Appendix 1

Bridgend 2030 Implementation Plan

Strategy Governance

The council has identified that governance and engagement are essential for a successful decarbonisation strategy. To deliver the strategy, organisational change is required to maintain a focus on long-term decarbonisation and carbon management. This section describes the actions the council will undertake to embed decarbonisation into the organisation.

The Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board will be maintained to oversee and track progress to Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The Programme Board will be Chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and led by the Corporate Director of the Communities, and the Decarbonisation Programme Manager will oversee the overall organisation and delivery of the strategy.

Carbon Leads

The council will assign each activity stream a 'Carbon Lead' to ensure that every area is represented across the organisation. Carbon leads will review progress against existing action plans and report back to the Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board on an annual basis. A 2030 Steering Group will also be formed and will be led by the Decarbonisation Programme Manager. The 2030 Steering Group will meet on a more regular basis with the aim to bring together all carbon leads to encourage continual collaboration across the organisation.

The Carbon Lead's aim is to support the Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board in understanding the progress made against the commitments within the strategy. The initiatives included within the activity streams will often provide carbon reduction across several of the activity streams. Carbon leads will also be required to drive and empower decarbonisation initiatives in their departments.

Carbon Management and Waste will be included as additional programme areas, alongside Transport, Buildings, Land Use and Procurement.



Action plans

Defined action plans will form the basis of the council's decarbonisation initiatives to achieve Net Zero. Strategic initiatives are listed within the action plan section against each of the defined activity streams. The council has highlighted the following activity streams to focus decarbonisation efforts. Carbon Leads for each activity stream will be responsible for driving progress against the action plans and maintaining momentum.

1. Carbon Management
2. Buildings (Existing buildings & new builds)
3. Transport (Business travel and commuting included)
4. Procurement
5. Land Use
6. Waste

The council recognises the challenge that achieving Net Zero by 2030 poses to normal operations and delivery of service. It should be noted that all decarbonisation initiatives presented in the action plans (Appendix 2) within this report will be subject to resource, finance availability and an individual business case assessment. Initiatives are ambitious to drive the transformational change within the organisation that is required to achieve a Net Zero future.

Monitoring and evaluation

Once the Bridgend 2030 Strategy is adopted, measuring progress will be an essential part of its implementation. Ongoing monitoring is crucial to understand if the strategy is on track. Evaluation of the action plans will

take place annually within the agreed timeframe. This will help the council to identify whether objectives have been met, alongside its impacts and lessons learned from the initiative. It is also recognised that the decarbonisation sector is developing rapidly. It is likely that in the time up to 2030 that new innovative technologies and solutions will come into the mix that may have not been considered at the time of this report. With that in mind, this Bridgend 2030 Strategy will be reviewed in full in 2024 and 2027, to update against the fast-moving sector.

Stakeholder engagement

Robust engagement with stakeholders from across Bridgend County Borough will be crucial for successful climate action. The Council will continue to explore innovative ways through which the whole organisation can contribute towards achieving Net Zero by 2030. It should ensure that an effective engagement strategy that actively involves all council departments and employees is drawn up. Achieving the greatest possible input and buy-in will allow the Council to work closely with key stakeholders to identify the areas of the council that need to be prioritised to reduce emissions. It will need to remain transparent throughout all engagement activities, to grant stakeholders the opportunity to contribute towards the decarbonisation initiatives that they intend to implement across the estate.

Next steps to achieving Bridgend 2030

The council should focus on the following to deliver its Bridgend 2030 Strategy: -

- Continue to engage with departments across the council and produce an internal list of stakeholders to repeatedly engage with.
- Form a '2030 Sub-Committee' to unite carbon leads from each department to ensure a collective approach is achieved across BCBC on a continual basis.
- Communicate with external stakeholders on the continual development of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy up to 2030 itself.

BCBC mobilisation and management initiatives

The following table outlines the mobilisation and management initiatives that the council will adopt to ensure action is taken to achieve decarbonisation across the organisation by 2030.



1	A Decarbonisation 2030 Programme Board will remain in place to oversee the implementation of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy.
2	A 'Decarbonisation Programme Manager' will remain in place as a dedicated role to drive the focussed implementation of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy.
3	A '2030 Steering Group' will be formed to bring together carbon leads from each activity stream to ensure a joined-up approach is achieved across the council.
4	Carbon leads will be appointed for each activity stream and will be responsible for reviewing progress against action plans and reporting back to the '2030 Programme Board'.
5	The action plans will form the basis of how the council will reach Net Zero – action plans will be reviewed and updated annually.
6	The council will enable successful implementation of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy by identifying additional resources and finance for delivery through a robust business planning regime to scale up and accelerate implementation of initiatives.
7	A ring-fenced financial allocation will be created for decarbonisation. This will be used for developing specific projects and leveraging in additional external finance.
8	The council will include a defined mission statement on its decarbonisation ambitions as a distinct corporate objective; CMB, CCMB and council Boards will give high importance to decarbonisation in all investment decisions.
9	The council will issue at least two revisions on the Bridgend 2030 Strategy in 2024 and 2027 to update against the rapidly changing landscape of the decarbonisation sector.
10	The council will engage with departments in the council to produce an internal list of stakeholders to support collaboration and share expertise across all activity areas on Net Zero.
11	The council will communicate and collaborate with external stakeholders (e.g. health board and local service board) on the progress of the Bridgend 2030 Strategy.



Appendix 2 – Bridgend 2030 Action Plans

2030 Actions Plans

This appendix contains six action plans that will deliver the Bridgend 2030 Strategy and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the organisation in order to get to a Net Zero Position by the 1 April 2030. Each Action Plan will have a Corporate Manager as Senior Responsible Officer and will report on the progress of the Action Plan to the 2030 Programme Board.

These include the following: -

- Action Plan 1 – Carbon Management
- Action Plan 2 – Buildings
- Action Plan 3 – Transport
- Action Plan 4 – Procurement
- Action Plan 5 – Land Use
- Action Plan 6 – Waste

It is the intention to review these plans annually in order to track the progress against the carbon baseline, monitor effectiveness, resource appropriately and include new initiatives, technology and projects as they arise.



Action Plan 1 - Carbon management

To achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030 a complete culture shift will be required across all council operations. The council recognises that a joined-up approach is needed, and all departments will need to work together to achieve the decarbonisation goals. Carbon impact and sustainability will become a key metric in the decision-making process. The following table outlines the initiatives the council will undertake to implement effective carbon management across the organisation.

Carbon Management Initiatives

CM1	The council will appoint a technical expert in 2022 to undertake a more specific 'bottom-up' reduction pathway, providing more detailed carbon and financial modelling results for the agreed Action Plans in the 2030 Strategy.
CM2	Carbon impact and implications to be included in all council business cases for investment, integrated with the wellbeing of future generations assessment.
CM3	The decarbonisation agenda will be proactively communicated to staff to support the uptake of low-carbon behaviours.
CM4	Carbon Literacy training will have been completed by the end of the 2022/23 financial year and the training will be integrated into standard HR processes, such as e-learning modules.
CM5	All council job descriptions will be updated to include the general carbon responsibilities of employees and selected key council job descriptions will include defined carbon responsibilities as part of their role within the council.
CM6	Through its participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme, BCBC acknowledges that climate change and carbon emission management is one of the risk factors of responsible investment and will support and actively monitor the delivery of the Fund's commitment to an orderly carbon transition and its active engagement with investee companies to reduce carbon exposure across the Pension Fund.
CM7	Utilise the Welsh Government Public Sector Carbon Reporting Guide to report annually the Carbon Footprints of council's operations, this will form the basis for tracking progress against the Net Zero 2030 target.

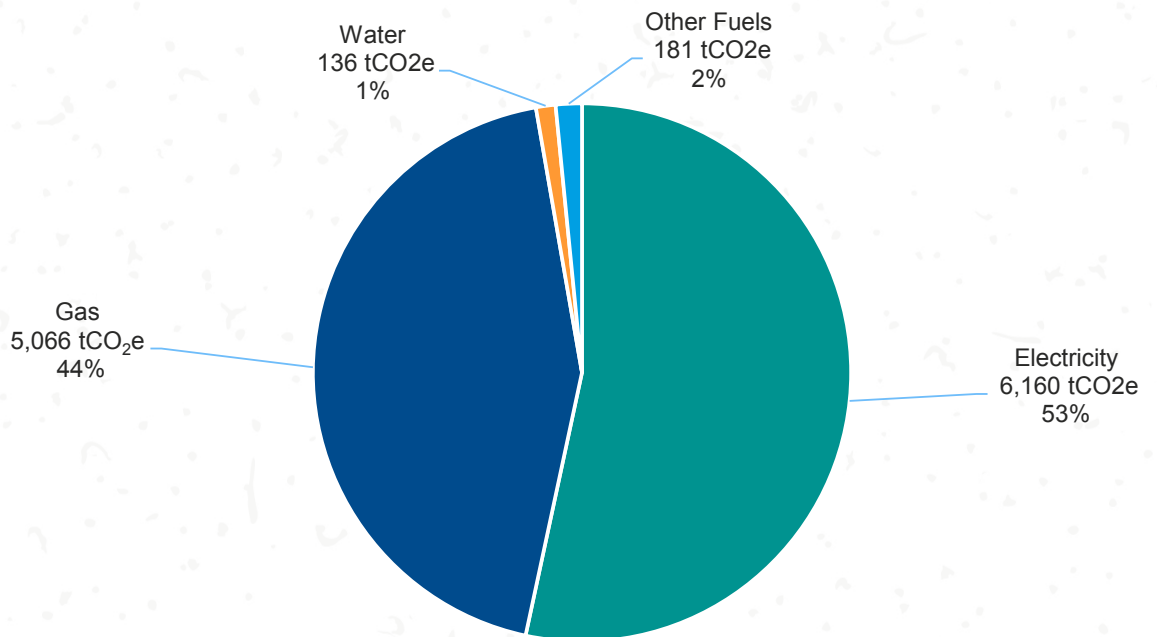
Action Plan 2 – Buildings

Carbon emissions associated with the operation of buildings represents the second biggest contributor to the council’s carbon footprint, behind the procurement of goods and services.

The chart below shows a breakdown of total emissions in buildings split by water, gas and electricity usage across the owned estate. Electricity is the greatest carbon emitter in buildings (53%) with gas close behind (44%). Water usage and other fuels are relatively low in comparison but should not be ignored.

The council will need to focus on improving energy efficiency and developing onsite generation projects throughout the estate to effectively decarbonise this area. The approach to new buildings has also been addressed. The closer a new building can be built to Net Zero standards now mitigates the need for additional retrofit projects down the line.

Carbon Emissions - Buildings 2019/20



The action plan for existing and new buildings are presented in the next 2 pages.

Building initiatives

B1	The council will progress a transformational energy and water efficiency retrofit programme across its estate – every building will have undergone a multi-technology energy efficient upgrade by 2030.
B2	The council will undertake and commission surveys to collate a full asset & conditions list of energy consuming equipment across its built estate by end of 2023.
B3	The council will complete expert low carbon heat studies for all large strategic sites to set the plan to transition away from fossil fuel heat sources.
B4	Decommissioning of traditional boilers will be preferred over replacement, with low carbon heat solutions appraised and prioritised within the business case process.
B5	Legacy lighting will only be replaced with modern LED alternatives; all lighting will be LED by 2030
B6	All buildings will be assessed to have standardised, effective building management systems including a dedicated central resource to optimise energy use across the built estate on a consistent basis.
B7	The council will complete surveys to understand the overall viable potential for onsite renewable energy generation across the estate, by 2026 half of this potential should be installed, with the remainder by 2030.
B8	The council will work closely with schools to develop a plan to better deliver carbon reduction in these buildings.

New builds and major refurbishment initiatives

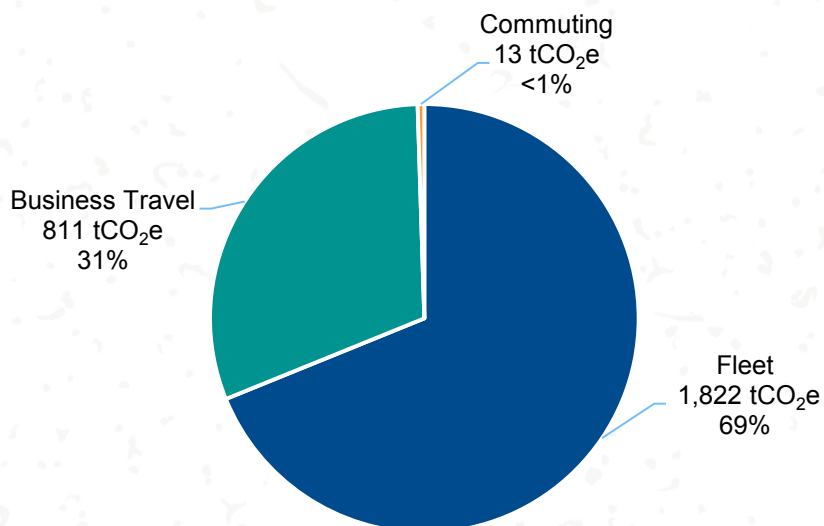
NB1	New buildings must be built to a net zero standard, with a defined approach to be set by 2022 – engage and collaborate across the UK on the emerging Net Zero building standards that go beyond BREEAM excellent and adopt a Net Zero building accreditation approach.
NB2	The council will incorporate Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) into the design and construction of new buildings – this will consider Passivhaus, modular design elements, wood-framed buildings and just-in-time delivery to minimise construction related carbon emissions.
NB3	Low carbon heating solutions will be a key design principle and the council will not install any fossil fuel combustion systems as a heat source in new builds from 2024
NB4	The council will install EV charging points in new developments beyond minimum standards, and car parks will be future-proofed by installing submerged cabling infrastructure in all new car parking spaces for the provision of future charge points.
NB5	The council will integrate sustainable transportation and active travel into the design of new sites and developments, in line with Welsh Governments Active Travel guidance and action plan.
NB6	The council will consider the retention of buildings where possible to avoid associated embodied carbon emissions from the creation of new buildings. A carbon analysis will be undertaken when considering the replacement or retrofit of a building to meet Net Zero standards.

Action Plan 3 –Transport

Carbon emissions from transport are one of the highest emitters across council operations. Transport includes emissions from owned fleet, business travel and commuting.

The following chart shows the split of transport emissions by commuting, business travel and fleet. To decarbonise transport, the council will need to prioritise introducing ULEVs into their fleet and across Bridgend County Borough in the short term. This will require the development of a best-practice approach for ULEVs and public vehicle EV charging stations.

Carbon Emissions - Transport 2019/20



Transport initiatives

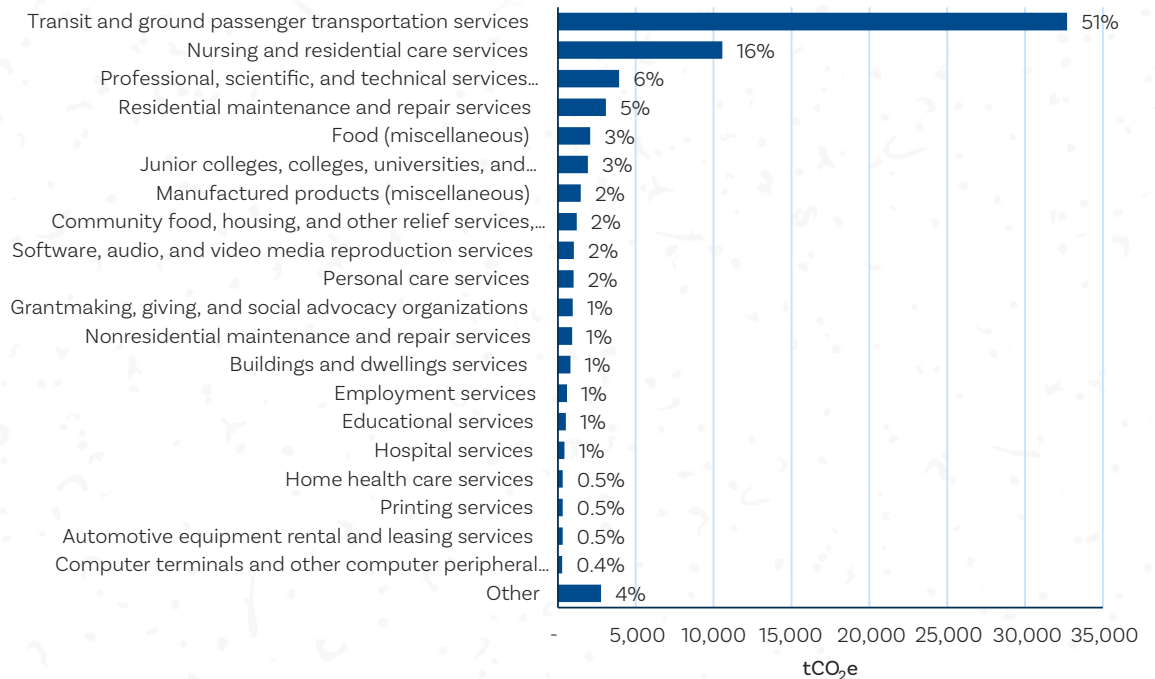
T1	The council will complete a business travel review to appraise the use of staff vehicles, pool cars and public transport across all departments; council business travel policies will be updated accordingly.
T2	The councils staff business travel policy will prioritise the use of virtual meetings, active travel and public transport.
T3	The council will undertake a detailed review of staff commuting patterns to better understand the impact on its overall carbon footprint; guidance and incentive schemes will be considered to support staff.
T4	The council will support the Welsh Government's 30% work from home target by continuing to facilitate home working, developing digital infrastructure, and rationalising office space.
T5	The council will oversee the development of a best-practice approach for ULEV technology across the Council's own fleet, staff vehicles and public EV charging.
T6	To encourage the transition to an EV fleet the council will prioritise the development of an EV charging infrastructure network plan for the existing estate.
T7	EVs will be prioritised as replacements for council owned cars and small vans in the short term, with all conforming to ULEV standards by 2025.
T8	All new medium / large freight vehicles procured across the council after April 2026 will be to the future modern standard of ULEVs.
T9	The council will actively engage with innovation projects to help shape the future landscape of the ULEV market, specifically hydrogen-powered vehicles.
T10	The council will undertake a review of fuel used in small plant and equipment to understand their carbon footprint and what assets can be replaced with electric versions.
T11	The council will pro-actively engage with other public bodies within the County to ensure strategic travel plans do not counteract each other.

Action Plan 4 – Procurement

It is estimated that emissions that occurred from procured goods & services is the largest contributor to the council’s carbon footprint (74%). It should be noted that all local authorities are seeing similar levels of emissions from procurement, in terms of the % split across operations. Decarbonising supply chain emissions represent the biggest challenge across the whole public sector in achieving Net Zero by 2030.

The graph below shows the council’s total emissions from procured goods and services split by contract type.

Procured Goods & Services by Contract Type



Transit and ground passenger transportation services are estimated to be the highest contributor (51%) with nursing and residential care services (16%) the second highest. The council will consider these as strategic areas in relation to decarbonisation; efforts will also be focused on working across Bridgend County Borough to champion

decarbonisation in the supply chain, and influence decarbonisation ambitions for other emission hotspots such as buildings and transport. The following table outlines the initiatives that the Council will implement to reduce emissions associated with procured goods & services. split by contract type.

Procurement initiatives

P1	The council will develop a Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice to include a framework for assessing the sustainability credentials of suppliers at varying contract values and types; this will consider the evolving Welsh Procurement Policy Notes (WPPN).
P2	The council will aim to engage with and utilise the local and low carbon supply chains whilst maintaining high standards for goods and services. This will be a corporate initiative and not just the responsibility of the procurement team.
P3	The council will build upon WPPN 06/21 and require carbon management plans/ decarbonisation improvement to be demonstrated in the highest carbon impact and strategic contracts by 2025, this will include contracts as they come to be procured associated with 'Transit & Ground Passenger Transport Services' and 'Nursing & Residential Care Services'.
P4	The council will apply the principles of 'WPPN 12/21 Decarbonisation through Procurement', to an increasing proportion of contracts such that by 2030, all contracts above an agreed value are subject to carbon assessment and reporting.
P5	The council will work to ensure decarbonisation selection criteria and the requirement for supplier carbon reduction plans is integrated into contract procedure rules for contracts valued at £5 million or more (as per WPPN 06/21) for contracts procured from 2025. This will be a corporate initiative and will involve the development of a work plan which will be presented to Cabinet and council to amend the Contract Procedure Rules.
P6	The council, through its Economic Development function, will engage with its supply chain to communicate its ambition for Net Zero and the request for suppliers to come on the journey; the council will share its developing procurement practice, resources for suppliers, and any opportunities for supply chain decarbonisation funding.
P7	The council will provide a training programme for internal service commissioners by developing best practice and engaging experts; the council procurement and service commissioners will work in collaboration to champion decarbonisation in the supply chain. This will be resourced through the Climate Change Response Programme.
P8	Contract management will be used to oversee decarbonisation progress and carbon accounting in both short- and long-term contracts, this will be overseen by the BCBC 2030 Programme Board and reported to Corporate Management Board (CMB) as required.
P9	A task and finish group will be established to identify funding option to secure a dedicated resource will be put in place to support development of the Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice, Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy, and ongoing management of decarbonisation through procurement.
P10	The council recognises the need for a regional and national approach and will identify other organisations and forums (e.g. TOMS, WLGA) for collaboration across Wales to help develop its understanding and take note from best practice approaches.

Action Plan 5 – Land Use

The council recognises that strategic planning on its owned estate is a key priority. It is not realistic to assume that all carbon emissions associated with council operations can be reduced to zero whilst still delivering services to the local community. The council will have a level of residual emissions that needs to be ‘offset’ to reach Net Zero.

Promoting sustainable land use will have positive results for all parties involved. The generation of renewable energy, carbon sequestration and creating spaces to

encourage biodiversity will have a positive impact on public health, wellbeing and decarbonisation. The council will sustainably manage its own land whilst engaging closely with the communities in these spaces to recognise potential opportunities.

Maximising the use of council land will be significant in reducing the carbon and wider environmental impact of the council. The table below shows the initiatives the council will undertake.

Land Use Initiatives

L1	The council will support the delivery of LDP identified renewables and offsetting opportunities on its own land and neighbouring land, and also influence and support broader county-wide schemes through the council’s role in planning.
L2	The council will improve its understanding of all owned land assets to correctly appreciate the levels of carbon sequestration by March 2023 and develop plans to maximise carbon benefits in these areas.
L3	The council will ensure all owned woodland and greenfield areas are maintained in a way to promote enhanced biodiversity and avoid any unnecessary loss of carbon sequestration.
L4	The council will identify its own and neighbouring land for large-scale renewable developments, primarily solar and wind projects. Private wire connections to owned sites will be prioritised over exporting directly to the grid.
L5	Where large-scale renewable developments are not possible, the council will prioritise these areas for afforestation/reforestation and biodiversity programmes on its own land.
L6	The council will undertake an assessment to understand the extent of peatland across its estate; a continual maintenance and regeneration programme will be put in place for any identified areas.
L7	The council will identify the additional maintenance resource needed to help kick start a more extensive green infrastructure programme across the county borough.

Carbon Offsetting

Despite the substantial carbon reductions achievable from implementing projects and undertaking actions outlined in this report, the council will still be emitting carbon emissions in 2030. If we are to meet the Net Zero target, we will need to consider offsetting the remaining carbon emissions. There are numerous methods for offsetting carbon emissions, each with their pros and cons, these methods along with the different principles involved in offsetting are discussed below. It should be noted that offsetting is seen as a last step in the journey and reducing emissions from operations is the first priority.

Avoided Emissions vs Emissions Removal

Carbon offsetting can be categorised into three broad groups: Avoided natural depletion, avoided emissions and greenhouse gas removal. Examples of each of these are given in the table below:

Avoided Natural Depletion	Avoided Emissions	Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding deforestation/protecting forests • Protecting wetlands • Protecting peatlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy projects • Energy efficiency projects (LED lighting, boiler upgrade, etc.) 	<p>Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforestation • Ocean fertilisation • Mineral Carbonisation <p>Engineered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct air capture technologies

Tree planting

The council has already undertaken and is involved in programmes for tree planting across the county borough. These include the I-Tree eco-study and the Queen's Green Canopy, but there is no doubt that more will need to be planted to successfully reach Net Zero by 2030.

Trees and organic matter are excellent vessels for removing CO₂ directly from the atmosphere and have the ability to fix carbon through plant growth and directly into the soil. Tree planting as a carbon offsetting programme needs to be implemented carefully, ensuring a variety of tree species are planted to encourage an increase in biodiversity and avoid monocultures. Tree planting can be an activity carried out locally, involving the local community in both the planting of the trees and creating new green spaces for them to enjoy; alternatively, the Council can support projects elsewhere in the UK or internationally.

Tree planting as a form of greenhouse gas removals is a developing field. Whilst the science is clear that trees remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, how this is accounted for within carbon accounting has yet to be agreed on. A new accounting standard that explains how to deal with greenhouse gas removals is in development, being led by the World Resource Institute and the Carbon Trust. The new standard was due for public comment in 2021 and is primarily based on the IPCC 2006 Volume 4, Chapter 2 and 4.

Welsh Government has produced some guidance on carbon sequestration levels as part of the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide¹¹, however, this is a high-level land use approach rather than a detailed inventory approach per tree. The guidance also states that organisations can follow a more detailed

methodology if available. The council will follow WG guidelines until a more detailed methodology can be adopted.

When undertaking local tree planting projects, the council will keep records of tree type, number of said type, and age of the tree (sapling/mature tree). This will ensure any future accounting methodologies will be well informed.

Renewables

The ability to claim any carbon offsetting through investment in renewable energy is nuanced. This form of offsetting may only count as an offset in certain situations and can only really be used to offset scope 2 emissions.

Location versus Market Approach

At present, two methodologies can be used to account for scope 2 emissions, a location-based or market-based approach. A location-based approach is the most frequently used and uses an emission factor based on all generating supplies of electricity to the grid (national grid). This is the approach that has been used within this report. The introduction of any renewable generators exporting to the grid is captured in a lower UK wide grid emission factor, that everyone benefits from within their carbon accounting.

Alternatively, a market-based approach looks at where the consumer of electricity purchases their electricity from. If a consumer makes the conscious decision to purchase electricity from a 'green' supplier then this is accounted for in their carbon footprint. When a market-based approach is used and the footprint reported, the location-based footprint must always be reported alongside this. Under a market-based approach if a consumer of electricity wishes to offset their entire scope 2 emissions, then they

could simply ensure that they purchase electricity from a 'green' supplier that offers a 100% renewable tariff. Under a location-based approach, this form of 'offsetting' wouldn't be possible.

WG confirmed within Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide¹¹ that the public sector will conform to a location-based approach. This confirms that the council cannot offset scope 2 emission through green procurement of electricity or renewable generation being exported to the grid.

Building Integrated Renewables

Any on-site renewables that provide electricity directly to a council-owned asset will result in a reduction in electricity consumption (thus reducing the carbon footprint) – on-site generation is a key action within the existing buildings action plan.

Building renewable generators where the electricity is exported to the grid or private wired elsewhere, wouldn't typically be considered an offset as this will result in double counting of emissions reductions where these are already captured through renewable energy certificates/guarantees of origin that result in the reducing of the national rolling grid emission factor.

Investing in Stand Alone Renewables

Investing in renewables is an excellent means to engage with the local community and enable others to reduce their carbon footprint, an essential activity when considering borough-wide emissions in the future. However, as the carbon reductions will be accounted for elsewhere the council itself will not be able to realise any carbon reductions as an offset. Even if the council cannot claim offsets, it is important to show leadership

and help develop a sustainable economy for the whole borough

Offsetting Schemes (credits)

There are a variety of offsetting schemes available that have been 'gold certified' that can offer organisations the chance to offset the emissions they produce. Such schemes will involve carbon reduction projects such as tree planting, biodiversity restoration, international renewable installation.

Engaging with a reputable offsetting provider is recommended to ensure the scheme matches expectations and social values. Offsetting schemes such as these should be the last option for the council with a focus put on direct removal schemes on council owned land. There is no reason to suggest that the council should only select one option, and the best mix of value, leadership, locality, and ambition will come from investing in a range of carbon offsetting measures.

Action Plan 6 – Waste

The council's waste disposal can be split into **landfill, combustion, closed-loop recycling, open-loop recycling, anaerobic digestion, and composting.**

Landfill includes waste that cannot be recycled, reused or recovered. This is the least sustainable form of waste disposal. Landfills are a major source of pollution. The waste materials within them i.e. plastics, take years to break down.

Combustion refers to incinerating waste for energy. Waste incineration has negative environmental impacts but is considerably better than sending waste to landfill. The incineration process generates usable electricity and heat as a by-product, offsetting some of the carbon impacts from the incineration process itself.

Closed-loop disposal includes waste specific to one supply chain. Under a closed-loop system, businesses will recycle materials to create products for the same activity as their original purpose.

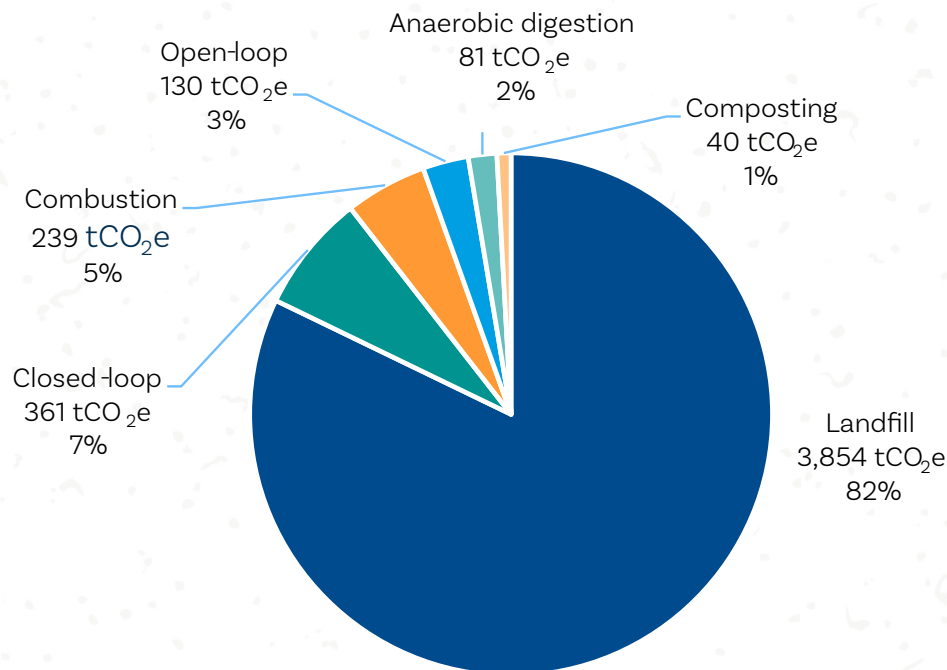
Open-loop includes any recycled materials that are converted into new raw materials and waste products. Normally, materials that have been processed through open-loop recycling will go on to be used for a different activity from their original purpose.

Anaerobic digestion involves using micro-organisms to break down waste material. This process reduces the amount of landfill waste and produces a biogas by-product that can be used as an energy source for electricity production and heating.

Composting involves reusing plant and food waste and organic materials to fertilise and improve the soil.



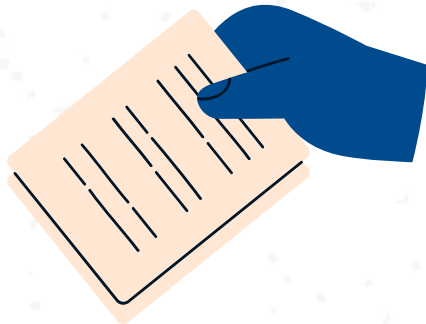
Carbon Emissions Waste - 2019/20



Waste Initiatives

W1	The council will build on its performance in regard to reducing waste sent to landfills and increasing reuse and recycling in line with the Welsh Government Towards Zero Waste strategy.
W2	All waste streams will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the most sustainable method of disposal is being undertaken, the waste hierarchy will be used as a template for action.
W3	Undertake a more joined up approach across the council on waste data collection to ensure all waste streams are being identified.
W4	The council will work with the schools to implement further food waste initiatives to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills.
W5	The council will develop a plan to agree on future step changes to continue working to achieve the outcomes set out by Welsh Governments: Towards zero waste: our waste strategy.
W6	The council will review best practice advice and develop a plan to support highways and capital projects on hard to decarbonise waste streams such as cement, concrete and Asphalt.
W7	The council will increase the availability of battery-powered equipment and tools in its supply chain to reduce disposal and replacement cycles.
W8	The council will prioritise the purchase of reused and remanufactured products that have recycled content, this will be embedded into best practices for service commissioners.
W9	The council will continue to engage with key stakeholders and work with our communities to encourage the reduction of waste, reuse and recycling.

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2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy

Consultation Report

Date of issue: November 2022

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1. Overview

A public consultation on the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was undertaken over a twelve-week period from **8th June to 30th August 2022**.

The consultation received a total of 360 online survey completions, with a further 35 face to face engagement completions. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were also available, which could be sent directly to residents upon request.

Surveys were available in standard and large print formats; both were available in English and Welsh language. The content of the page remains online.

Respondents could choose to answer all or some of the questions. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equality monitoring questions were also included within the survey, in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email, and phone call.

3. Marketing and engagement methods.

3.1. Marketing

This section details methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

3.1.1. Social Media

The council runs the following social media accounts: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

The public consultation on the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was posted bilingually to the council's corporate Twitter and Facebook channels throughout the consultation period, to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the strategy.

The council currently has 18,000 Facebook followers, 13,551 followers on its English Twitter account and 342 on its Welsh Twitter account. While content is most likely to be seen by these users, it is also displayed to users who are not connected to the accounts.

During the consultation period, the local authority posted 26 tweets on Twitter and 6 posts on Facebook in both and English and Welsh. This content reached over 74,000 people.

The table below shows the overall number of engagements across the two platforms.

Platform	Impressions	Retweets	Replies	Likes	Link clicks
Twitter	17,745	28	35	39	75
Facebook					

3.1.2. GovDelivery

GovDelivery is a digital communications tool that was implemented by the local authority in June 2020, to send messages directly to residents' email inboxes in the language of their choice.

There are currently 35,870 English language subscribers and 228 Welsh language subscribers from Bridgend County Borough to the weekly update emails.

Details of the 2030 Net Zero Carbon public consultation were included in Gov Delivery bulletins throughout the duration of the live period. The table below shows when details were included as well as the number of click through links in both English and Welsh language.

Date	English Link Clicks	Welsh Link Clicks
16/06/2022	459	2
24/06/2022	27	0
07/07/2022	38	0
21/07/2022	48	1
04/08/2022	194	0
25/08/2022	33	0

3.1.3. Media and Publicity

One media release was issued to coincide with the start of the consultation, to raise awareness and encourage participation. This was released on 09/06/2022. Another media release was issued a week before the closing date of the consultation, to remind people of their last chance to participate in the consultation. This was released on 18/08/2022.

Both press releases were issued to the press and published on the Bridgend County Borough Council website.

Below are the links to the two media releases issued for the consultation.

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/council-launches-consultation-as-part-of-net-zero-2030-target/>

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/last-chance-to-have-your-say-in-net-zero-carbon-consultation/>

4. Response rate

In total there were 395 survey completions, 360 responses were from the online survey, and 35 responses were gathered from young people during the Our Future's Festival.

5. How effective was the consultation?

The data collection methods, which include the online survey and a paper survey were developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

6. Consultation Survey

6.1. Language used to complete the survey

Respondents to the consultation survey (Online responses and Our Futures Festival) were initially asked in which language they would like to complete the survey. Overall, 99.5% of respondents (393) selected English with 0.5% (2) selecting Welsh.

Language	#	%
English	393	99.5%
Welsh	2	0.5%
Total	395	100.0

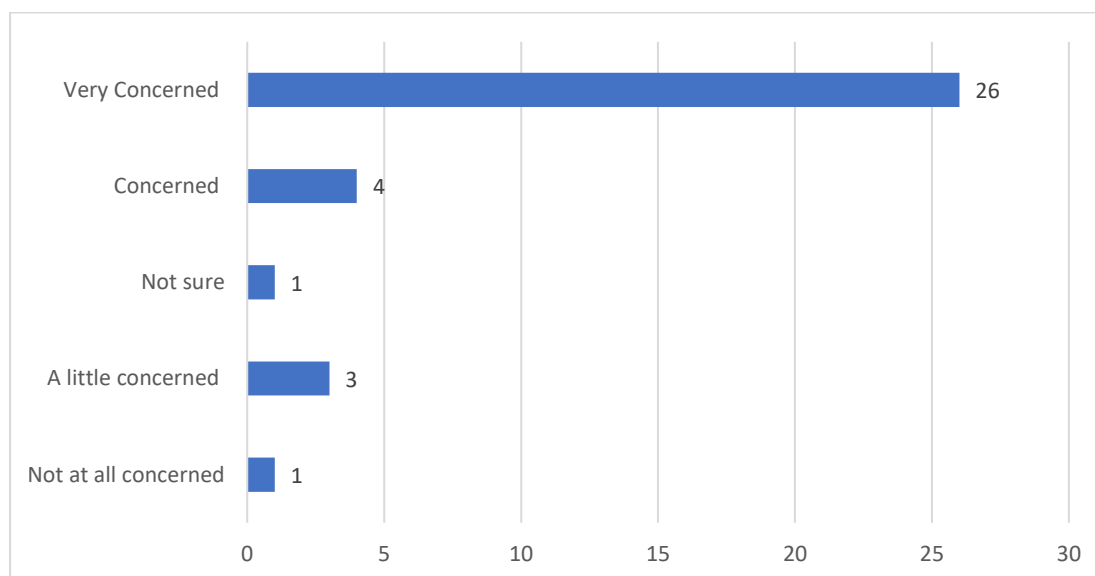
7. Survey Questions and Analysis.

7.1. Our Future's Festival

During the consultation period, the consultation team attended the Our Futures Festival, (09/06/2022) gathering responses from young people on the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

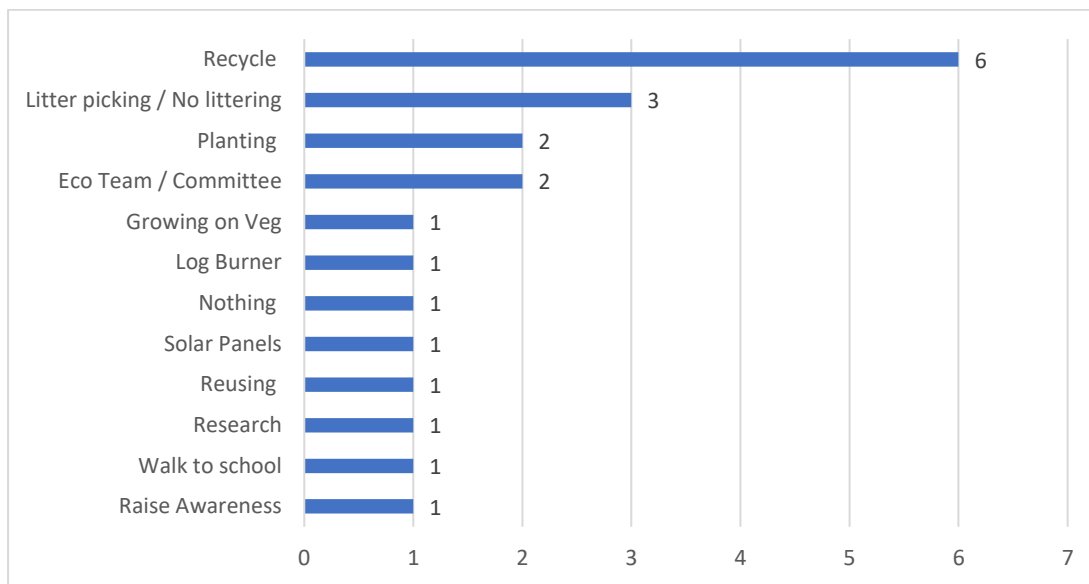
As the target audience were younger people, questions asked were kept short and simple to ensure they were understandable for the young people to provide a response. The three questions asked are analysed below:

How concerned are you by Climate Change?



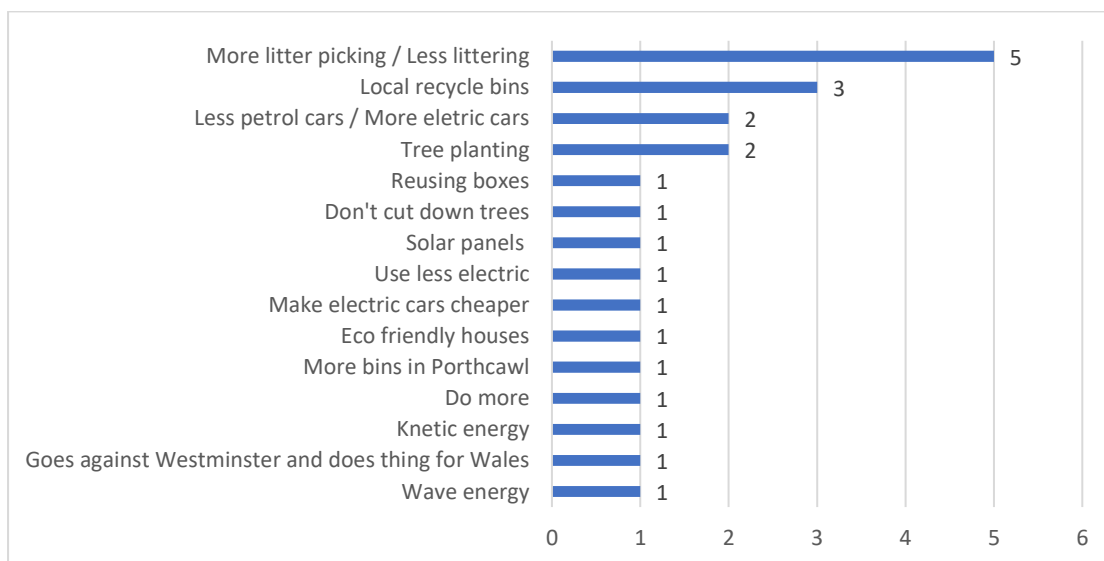
As shown in the graph above the majority of young people who engaged stated they were Very concerned. 35 young people provided a response for this question. **26** young people mentioned they were very concerned by Climate Change. Another **4** stated they were concerned, whereas **3** young people said they were a little concerned. **1** young respondent stated they were unsure, and another said they were not at all concerned.

What do you do to fight Climate Change?



21 responses were gathered for this question. As shown above, the top three comments mentioned were as followed: **6** young people stated they recycle to help Climate Change. **3** young people stated they help with Litter picking or do not litter. **2** young people mentioned tree planting.

What do you think BCBC should do?

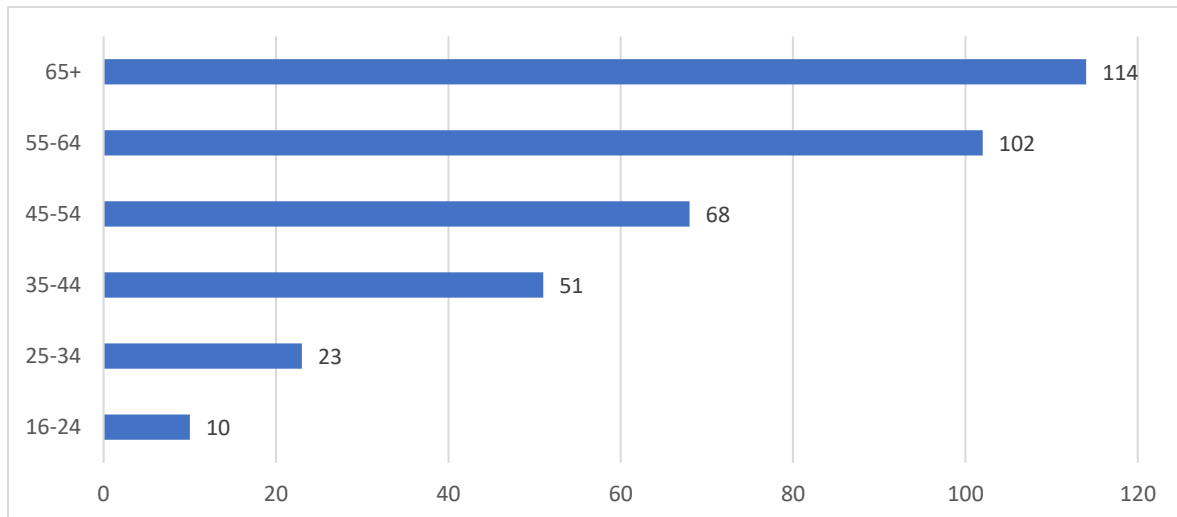


As shown in the graph above, the top four comments made by young people for this question are as followed: **5** respondents suggested there should be more litter picking / less littering. **3** made a comment to suggest local recycling bins. **2** young people mentioned Less petrol cars / More electric cars. And another comment made suggested BCBC should do more tree planting.

7.2. Online Survey Questions

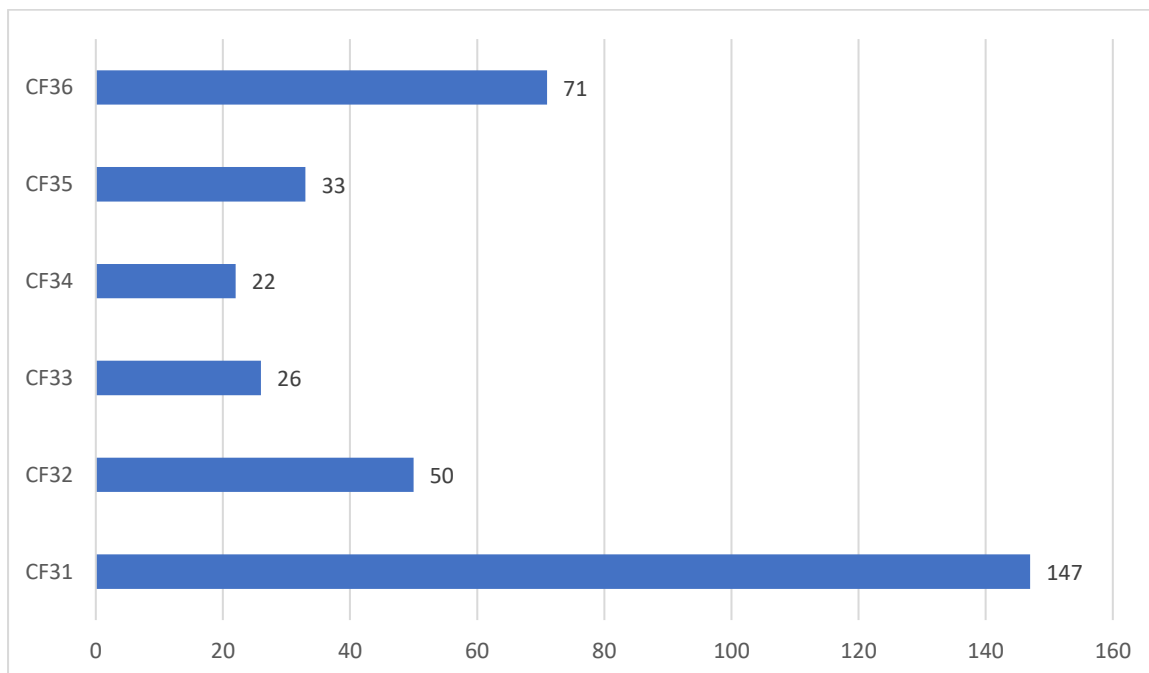
This section of the report analyses questions asked in the online survey, 360 responses were gathered.

Please select your age band:



As shown in the graph above, the most popular age band that engaged with the survey was people **over 65**. There was a total of **359 responses** for this question. **114** of which were from the age category **65+** and **102 respondents** stated they were **55-64**. **68 responses** came from the **45-54** age group and **51 responses** were from **35-44**. There was a much lower response rate from younger age groups, with **23 respondents** stating they were **24-34**, and only one response from **16-24-year-olds**.

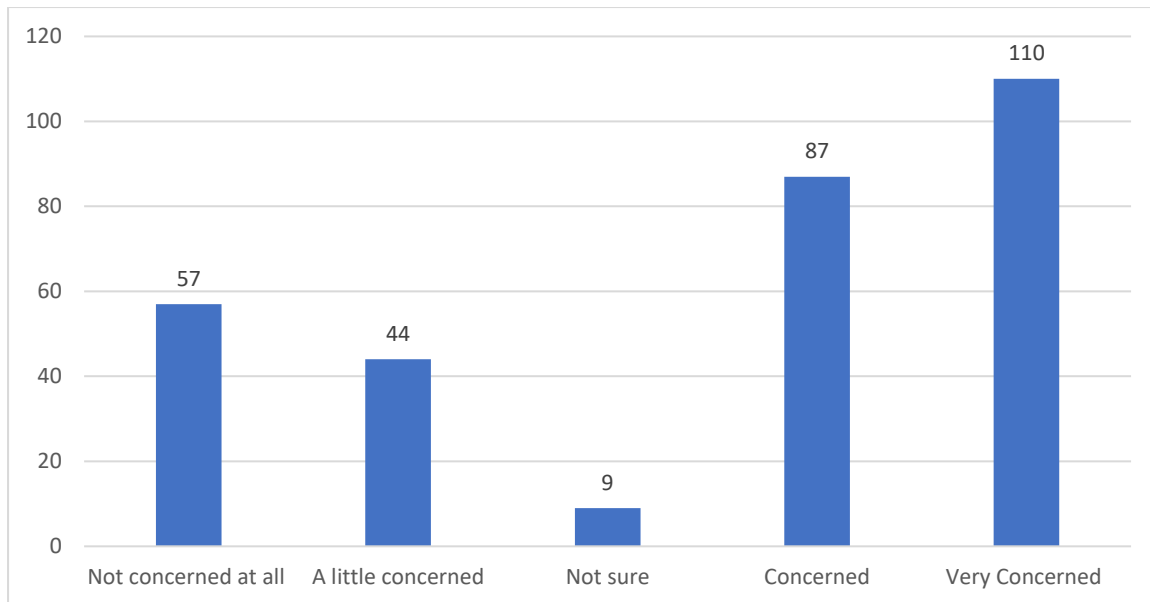
What post code area do you live in?



349 respondents disclosed their post code area. As shown in the graph above, CF31 and CF36 were the most popular post codes selected with, **147 responses (42%)** for CF31 and **71 responses (20%)** for CF36. There were **50 responses (14%)** from the CF32 postal area,

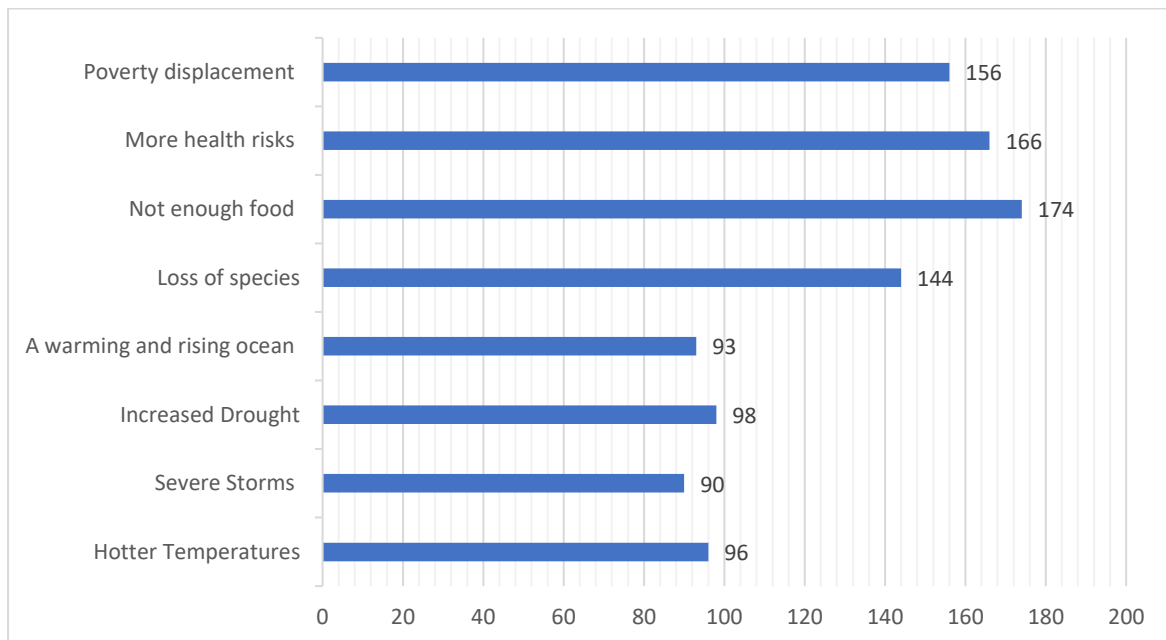
and **26 responses (8%)** from CF33. **22 respondents (6%)** selected the CF34 postal area, with another **33 responses (10%)** from the CF35 area.

How concerned are you by what United Nations define as Climate Change?



307 responses were recorded for this question. As displayed above, **110 respondents (36%)** stated they were very 'Very concerned' by how the United Nations defined Climate Change. **87 respondents (28%)** confirmed they were concerned, with only **9 responses (3%)** expressed they were 'Not sure'. Another **44 responses (14%)** disclosed they felt 'A little concerned' and **57 responses (19%)** stated they were 'Not concerned at all' by the how the United Nations defines Climate Change.

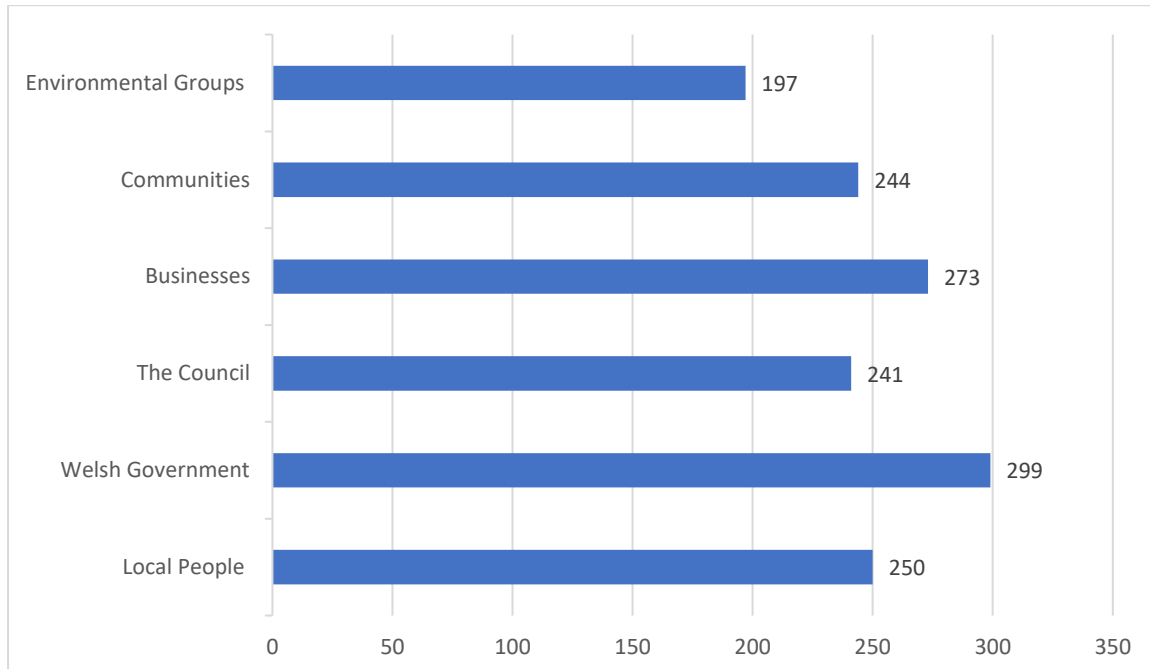
Of the suggested main effects of climate change, *please select three main options* which you feel BCBC could, through its 2030 Decarbonisation Strategy, take action to mitigate:



As displayed in the graph above the most popular option respondents chose was **'Not enough food'**, with **174 selections**. The second most popular option is **'More health risks'** with **166 selections** from respondents. This was followed by **'Poverty displacement'** where there were **156 selections**.

Whilst it is recognised that BCBC has a clear role to play in responding to and mitigating the suggested effects of Climate Change, this cannot be done in isolation.

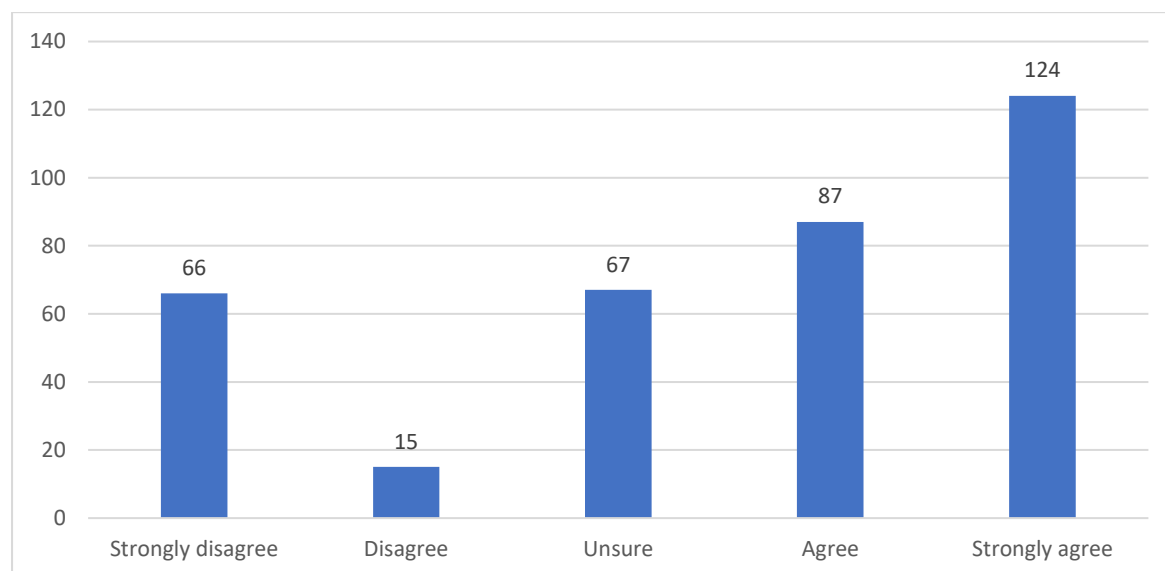
Who else do you feel is responsible for mitigating the suggested effects of climate change? (Please tick as you consider relevant)



As shown above, the option with the most selections for mitigating the suggested effect is the Welsh Government, with **299 selections**. The next most popular option is Businesses which received a total of **273 selections**. Local people were the third most popular option, with **250 selections** from respondents. The least popular were Environmental groups with **197 selections** in total.

Bridgend County Borough Council has committed to the Net Zero 2030 target as an organisation and recognises the leadership role to enable wider Net Zero for businesses and communities in the country.

Do you support this statement?



359 respondents provided an answer for this question. The graph shows that **124 respondents (35%)** stated they strongly agree with the above statement. **87 respondents (24%)** disclosed they agreed with the statement and **67 respondents (19%)** stated they were unsure. There were **15 respondents (4%)** who disagree with the statement and **66 respondents (18%)** who disclosed they disagreed.

Please outline your reasons for selecting 'Strongly Disagree' below:

There were **67 comments** made for this question. All responses for this question were themed into the table below.

Theme	Number of responses
Major polluting nations, businesses and local government need to act first	16
Climate change does not exist / do not believe climate emergency	11
Money should be spent else where	10
Unrealistic timescale	10
Least of people's problems during financial crisis	4
BCBC could lead and be more efficient	4
Unsure / Misunderstanding of question	3
Stop global warming / crisis	2
Stop developments/ building where they do not support this strategy	2
Human beings have little impact on climate change	1
Everyone needs to make a difference	1

Current measures do not seem to be bringing costs down (wind farms)	1
Technology required to achieve Net Zero is not yet available	1
Polices to ban unrecyclable containers / packaging e.g., Polystyrene	1
Over population of the world is the main issue	1
Comments were off topic to question	2

As shown in the table above, the top four comments were as followed: **16 respondents** mentioned that they believed 'Major polluting nations, businesses and the Local Government need to take action first'. **11 respondents** made a comment that Climate change does not exist / they do not believe in the climate emergency. **10 comments** were made in relation to the council spending their money elsewhere. **10 respondents** felt that the strategy has an unrealistic timescale to achieve the objectives set.

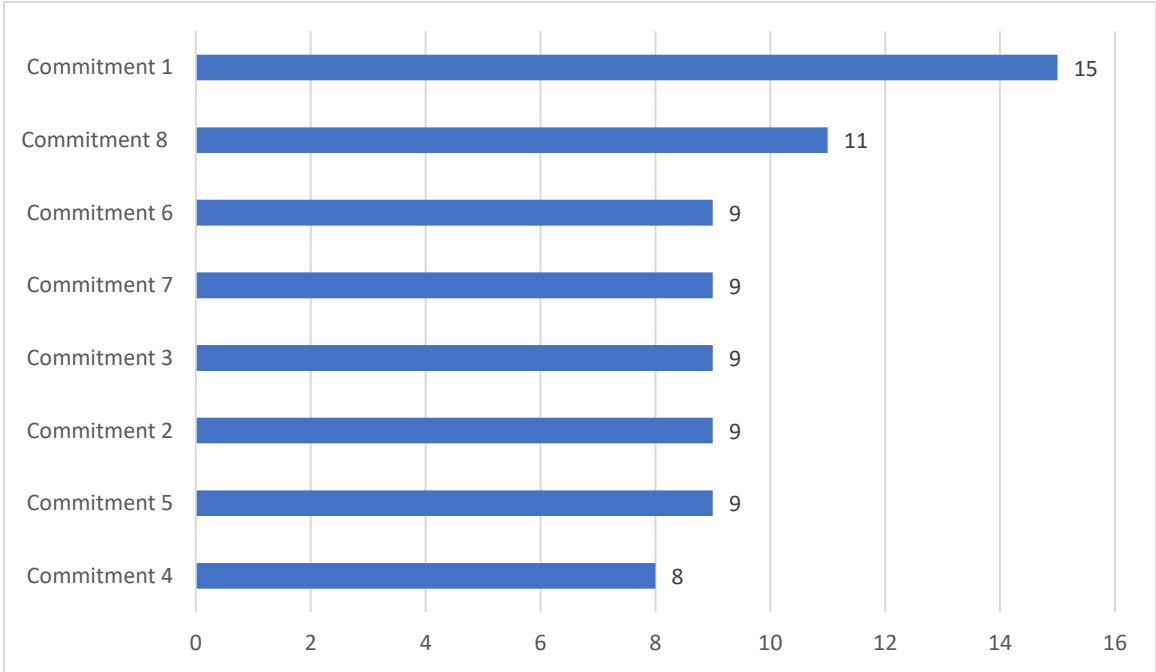
Please outline your reasons for selecting 'Disagree' below:

There were 14 comments made for this question, which are themed into the table below.

Theme	Responses
Target / timescale is unrealistic	3
Not the right time during a financial crisis	3
BCBC cannot help / BCBC is inefficient	2
Climate change is inevitable	1
Too late to act now	1
BCBC does not act in the communities' best interests	1
Ineffective as UK has low emissions	1
Geoengineering is the main cause	1
Unsure of statement	1

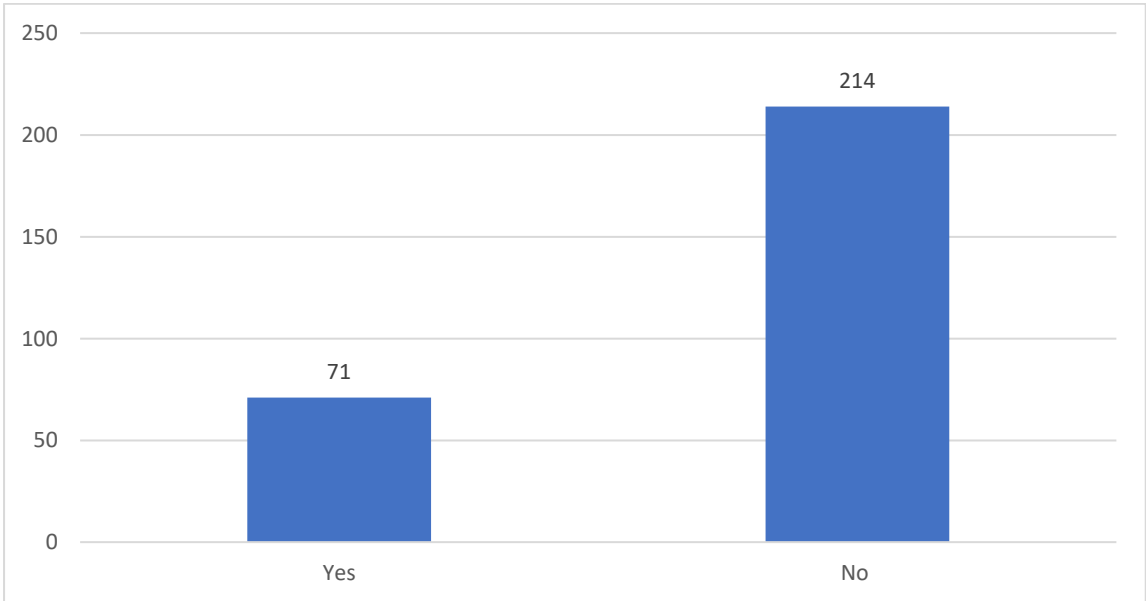
The top three themes identified from the table above are as followed: **3 comments** mentioned that the target and timescale for the strategy is unrealistic. **3 respondents** expressed this is not the right time during a financial crisis, and another **2 comments** mentioned that BCBC cannot help / BCBC are inefficient.

The draft 2030 Decarbonisation strategy sets out 8 strategic commitments to support the delivery of the strategy aim. Please rank these commitments in order of importance to you. (1 being the most important, 8 being the least).



The table above displays the mean average respondents ranked each commitment. As shown, **commitment 1** received the highest score of importance, followed by **commitment 8**. **commitments 6, 7, 3, 2 and 5** were scored the same. Considering the average scores above, **commitment 4** was ranked the least important.

Would you remove any of the commitments?



285 people provided a response to this question. As shown in the graph above, **214 respondents (75%)** selected no to removing any of the commitments, whereas **71 respondents (25%)** selected yes.

If yes, please indicate which commitment you would remove and why.

The list of commitments is shown below:

Commitment 1	The Council will demonstrate leadership and commitment to deliver the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy, to address the Climate Emergency as declared by Welsh Government, the Senedd and the Council.
Commitment 2	The Council will integrate low and zero-carbon behaviours throughout the organisation and carbon impact will become a key consideration in all strategic decisions.
Commitment 3	The Council will decarbonise its built estate by 2030 with a strong focus on energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable generation.
Commitment 4	The Council will undertake a programme of fleet renewal to ultra-low emission vehicles, such that all vehicles are ULEV by 2030.
Commitment 5	The Council will promote active and low-carbon travel options throughout its own operations.
Commitment 6	The Council will decarbonise its procurement activity by engaging the supply chain, supporting and mandating suppliers to decarbonise, and progressing sustainable, local procurement practices.
Commitment 7	The Council will ensure its land holdings are developed and maintained to support Net Zero objectives through high levels of carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
Commitment 8	The Council will decarbonise its waste streams by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture alongside sustainable methods of disposal.

Commitments	Comments	Number of comments
Commitment 1	Seems unrealistic and requires rewording	5
	Not achievable	
	Not specific enough	
	BCBC lacks leaderships and ambition for change.	
	The quality of the management of Wales is abysmal.	
Commitment 2	Not achievable	3
	Insufficient information regarding 'behaviours', all factors should be of equal consideration	
	Not specific enough and needs of measurement.	
Commitment 3	Commitment is unnecessary	1
Commitment 4	Commitment is unnecessary	2
	Other priorities for spending	
Commitment 5	High-cost options.	3
	Public transport needs improving.	
	Active Travel routes are unnecessary	

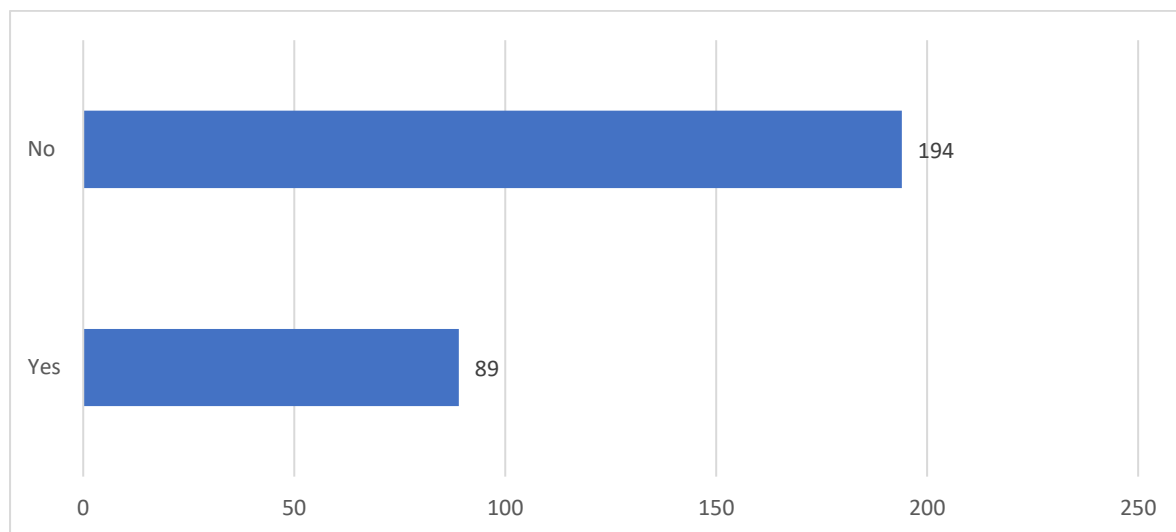
Commitment 6	High-cost options	2
	Commitment is unnecessary	
Commitment 8	Small business may struggle to become carbon neutral.	5
	Landfill is always needed as not everything is recyclable or biodegradable.	
	Gives the impression that the intention is to send our non-recyclable waste to elsewhere.	
	The Council will decarbonise its waste streams by ending landfill use and adopting a reuse culture.	
	Seems unrealistic and requires rewording	
All commitments		37
1, 2 and 5		1
All but 3		1
Unsure of commitments		3
Comments made were off topic to question		1

Shown in the table above are comments made for removing the listed commitment.

Commitment 1 and **8** both received **five comments** for removing. **Commitment 2** and **commitment 8** received **three comments**, whereas **commitment 4** and **commitment 6** received **two comments** and **one respondent** left a comment for **commitment 3**. No respondents commented on commitment 7.

37 respondents stated they would remove **all** commitments but left no comment.

Would you add any commitments?



There were **283 responses** for this question. As shown in the graph above, **194 respondents (69%)** stated no, they would not add to any commitments. **89 respondents (31%)** answered yes, they would add to the commitments.

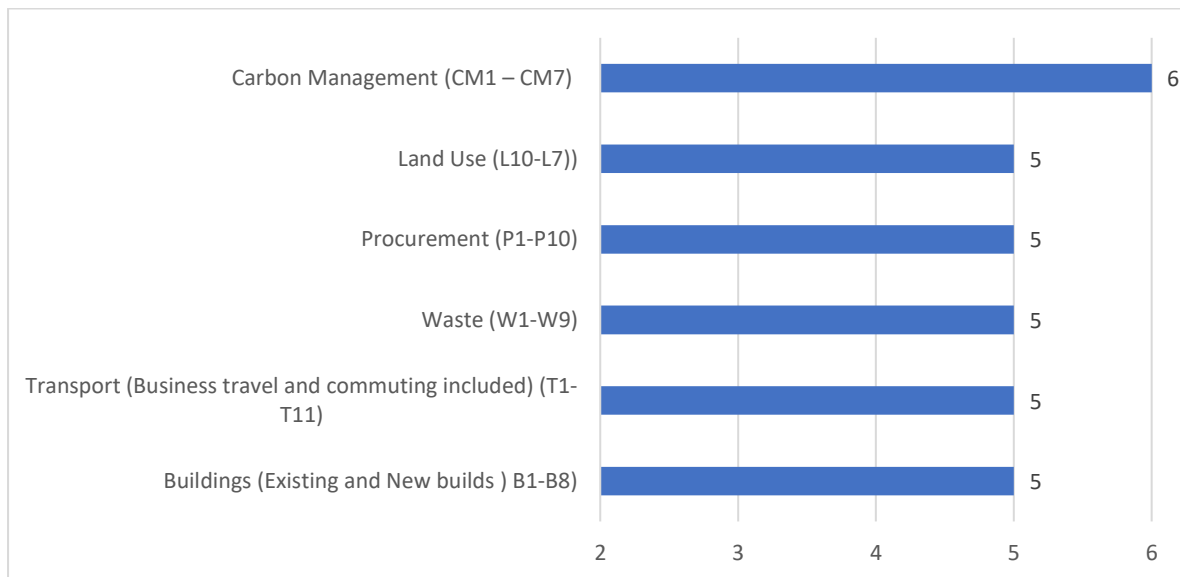
If yes, please detail below your suggested commitments.

Theme	Responses
Better and Low carbon / energy effective public transport links available	10
Support and measures for businesses and individuals to make adaptations to achieve the strategy	7
Education and awareness throughout the community	6

Planning permissions granted must be in line with the strategy / support green infrastructure	6
Money and resources to be spent else where	5
Solar panels on all homes / council funded buildings	4
Comments against the 2030 strategy / Council	4
Invest and encourage innovations for renewable energy / from natural resources	4
Air pollution	3
Policies on single use plastic and Polystyrene in take aways	3
Increase EV Charging points / Rapid charge centres	3
Open and regular discussions on the subject	3
Eco friendly materials and resources for new developments	3
Protect and stop building on green spaces / wildlife	3
Invest in hydrogen fuel	3
Unachievable targets / remove deadline	3
Act on the policies / provide best service	3
Stop cutting down trees	2
Less traffic lights and turn unused street lights off to save energy	1
Water conservation for council buildings and land	1
Reopen viable coal mines, let us become energy sufficient	1
Revise meat industry cruelty standards	1
Comments were off topic to question	5
Policies for pollution produced by individuals – Wood burning stoves etc	1

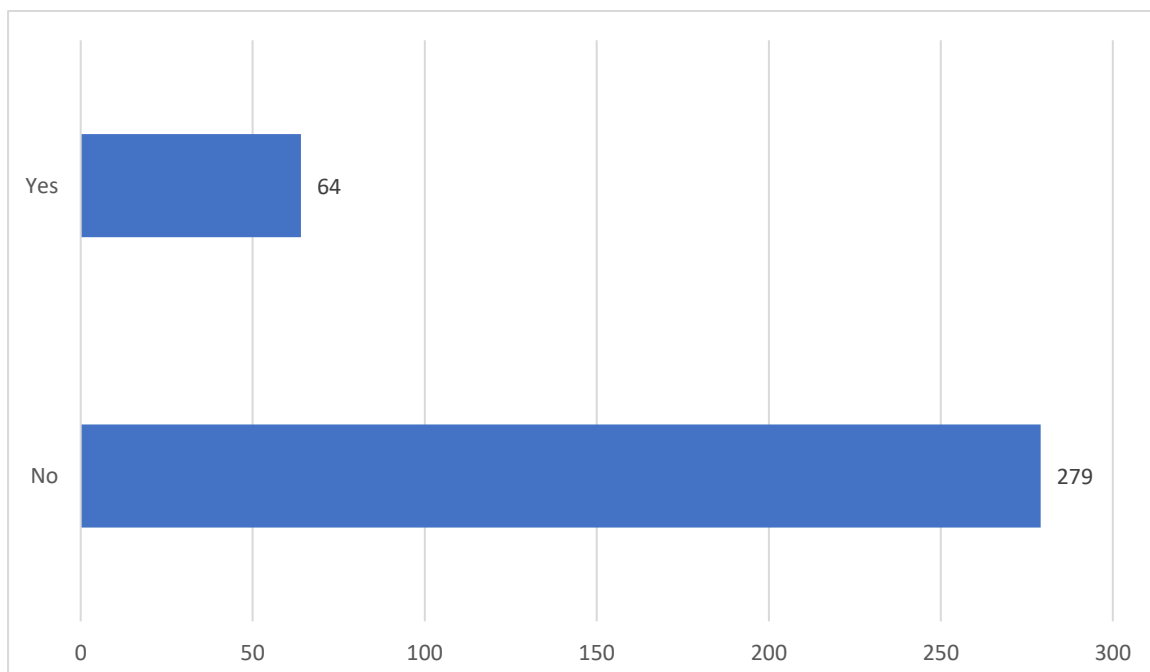
There were **87 comments** made for this question. As shown above the top four themes identified are as followed: there were **10 comments** which mentioned there should be better and Low carbon / energy effective public transport links available in Bridgend County Borough. **7 respondents** mentioned support and measures for businesses and individuals to make adaptations to achieve the strategy. **6 respondents** highlighted there is a need for education and awareness throughout the community, and an additional **6 comments** were made in relation to ensuring planning permissions granted must be in line with the strategy / support green infrastructure.

The draft 2030 strategy focuses on a number of key themes, each with a series of proposed initiatives: Please rank in order of importance (1 being the most important, 6 being the least).



The table above displays the mean average respondents ranked each initiative. As shown, **Carbon Management** received the highest score of importance, All other commitments had the same average score.

Would you remove any of the initiatives?



343 respondents provided an answer for this question. As shown in the graph above, **279 respondents (81%)** selected No to removing any of the initiatives. **64 respondents (19%)** confirmed that they would remove the initiatives. The following question shows further responses for those respondents that selected yes.

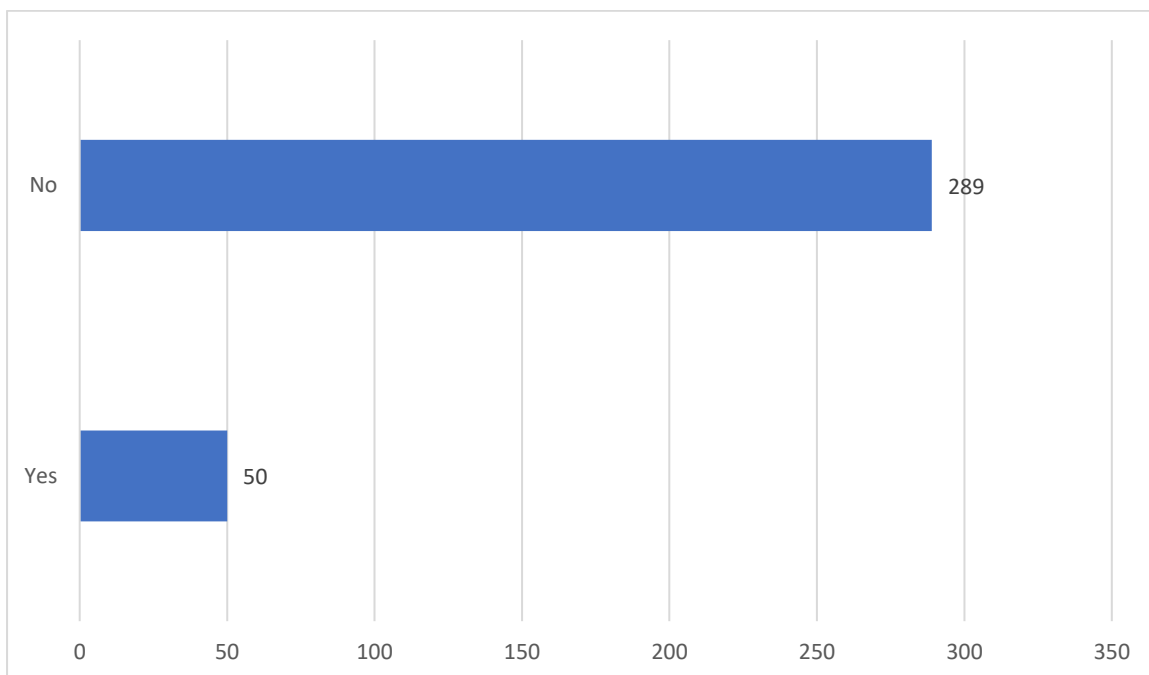
If yes, please indicate which initiative and why?

Comments made for each initiative, are themed into the table below:

Initiatives	Number of responses
Carbon Management (CM1 – CM7)	
Waste of time and money / Unnecessary	8
Carbon is not the problem / is needed	5
Do not believe in climate Change	2
This initiative will occur in result of the others	1
Makes no difference	1
Should be a focus for higher income families	1
Money should be spent elsewhere	1
Remove all but waste disposal	1
Political ploy to increase taxes	1
No one knows what they are doing	1
Buildings (Existing buildings & new builds) (B1 – B8; NB1-NB6)	
Scheme to renovate unused buildings rather than building new	2
Let people build	1
Conflicts with proposals planned for Porthcawl	1
Improve buildings and ensure any cladding is safe	1
These regulations will increase price of housing	1
Protect our green spaces, do not build on them	1
Comments off topic to question	1
Unnecessary	1
Transport (Business travel and commuting included) (T1-T11)	
Comments off topic to question	4
High costs	3
Unnecessary	3
Money should be spent elsewhere	2
Conflicts with proposals for Porthcawl	1
Roads and public transport need to be developed	1
People's method of transport is a fundamental right	1
Important to develop	1
Procurement (P1-P10)	
Money better spent elsewhere, should be what is best for the community	3
Results in higher costs	2
Climate change is a lie / Not necessary	2
Protect green spaces	1
Remove all expect waste	1
Too much regulation	1
Involves enforcement	1
Unsure of question	1
Comments off topic to the question	3
Land Use (L10 – L7)	
Not required / unnecessary	3
Money will be better spent else where	2
Private property is private	1
Conflicts with proposals for Porthcawl	1
Should be planting trees / do not cut down	1
Use land responsibly	1

Use bron field first, re-designate non-Greenfield listings	1
Use to be self-sufficient, produce food or industrial use	1
Comments off topic to question	1
Waste (W1-W9)	
Not required / Climate change is a lie	3
Money is best spent elsewhere	2
People should be responsible for their own waste	1
Ban all plastic	1
Conflicts with proposals for Porthcawl	1
Improvement of recycling and rubbish centres	1
Stop Kerbside recycling	1
Comments off topic to question	1

Would you add to any initiatives?



339 respondents provided an answer for this question. As the graph above displays, the majority of respondents stated no: **289 respondents (85%)** would not add to any of the initiatives. Whereas **50 respondents (15%)** stated they would. Further comments for this are shown in the following question.

If yes, please indicate which initiative and why?

The table below shows each comment made for adding to each initiative are themed into the table below:

Initiative	Number of responses
Carbon Management (CM1 – CM7)	
Public transport and Council vehicles should be electric	2
Encourage Net Zero carbon energy initiatives - turbines, tidal, wind and river turbines	2
Impossible to implement and monitor	1

Must be made a priority	1
Promotion and communication of the initiatives	1
Reduce M4 speed limit	1
Start-up grants for renewable energy	1
Look at effects carbon has in the Valleys	1
Comments were off topic to question	2
Buildings (Existing buildings & new builds) (B1 – B8; NB1-NB6)	
Reuse old / unused buildings	3
Stop building on green spaces	2
New builds should have solar panels	1
Product Declaration Certificates for all new building materials	1
Reduce office space and encourage home or hub working`	1
Old housing stock is properly insulated	1
Modern housing heating priority	1
Support for homes to introduce renewable energy / insulation	1
Bridgend is no longer a lovely market town.	1
Transport (Business travel and commuting included) (T1-T11)	
More effective public transport	4
Reasonably priced electric public transport	2
Active travel routes	1
Needs to be a fast turnover to clean fuel	1
Stop proposing road developments on green spaces	1
Electric vehicles to be powered by renewable sources	1
All council vehicles should be electric or Hybrid.	1
Procurement (P1-P10)	
All suppliers must be open regarding carbon footprint and management systems	2
Pay more in the short term for financial benefits long term	1
Stop allowing building on old community land	1
Evaluate life time carbon in procurement decisions	1
Buy under compulsory empty retail and hospitality in Bridgend	1
Financial commitment for businesses to be 'greener'	1
Well-being and fitness for the future generations	1
Reducing supply chain	1
Comments were off topic to question	1
Land Use (L10 – L7)	
Renovate existing buildings rather than building on land	3
Protect green spaces / plant trees	2
Better balance in biodiversity management	2
Create wildlife corridors	1
Maximise renewable energy sources	1
Brown sites should be used to industry, green sites of farming	1
Encourage the use of 3-NOP for ruminant feed	1
Waste (W1-W9)	
Policy to ban / reduce plastic containers	3
Council tax reduction as incentive for recycling	1
Management changes to mitigate what is wasted	1
Support for businesses to gradually move to greener habits	1
Impossible	1
Comments made were off topic to question	1

What have you done to reduce your carbon footprint?

Responses for this question are themed into the table below.

Theme	Number of responses
Recycling more	109
Walking / cycling	59
Use the car only when essential / less fuel	52
Electric / hybrid car	47
Buy less single use plastics/ more environmentally friendly items	38
Responsible and ethical / local Shopping	35
UK holidays / less air travel	33
Reduce heating / lighting / water	30
Eat less meat or dairy / Plant based	28
Public transport	26
Reducing electricity / green energy provider	26
Growing own vegetables	24
No activities taken to reduce carbon footprint	21
Solar panels	19
Work from home / do not commute	19
Replaced light bulbs to LED	14
Roof / loft Insulation	14
Following waste disposal guidance / reduced waste	13
Saving Water / water metre	10
Reduced pollution car/ motorcycle	8
Tree planting	7
More efficient boiler installed	6
Take unwanted clothes and furniture to the charity shop	6
Smart meter	4
Litter picking	3
Reduce speed limits	3
Log burner	3
Using washing machine at lower temperatures	2
Become a local ambassador	2
Renewable energy for gas	1
Furthered education	1
Comments made were off topic to question	12

As shown in the table above, 32 themes were identified for this question. The top three themes are as followed: the most popular response for reducing carbon footprint was **recycling more**, **108** respondents mentioned this in their response. **59 respondents** stated they **walk/cycle** more to reduce their carbon footprint and **52 respondents** highlighted they only use their **car for essential journeys / use less fuel**.

Do you have any further comments to make with regards to the Net Zero Carbon strategy? We welcome your ideas on how BCBC can tackle Climate Change.

Theme	Responses
Education and communication for the council, public and schools	27
Improve, and encourage sustainable public transport	23
Introduce and support more renewable energy: (Wind, Solar and Tidal)	19
Improve and enforce street recycling / litter picking	18
Tree planting / protect trees and green space	18
Infrastructure and support around electric vehicles / increase charging points and on all new homes	15
Money should be spent elsewhere / more important things	13
Housing / developments should only be approved on appropriate areas and comply with strategy	11
Create partnerships / local events to get people involved	11
Council vehicles should be electric	8
Review timescale	8
Improve / more cycle and footpath routes	7
Need practical, realistic, and committed plans	7
Encourage and support local food consumption	6
Recycling for soft plastics / cut down	6
Council should take lead by example for all actions	6
Offices / business make measures to reduce carbon footprint	5
Major nations need to act first	5
Better waste management, recycling stores at tips / cheap collection services	5
Recycling should be compulsory	4
Offer incentives for climate change initiatives	9
Stop building new homes / repurpose old buildings	4
Charge people based on Carbon footprint	3
Timescales and resources to achieve this	3
Welsh government support and lead	3
Support for Biodiversity	3
Parking / Congestion charge in town centres	3
Promote less meat consumption	3
More effective and efficient street lighting and traffic lights	3
Maintain working from home	2
Hydrogen powered commercial vehicles	2
Smaller council offices / close some buildings	2
Condensing boilers	2
Banning geoengineering	2
Stop sending out both Welsh and English letters	2
Utilise fields used for renewable energy generation	2
New innovations for business and residential use. District heating schemes, hydrogen electrolyzers.	2
Do not charge for green waste	1
Should not change the climate	1
Happy to support the council on the journey	1
Implement wood burner legislations	1
Encourage to not keep car running	1
Solar powered lighting for the elderly and low-income households	1

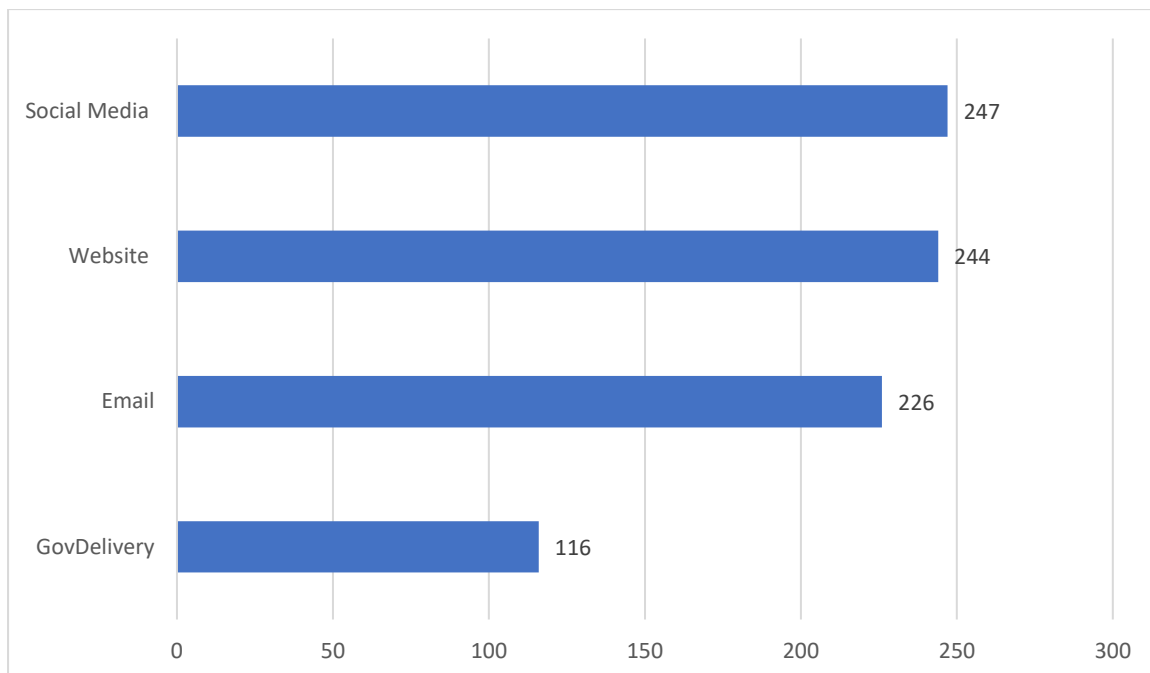
Wind turbines in less visible areas	1
Use Lean and 5S	1
No comment / comments were off topic to question	20

As shown from the table above, the top three themes are as followed: **27 responses** mentioned there is a need for education and communication through the council, public and within schools. **23 comments** mentioned Improving and encourage sustainable public transport to take Climate change. There were also **19 comments** which suggest introducing and supporting more renewable energy: (Wind, Solar and Tidal).

Responses for this question, also included area specific comments which are found in the table below:

Area specific comments
Do not build wind turbines on Coity Common as it won't generate enough power and will spoil the green space. Do not put a transport hub at junction 36, which is already congested and creates tonnes of emissions.
Plant trees along the m4 corridors
BCBC should make on foot and bicycle commuting easier. I commute to Princess of Wales. Have done on foot, but I struggle to cross the dual carriageway near the Welsh Primary School as there is no bridge. Also, there isn't a pavement from this roundabout directly into town. You have to go round the hospital or up into Brackla to come back on yourself.
Reduce speed limits, Park Street
Electrify railway to Swansea
Consider speed reductions in the M4 around the Bridgend area.
Encourage schools to take up carbon initiatives. In Porthcawl places like Sussed and The Pantri Box are happy to work with schools on projects as are Cenin Parc Stormy. I'm sure there are others around the area. For Porthcawl rebrand the regeneration strategy to say that you should visit Porthcawl for 21st century Sustainable Staycations and emphasize sustainability (carbon neutrality) in the strategy
In Cwm Llynfi, many people use bicycles for weekend exercise, but they could be used as a means of transport to school and to work. There is, however, a problem, because at present cyclists are encouraged to use the main A4063, and I believe this to be dangerous. An alternative cycle and pedestrian route could be developed, perhaps close to the railway line. There is also no pedestrian footpath along this road in the area of the paper mill.
I would like to see lower speed restrictions on dual carriageway s and stretches of the M4 around the whole of Bridgend to reduce emissions.
Active travel is an area I feel has been neglected for years around Bridgend. Links in and out of Porthcawl are particularly bad. The difference in infrastructure is striking between Pyle and Margam as soon as you enter Neath port Talbot the difference in attitude towards providing safe active travel routes is obvious.
Build some barrages in the Bristol Channel.
Porthcawl needs more EV charging points
Decrease grass cutting - there are many areas which can be left to grow wild, e.g., wilderness lake in Porthcawl, sections can be left to grow Littering/pollution should be managed/prosecuted, particularly around the Coney Beach/Sandy Bowl/Salt Lake area - business should be made responsible for the waste that their customers leave lying around
Reducing speed limits (Newton Nottage Road & A4064)

How should BCBC continue to communicate with residents of the County about action it is taking in relation to Climate Change?



This question was format as a multi-choice, allowing respondents to select more than one option. There were 832 answers provided for this question. As shown in the graph, **247 (30%)** respondents selected communications to be made via social media, closely followed by the **website** which received **244 selections (29%)**. Communications via **email** was selected by **226 respondents (27%)** and **Gov delivery** received **115 selections (14%)**.

Respondents were also given the chance to suggest other methods of communication, comments are shown below.

Theme	Responses
Public meetings / Local events	22
Leaflets / Posters	12
None / Not interested	9
Local news / Seaside news`	8
Public advertising boards	8
Post	7
TV / Radio	6
Environmentally friendly / No printed leaflets	5
Education in schools	5
Consider older generations / Easily accessible for elderly	4
Offline	2
YouTube	1
Newsletters	1
Shop windows	1
Not on social media or website	1
Any method	1
Text	1
Methods per house hold	1

96 suggestions were made for this question. As shown in the table above, the top suggestions for communication are as followed: **22 respondents** mentioned **public meetings / local engagement events**. **12 respondents** suggested communication through posters / leaflets. **8 comments** mentioned **local news / Seaside news** and **8 comments** suggested communication through **public advertising boards**.

8. Conclusion

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) declared its own climate emergency in June 2020 and set up its Climate Emergency Response programme. This has a commitment to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030 across its operations.

A consultation was undertaken between June and August 2022 and the findings show that the majority of respondents are in support of the draft Net Carbon Zero Strategy and the priorities within.

The report provides a summary of the findings. A wide range of comments were received to inform the final Strategy, all of which will be circulated to the responsible Officers, so that as much feedback as possible can be fed into the process.

There was no clear signal from respondents to remove or change any of the commitments or initiatives in the strategy and therefore no changes to the draft strategy document are recommended.

Given the necessary focus on the Council's own estate and Welsh Government's carbon reporting methodology the strategy does not address some of the key themes and messages captured in the consultation, such as a desire for low carbon public transport. The consultation report will be shared with relevant officers and the 2030 Programme Board so that the feedback gathered through the consultation can be used to inform activity beyond the immediate 2030 Net Zero Strategy remit.

8.1. Equality Impact Assessment

The full equality impact assessment will be completed for 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

8.2. Summary

Information from this consultation will be used to inform the 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy. Information will also be shared with cabinet on 13th December 2022

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