

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Scrutiny - Thriving Communities Committee

DATE: 26th May 2021

LOCATION:

TITLE: Achieving Net Zero by 2030 – Action Plan

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide and update on the development of the Council's Net Zero Action Plan

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED

THE INFORMATION: At meeting of full Council on 20th June 2019 it was agreed to: *'Develop a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon within 12 months'*

Background:

The meeting of Ceredigion County Council on 20 June 2019 (Full Council 20 June 2019) agreed to:

- Commit to making Ceredigion a net zero carbon Local Authority by 2030
- Develop a clear plan for a route towards being net zero carbon within 12 months
- Call on Welsh and UK Governments to provide the necessary support and resources to enable effective carbon reductions

Further to this, on the 5th March 2020, Ceredigion County Council declared a global climate emergency, committing to meeting the most significant challenge facing our county and our planet.

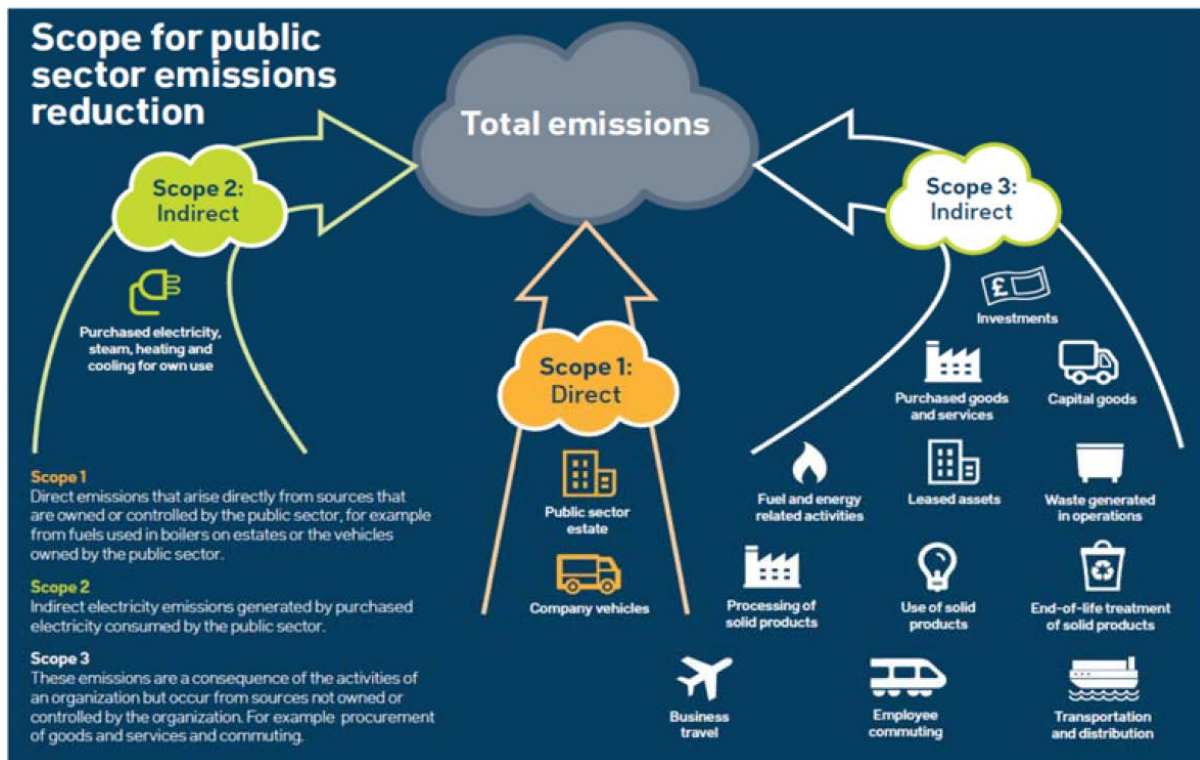
This document sets out how we intend to respond to the climate emergency. It explains why we need this Net Zero Carbon Action Plan and why the 2030 target is so important to tackling climate change. The Action Plan assesses Ceredigion's current operational carbon emissions and outlines the challenges associated with the ambitious 2030 target.

Focus of the net-zero action plan:

The focus is currently upon operational energy usage and emissions (Scope 1 and 2 emissions), as these are routinely recorded and calculated annually as part of the annual review of the Carbon Management Plan. There is a need to calculate and understand the carbon footprint of the Local Authority as a whole (to include Scope 3 emissions), which will be undertaken once the Welsh Government publish their reporting methodology, release of which has been delayed by COVID. The additional emission sources will likely include:

- (1) Mobility and Transport;
- (2) Procurement;

- (3) Land Use; and
- (4) Buildings.



This Plan has been formed based on the Member-led motion put forward in June 2019, the contents should be considered on the basis of whether it articulates the desired vision going forward.

Anticipated Next Steps

Short-term (next 3 - 12 months)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero Action Plan to Cabinet/Council • Integration of Net-Zero Action plan into Corporate Priorities, to ensure progress is monitored and reported. • Further work to progress schemes already identified, which will contribute to delivery of emission reductions • Continue discussions with Welsh Government and District Network operators over grid capacity issues within the county.
Medium-term (next 18 months - 2 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon release of Welsh Government reporting methodology, full baseline exercise needs to be undertaken, to expand emission monitoring to also include emissions from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mobility and Transport; ➤ Procurement; ➤ Land Use; and ➤ Buildings.

As a result, there will be many other actions that emerge over time, which will need to be identified and progressed further.

- Once we have a complete baseline carbon footprint, we will be able to look more specifically at projects and schemes that will contribute to emission reduction and carbon offsetting – this will also need significant financial investment.
- Continue work that is effective in delivering emission reductions, focus on projects that are proven to deliver positive outcomes.
- Analyse and assess where information, resources and policy changes are needed to support the move towards net zero carbon.
- Initial annual review and update of Net Zero Action Plan – to Scrutiny, Cabinet summer 2022.

Long-term (next 2+ years)

- Net-Zero Action Plan to be reviewed and updated periodically, to ensure progress.
- Further delivery of projects that provide significant carbon reductions, these will likely be more complex, larger in scale and value, this may include carbon sequestration, tree planting.
- Zero carbon working practices should now be embedded throughout Local Authority working practices
- All new schemes, projects and developments in Ceredigion should be being delivered in a manner that contributes to our net-zero ambitions

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why

Summary: In progress

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:	Long term:	This Net Zero Action Plan will support the Council’s 2030 net zero carbon ambition
	Integration:	Will help integrate and embed emission reduction across the Authority
	Collaboration:	The Council is already working in collaboration with a number of public bodies in relation to carbon reduction and delivery of emission reduction.

Involvement: Climate Change and Carbon Management Group is well established and attended by both Members and officers, this provides a good initial forum for stakeholder engagement, but scope for wider involvement following publication of this Plan

Prevention: This Plan will support implementation of actions and measures to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change

RECOMMENDATION (S):

Endorse the Net Zero Action Plan and Actions set out within it

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To support the Council's commitment to reducing the effects of climate change.