

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

30 JUNE 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

THE BRIDGEND COUNTY CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present for approval the creation of the Bridgend County Climate Emergency Response Programme following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by Welsh Government in April 2019.

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 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. In addition, there is a commitment to coordinating action to help other areas of the economy to make a decisive shift away from fossil fuels, involving academia, industry and the third sector. A plan for 2021-26 is already being prepared by Welsh Government to take forward this work.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has a crucial role 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.

4.2 The BCBC has a role as:

- A community leader – to work with residents, groups and businesses in relation to their energy use and preparing for climate impacts
- A service provider – to deliver more resource efficient services that are less carbon intensive, encourage more resilience and support the most vulnerable in society.
- The manager of an estate – to ensure that the estate and its operations are as resource efficient as possible, to use clean energy and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

4.3 BCBC already has underway a number of relevant initiatives connected to buildings, transport, waste, renewable energy and many other areas of BCBC activity, such as, but not excluded to:

- Active travel (Bridgend to Brackla and Pencoed Tech Park) - £1.6m
- Corporate Landlord Energy Efficiency programme - £1.3m
- Caerau Local Heat Scheme - £9.7m
- The proposed Bridgend Heat Network Scheme, currently under consideration and yet to be finalised - £4.2m

4.4 To support this and set out some immediate action, it is proposed that a Climate Emergency Response Programme be developed to include the following:

- A cross-party member committee to oversee the Climate Emergency Response Programme
- The creation of a dedicated officer role to lead on:
 - Co-ordination of all BCBC services.
 - Collaboration with key public, private and third sector partners.
 - Engagement with local residents.
- The development of a Bridgend County Climate Emergency Citizens' Assembly.
- The development of a Bridgend County Climate Emergency Response Strategy and prioritised action plan, including costings and performance monitoring and reporting procedures.

- The hosting of an annual Bridgend County Sustainability Summit.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An initial assessment has identified that there are no equality issues related to this report.

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment Template has been completed and a summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is below:

- Long-term: The elements that make up the proposed Climate Emergency Response Programme have been identified following discussion with key stakeholders and in relation to current understanding of the potential long term challenges and impacts of Climate Emergency and the need to develop a coherent ,coordinated strategy and plan of action.
- Prevention: A clear focus, prioritised action plan and a concerted effort to act in the short term will support work to respond to Climate Emergency and its impacts. In doing so it will be important to learn from other areas.
- Integration: The proposed Climate Emergency Response Programme will achieve this way of working by recognising the strategy, action plan and proposed actions will be arrived at following support from partner organisations.
- Collaboration: The proposed Climate Emergency Response Programme will work across Council directorates through a 'One Council' approach and in partnership with key stakeholders through the Public Service Board and wider networks.
- Involvement: The Climate Emergency Response Programme will be delivered in close partnership with a range of local stakeholders through the proposed engagement mechanisms. Key to this will be the Citizens' Assembly and Sustainability Summit.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The annual resource requirement to lead the Climate Emergency Response Programme of £215,000 will be funded from the £2 million public realm and place shaping budget public realm budget newly available to the approved in the Medium Term Financial Strategy in February 2020 Communities Directorate in 2020-21. The value of £215,000 will be for a full year programme, made up of £65,000 staff costs and £150,000 revenue budget.

- 8.2 As part of year 1 of the Programme, a one-off sum of £50,000 will be allocated to support work required to develop the Bridgend County Climate Emergency Response

Strategy and prioritised action plan, including costings and performance monitoring and reporting procedures.

- 8.3 The value required for 2020/21 will be a pro rata figure due to the timing of this report. It is currently anticipated that this will be £80,000, although factors relating to recruitment may affect this.
- 8.4 The resources required for servicing the meetings of the cross-party member committee, the Citizens' Assembly and the Sustainability Summit will be provided through these budgets.
- 8.5 It must be considered that there is an increasing financial risk to BCBC if no action is taken. The harmful impacts of events arising from climate change affect people and property which in turn presents both direct and indirect challenges and costs for BCBC.

9. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 9.1 Approve the creation of the Climate Emergency Response Programme as set out in paragraph 4.4 of this report, its initial resource allocation as outlined in paragraph's 8.1 – 8.3 and to receive future reports on its progress.

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8th June 2020

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Background documents:

Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 2018. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>