



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP**

**18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**CORPORATE ESTATES ENERGY AND CARBON REDUCTION UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSION  
WITH THE CABINET'S CLIMATE CHANGE CHAMPION (COUNCILLOR  
RHYS LEWIS)**

**Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates and Steve Lock,  
Head of Energy Project Management.**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide supporting information for the Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group meeting. The report outlines the current situation and relevant developments with regards to Energy and Carbon Reduction.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report as part of the supporting information for the Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group meeting.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The contents of this report provides key background information for the Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group meeting.

**4. ENERGY USAGE AND REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

- 4.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has a long-established and large-scale programme of investing in Energy Reduction measures. In the last 10 years over £7m has been invested and these have directly resulted in estimated Energy reductions of over 18m MW of Energy.
- 4.2. The investments made over the last 10 years have been spread across nearly 400 projects including the installation of 105 Solar panel arrays

across both Schools and Corporate Buildings (totalling 1.58MW), 212 LED lighting schemes (saving £3.2m) and in recent years the installation of 20 Hydrogen Fuel Cell installations.

- 4.3 There has also been a very considerable investment in more Energy efficient Street Lighting. All Street lights in the County Borough have now been converted to their LED equivalent and this, along with part night and dimming policies, has resulted in a 75% reduction in the energy used.
- 4.4 In addition to the main investment areas listed above there has also been good progress on a number of other initiatives;
- Support has been provided for the development of community micro-hydro at Clydach and other potential hydro schemes are being investigated.
  - The use of geo-thermal/underground energy sources is being actively pursued with the first ground source heat pumps being recently installed, a current project to beneficially use the water from the Taffs Well Thermal Spring (using a water sourced heat pump) and a potential project to understand and develop the additional opportunity that residual Minewater could offer across the area.
  - Biomass boilers have been installed in a number of RCT locations and although there have been some operating issues there are nine boilers currently in use, consuming sustainable wood pellets.
  - Water Management issues have also been positively addressed with numerous actions taken to reduce water consumption and limit wastage such as the use of push-only taps and reduced flush cisterns. All new developments are installed incorporating leak detection systems to help with water conservation.
  - New projects also benefit from a wide range of measures incorporated to assist with the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) 'Excellent' rating such as rainwater harvesting, LED lighting and smart Building Management Systems (BMS).
- 4.5 The purchase of Energy (electricity and gas) is a major area of expenditure for the Council. The various Energy efficiency measures taken over recent years have substantially reduced the Council's Energy consumption.
- 4.6 The scale and value of Energy consumption by the Council means that its purchase is subject to and regulated by the EU Procurement Directives. Both electricity and gas are purchased via a legally compliant public sector contract arrangement and as part of this

arrangement all the electricity purchased comes from certified renewable sources.

- 4.7 The Energy Invest to Save programme for Financial Year 2020/21 is in the process of being finalised but is envisaged to commit the Council to invest at least a further £1.4m on energy and carbon reduction improvements. Furthermore, a list of other potential energy efficiency projects with longer viability periods has also been developed for further consideration and possible additional investment.

## **5. POTENTIAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS**

- 5.1 There are currently several projects undergoing advanced feasibility/investigation with regards to the potential of large renewable Energy projects. Three of these potential projects are Wind-based and one is Solar-based. These projects would be developed by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and as such would both contribute to the increase in the renewable energy provision in the area and also make a positive economic contribution to the financial situation of the County Borough which could then be invested in further related improvements or other services for the benefit of citizens.

## **6. CARBON REDUCTION**

- 6.1 As part of its commitment to reduce Energy consumption and its legal obligations, the Council has also actively monitored its Carbon situation. Until April 2019 this was via the Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme (CRC) and is now via the new Climate Change Levy Scheme (CCL).
- 6.2 In the 10 years until April 2019 (when the new scheme started) we have achieved an actual Carbon saving of over 6.6m tonnes, which includes reductions in the emissions from our buildings, street lights and other areas.

## **7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this supporting report.

**9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 9.1 All existing 'live' projects are funded through relevant cost centres so there are no further financial implications aligned to this supporting report.

**10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report

**11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 11.1 This supporting report provides information in the area of 'Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction' for the main Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group. The future actions that arise as a result of the recommendations in of the main report will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

**12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 This supporting report providing information in the area of 'Corporate Estates Energy and Carbon Reduction' should be considered as part of the main Discussion Paper – Work Programme for the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group.

**Contact Officers; David Powell 01443 424144, Steve Lock 01443 281191**