

**Meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 / Communities Environment  
and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024-2025 and July 2025  
Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested**

	<b>Recommendations / Information Requested:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:</b>
<b>Climate Change Response and Decarbonisation Activity Bridgend County Borough – SOSC 3 – 17 Feb 2025</b>			
<u>Recommendations:</u>			
<b>1</b>	The Committee expressed concern and <b>requested</b> an explanation setting out why the cross-party Member Committee to oversee the Climate Emergency Response Programme, agreed by Cabinet on 30 June 2020, had not been established and instead, that the Subject Overview Scrutiny Committee 3 had been given the remit for Climate Change and Nature and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to the cross-party Member Committee being established for the purposes intended.	Officers will await advice as to whether this is something the Cabinet Member would like established.	
<b>2</b>	<p>The Committee was advised that the Bridgend 2030 Net Zero Carbon Strategy (the Strategy) was under review and that a report would be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Committee providing detail on what had been accomplished, the achievability of the ambitions and the necessary steps to progress it.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the proposed report but expressed their disappointment that it appeared that some aspects of the plan would not work and therefore</p>	<p>A report was agreed by Cabinet to undertake a public consultation exercise. Work on this is progressing. A further report will be presented to scrutiny following consultation.</p> <p>The Net Zero 2030 Strategy review has been completed and presented to The Committee. A public consultation will be launched in</p>	

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	<p>were taken no further and their concern that there did not appear to be any delivery or decisive action taken in relation to the Strategy which was already at its halfway stage. The Committee therefore <b>recommended</b> that an action plan be put in place to include detail on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Timescales;</li> <li>- The objectives and achievement attained;</li> <li>- How the public are being engaged and listened to, including the means by which the community are engaged; and</li> <li>- The possibility of an annual engagement day.</li> </ul>	<p>November 2025 to obtain input on from the public and the responses will be considered before the final version of the revised strategy is presented to Council.</p> <p>Objectives, actions, achievements, and timescales are described in the draft strategy and review report.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p>The Committee discussed the impact of river flooding in the Valley areas causing erosion of the riverbank and encroaching onto gardens, fence lines and properties, acknowledged that it was a worrying situation for a those affected and <b>recommended</b> that the Council approach Welsh Government to request some safeguarding for those individuals who may be in danger of flooding to their homes and property in the future.</p>	<p>The local flood risk management strategy shows how we aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the impact of flooding on individuals, communities, businesses and the environment</li> <li>• raise awareness and engage people in responding to flood and coastal erosion risk</li> <li>• provide an effective and continual response to flooding and coastal erosion</li> <li>• prioritise investment in communities most at risk</li> </ul>	

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		<p>The strategy collates existing policies, and any new actions or policies introduced due to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009. It also includes proposed actions or policies to be introduced to further manage flood risk.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was approved by the Minister for Natural Resources and Food in September 2013.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p>Members were advised that the expectations arising from the Senedd Climate Committee's Halting and Reversing the Loss of Nature by 2023 report remain unclear as Welsh Government had yet to respond to the recommendations contained within. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that a letter be written to Welsh Government asking when a response is to be expected, in order to provide an understanding of the potential impact and challenges those recommendations could have on local authorities.</p>	<p>A letter is to be sent by the Local Nature Partnership to WG to seek clarification on this matter.</p> <p>LNP Members include:</p> <p>NRW, Wildlife Trust, Swansea Uni, SEWBReC, PlantLife, Wales Biodiversity, Awen, Bridgend College, Valleys 2 Coast, Keep Wales Tidy, Bug Life, Butterfly Conservation, Glamorgan Fungus Group, Glamorgan Bird Group, several Community Councils, Project Seagrass, a couple of independent ecologists, Tanio, Glamorgan Botany Group, Bumblebee</p>	

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		Conservation, Llais Y Goedwig, Bryngarw Volunteers, Network Rail, Coed Pen-y-Fai Trust, Froglife, ARC, Lads and Dads, Coastal Housing, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Beach Academy, Steer Foundation	
<b>5</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> further detail/information regarding the national position, across all 22 Welsh local authorities, setting out their approach to Climate Change and Decarbonisation. The Committee expressed that it was important that Bridgend's Strategy aligns with other local authorities recognising that carbon capture does not stop at boundary lines. In addition, the Committee discussed the existence of strategic development plans for planning large scale properties and queried why there was no equivalent plan for Net Zero Carbon 2030 and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to including this in a future report to the Committee.	<p>Details of each Loal Authority's approach, where available, are provided below:</p> <p><a href="https://www.oneplanetcardiff.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPC%20vision%20document.pdf">https://www.oneplanetcardiff.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPC%20vision%20document.p df</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.newport.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/net-zero-newport-decarbonisation-programme">https://www.newport.gov.uk/environment/climate-change/net-zero-newport-decarbonisation-programme</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/netzero2030">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/netzero2030</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/climate-emergency/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/climate-emergency/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Climate-Change/Net-Zero-2030/Net-Zero-2030.aspx">https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Climate-Change/Net-Zero-2030/Net-Zero-2030.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/climate-change/net-zero-2030/">https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/climate-change/net-zero-2030/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/environmental-health-and-pollution/decarbonisation">https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/services/enviromental-health-and-pollution/decarbonisation</a></p>	

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		<a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Campaigns/ClimateChangeRCT/OurClimatePlans.aspx">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Campaigns/ClimateChangeRCT/OurClimatePlans.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Climate-Change/Project-Zero.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Climate-Change/Project-Zero.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/decarbonisation/decarbonisation/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/council/decarbonisation/decarbonisation/</a>  <a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment/decarbonisation-and-renewable-energy-strategy-dare/">https://www.npt.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/environment/decarbonisation-and-renewable-energy-strategy-dare/</a> <a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/digital-strategy-2024-2027/net-zero-carbon/">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/digital-strategy-2024-2027/net-zero-carbon/</a> <a href="https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/s1476/Achieving%20Net%20Zero%20CCC%20v1.2.pdf?LLL=0">https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/s1476/Achieving%20Net%20Zero%20CCC%20v1.2.pdf?LLL=0</a> <a href="https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Climate-Change/Net-Zero-Plan.aspx">https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Council/Strategies-Plans-and-Policies/Climate-Change/Net-Zero-Plan.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategies/climate-and-ecological-change-strategy.aspx">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategies/climate-and-ecological-change-strategy.aspx</a>	

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		<a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Climate-Change/Climate-Change-Strategy-2022-2030.pdf">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Climate-Change/Climate-Change-Strategy-2022-2030.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Climate-Change/Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Climate-Change/Climate-and-Nature-Emergency-Plan.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Council/Climate-change.aspx">https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Council/Climate-change.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/our-action-plan/net-zero-carbon-action-plan">https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/our-action-plan/net-zero-carbon-action-plan</a> <a href="https://en.powys.gov.uk/climatechange">https://en.powys.gov.uk/climatechange</a>  This link provides a national picture across public sector  <a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-05/welsh-public-sector-2024-carbon-emissions-net-zero-reporting.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-05/welsh-public-sector-2024-carbon-emissions-net-zero-reporting.pdf</a>	
<u>Information Requested:</u>			
6	The Committee <b>requested</b> a copy of the Climate Change Risk Assessment which was undertaken in partnership with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Service Board (PSB) and highlighted 11 climate risk priority areas across the PSB. The Committee also <b>requested</b>	Link provided for CCRA.  <a href="https://www.ourcwmtaf.wales/climate-change-risk-assessment">https://www.ourcwmtaf.wales/climate-change-risk-assessment</a>	

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	information regarding the actions being taken by the Health Board to respond to the action plan including any works to their buildings within the County Borough to make them more energy efficient.	Information of local health board to be requested by the Climate Change Response Manager.	
<b>7</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> further information regarding the Bridgend Local Nature Partnership to include details of its membership, how often it meets and its agenda in order to understand whether it could be used as a key engagement tool.	The Full group meet quarterly and the steering group meets every 6 weeks. Members currently include: NRW, Wildlife Trust, Swansea Uni, SEWBRcC, PlantLife, Wales Biodiversity, Awen, Bridgend College, Valleys 2 Coast, Keep Wales Tidy, Bug Life, Butterfly Conservation, Glamorgan Fungus Group, Glamorgan Bird Group, several Community Councils, Project Seagrass, a couple of independent ecologists, Tanio, Glamorgan Botany Group, Bumblebee Conservation, Llais Y Goedwig, Bryngarw Volunteers, Network Rail, Coed Pen-y-Fai Trust, Froglife, ARC, Lads and Dads, Coastal Housing, South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue, Beach Academy, Steer Foundation	
<b>Electric Vehicles and Infrastructure</b>			
<b>8</b>	Members discussed Electric Vehicle charging points, how long it took to complete repairs and whose responsibility it was to do so. Whilst the Committee acknowledged that it had been necessary for public	It is currently considered that there is a role for the market and for the local authority in the delivery of EV charge points. Funding is often made available by WG and BCBC had secured	

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	bodies to lead the way in installing electric vehicle charging points, there was now an increased demand and need for higher voltage charging points. The Committee therefore <b>requested</b> whether consideration should be given to the Council leaving the market and facilitating the supply by private companies.	£104000.00 for the delivery of charge points. This funding will be utilised to ensure that areas where charge point operators determine that charge points are not fully market viable that residents in the area do not miss out on the opportunity to charge vehicles should they transition to an electric vehicle.	
<b>9</b>	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> information regarding how much of the £1.4m funding for electric vehicles and infrastructure had been spent on infrastructure, why the Council was not deriving an income from it and regarding the public charging points commissioned by the Cardiff Capital Region on Council land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whether there was shared revenue?</li> <li>- Were there possibilities for revenue generation?</li> <li>- Whether capital expenditure to generate revenue been investigated?</li> </ul>	<p>Not all of the income received through grants for electric vehicles and infrastructure is dedicated to charge points in the public domain and much is across our own estate to facilitate the transition from ICE to EV fleet. Where charge points have been installed for public access and charging they have been installed by CCR.</p> <p>There is no shared revenue. There will be opportunities for shared revenue going forward where the charge points are situated on council owned land. At present capital revenue to generate income has not been investigated.</p>	

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<b>Bridgend County Borough Net Zero Strategy Review – 7 April 2025</b>			
<b>Recommendations:</b>			
<b>10</b>	<p>The Committee discussed the challenges of the Authority achieving Net Zero Carbon 2030 and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to approaching the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to seek clarity as to the current status of strategies to reach net zero by 2030 in the other Welsh local authorities, following which, if other Welsh local authorities are experiencing similar challenges, the Committee further <b>recommended</b> that a follow-up request be made to ask the WLGA to make the Welsh Government aware of the situation and consider extending its net zero carbon strategy from 2030 to align it with that of the UK Government, to reach net zero by 2050.</p>	<p>Welsh Government publishes the progress of the Welsh public sector progress on net zero carbon delivery.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-05/welsh-public-sector-2024-carbon-emissions-net-zero-reporting.pdf">https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-05/welsh-public-sector-2024-carbon-emissions-net-zero-reporting.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.wales/welsh-public-sector-net-zero-reporting-interactive-dashboard-html">https://www.gov.wales/welsh-public-sector-net-zero-reporting-interactive-dashboard-html</a></p> <p>The 2030 target for public sector aligns with the next interim target in the delivery of net zero for all Wales by 2050. The next interim target has been set as a 63% reduction in emissions by 2030 against a 1990 baseline. Welsh ministers subsequently confirmed an ambition for the public sector to lead the way and achieve Net Zero by 2030.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p>The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the final version of the report by the Carbon Trust provide clarity as to the governance arrangements for the strategy including Member representation, for clear political leadership.</p>	<p>The final report sets out a clear governance structure and recommends the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment continues to chair the Decarbonisation Programme Board.</p>	

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<b>12</b>	The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the strategy include focus on practical and achievable goals and that the carbon footprint of the supply chain be an appropriate priority.	The actions were updated to focus on deliverability and relevance to delivering the 2030 net zero ambition. Achievement of the supply chain actions is largely dependent on allocation of specific staff resource which is not in place.	
<b>13</b>	The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the revised strategy be shared for a 12-week public consultation, as there was a need to engage with the public and obtain views of residents and stakeholders of the county borough.	The revised strategy will be put to public consultation in November 2025.	

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<b>Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Update – CEH OSC – <u>14 July 2025</u></b>			
<b>Recommendations:</b>			
<b>14</b>	The Committee <b>recommended</b> that local Members and Town and Community Councils be advised of CATs that are initiated in their Ward to enable engagement and support.	The CAT Officer has developed a CAT Update document which now includes a breakdown by ward -this will be circulated to the relevant members on a monthly basis.	Accepted

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<b>15</b>	The Committee discussed the reasons, including financial considerations, that clubs and community groups opt into the CAT process or not, including that the CAT route enables external funding bids to be made by clubs and community groups and <b>requested</b> a list of external funding available to such organisations.	The CAT Officer developed a database of contacts (both sporting and community-based) in 2021 and circulated updates on available funding opportunities on a quarterly basis until the CAT assistant post was vacated in 2023. Any funding opportunities that the CAT officer is made aware of are circulated to this group, but the quarterly circular will be re-initiated upon the appointment of the Town and Community Council Liaison Officer.	Accepted
<b>16</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> that, in the interests of transparency, minutes of meetings of the CAT Steering Group be circulated to Members of the Committee.	The CAT Steering Minutes often contain sensitive information both politically and in relation to the financial status of community organisations and can include detailed business plans and financial forecasts. It is not feasible to redact all of this information after each meeting to enable circulation to the committee. It is proposed that, should the committee require sight of a particular set of minutes, this could be requested as required.	Partially Accepted
<b>17</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> that they be advised when Cabinet are due to consider a report on the future of major parks in the County Borough.	The Major Parks Review was an operational document that has since been superseded by a range of other initiatives and ongoing work. These include progress made through Community Asset Transfers, significant improvements to children's play areas, and investment delivered in partnership with external organisations such as the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) through the Borough-wide Tennis Court Refurbishment Programme, the replacement of the	Not accepted

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		disused basketball courts in Maesteg Welfare park via the Sport Wales Court Collaboration Project and the ongoing projects with the Resilient Communities Team via the “Newbridge North” Project and the FAW in regards to a football pitch and pavilion strategy in collaboration with and funded by the FAW.	
<b>18</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> a written update regarding the current lease and financial status and condition of the two pavilions at Newbridge Fields.	The CAT Officer will prepare and circulate an update on the current lease, financial status and condition of the two pavilions at Newbridge Fields, including information on the refurbishment of the “South Pavilion” in conjunction with Bridgend Athletics RFC and confirmation of the “Newbridge North Project”, which incorporates the “Bandstand” pavilion.	Accepted