

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

12 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

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

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the recommendations of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (SOSC 3) from their meeting held on 4 January 2023, following the decision of 3 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a Scrutiny Chair to Call-In the decision of the Executive in relation to 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**:
- **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** – 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, 3 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a Scrutiny Chair, requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on 13 December 2022 be Called-In.
- 3.2 The Committee considered the proposed decision by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, taking into account whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies.
- 3.3 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 the Cabinet to account for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview and Scrutiny process aims to

strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.

3.4 For the purposes of informing Cabinet, the following appendices have been attached:

- **Appendix A** – Cabinet Decision Record 13 December 2022;
- **Appendix B** – Notice of Call-In Form;
- **Appendix C** – Report of the Corporate Director – Communities: Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy to Cabinet on 13 December 2022;
- **Appendix D** - Call In Report to Extraordinary Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 4 January 2023.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Committee examined the decision of the Executive at its meeting on 4 January 2023, held with Cabinet Members and Officers from the Communities Directorate.

At the meeting, Members of the Committee discussed the following:

- 4.2 Members considered that such a significant strategy ought to have some form of credible cost attributed to it. It was acknowledged that there should be a way of communicating indicative costs which would not be too unreliable or too misleading rather than providing no costs at all. It was discussed how costs for the full strategy would evolve over time.
- 4.3 Reference was made to the identified key milestones to be achieved by 2024 within the 'Route map to a Net Zero Bridgend', contained in Appendix 1 to the Strategy, and that Cabinet could consider how best costs could be applied to these planned actions to achieve the significant carbon savings identified.
- 4.4 Members noted that residents would be concerned about the cost of their council tax and impact on council services considering the significant budget pressures expected in the coming years and considered that both the short term and longer-term financial implications of the strategy should be made public to inform residents on where their money would be used.
- 4.5 Following its examination of the decision, and having regard to the above, the Committee decided to recommend that the decision be referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration for the following reason:

Concerns were expressed about the lack of costing information contained in the original Cabinet report and Members felt that Cabinet needed to consider the wider financial costs before making the decision, with indicative longer term financial implications and more detail on the costs of achieving the 2024 milestones.

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 of 13 December 2022 attached as **Appendix C**.

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

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications are outlined in Section 7 of the Cabinet report of 13 December 2022, attached as **Appendix C**.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 The financial implications are outlined in Section 8 of the Cabinet report of 13 December 2022, attached as **Appendix C**. The recommendations request a more detailed analysis of the financial implications and this will be considered at the Cabinet meeting.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 recommended that Cabinet reconsider the decision for the reasons outlined at paragraph 4.5 above.

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6 January 2023

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Background documents: None