

## Climate Change - Cabinet Steering Group

### Terms of Reference.

## Responding to Climate Change - Cabinet Steering Group

**Membership:** (6 representatives)

**Names of Members:** County Borough Councillors:

R Lewis (Chair), M Webber (Vice Chair), A Crimmings, M Norris, E Webster, S Belzak

### Terms of Reference:

- To support the implementation and delivery of the priorities identified within the Council's Corporate Plan, this Cabinet Steering Group will:
- Advise the Cabinet on the development of specific actions and policies which support the reduction of the Council's Carbon Footprint and respond to 'Net Zero' – The report of the Committee On Climate Change and the Welsh Government's report *Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales*;
- Advise the Cabinet on how the Council can deliver upon its commitment to match the ambitions of the UK 100 Agreement by becoming a Clean Energy organisation;
- Provide a forum for the Council to develop these commitments and in doing so, become more ambitious through resetting targets and challenging how the Council operates and approaches challenges in the future to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.
- Provide the opportunity for persons, interested parties, and groups who live in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council the ability to engage in the wider response of the community to climate change;
- Consider the long term trends that will affect Rhondda Cynon Taf and what steps can be taken locally to contribute to their mitigation;
- Consider how the Council can work with others both locally and nationally to consider joint solutions
- *To monitor the implementation of the Scrutiny recommendations in respect of Low Carbon Vehicles and any such future recommendations in respect of climate change.*

## **Purpose of the Steering Group:**

The Cabinet Steering Group has been established to ensure an Authority-wide approach to issues of climate change and the Council becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. Its membership will provide strategic direction and will initially consider any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters. Its membership will consider how the Council can support changes in residents' behaviour, to deliver the necessary actions to respond proactively to climate change and in doing so, support business, communities and residents to reduce their own environmental impact.

This Cabinet Steering Group will provide the opportunity to proactively discuss progress and delivery of actions, which emanate from the Corporate Plan, which aims to meet climate change challenges and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

## **Membership:**

The Cabinet Steering Group membership includes Cabinet Member representation (as shown above) including additional County Borough Councillors from cross party groups as determined by the Leader. These Members will all hold equal voting rights.

Senior Leadership Team Representation (Chief Executive, Group Director - Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services; Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services; and the Service Director of Democratic Services & Communications), service officer representation – Council's Performance Manager where appropriate and external representation when required.

Officers and External representatives will provide strategic direction and will consider any local policies regarding climate change and associated matters and any other business as appropriate, however voting rights are conveyed to the cabinet Members and County Borough Councillors determined by the Leader only.

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services will Chair the Cabinet Steering Group and will also be the Climate Change/Net Zero Champion. The Chief Executive will be the Officer Champion.

Both Champion roles will raise the profile of any relevant legislation and policies at Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team level as well as supporting and developing the response of the Council. The roles are integral to the future development of policies in this area and each champion will be tasked with championing these matters at all levels of decision making within the Council.

## **External representation:**

Local interest groups will be invited to attend the Cabinet Steering Group in order to ensure that residents and communities are fully and directly involved in shaping its work.

This will enable both groups and individuals to contribute and influence to the development of policies for consideration by the Council, although no voting rights will be attributed to such external positions.

The Cabinet Steering Group will also provide the opportunity for its members to hear from services and discuss issues that affect service delivery relating to climate change, both at

a community and strategic level. The Cabinet Steering Group will have the ability to work in partnership with communities to provide improved outcomes for residents.

**Frequency:** Meetings will be held every six months unless otherwise agreed by the Cabinet Steering Group. Urgent meetings of the group can be convened if felt appropriate by the Chair.

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