

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET

Date 1st March 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: Cllr Myfanwy Alexander

REPORT TITLE: Climate Change Strategy

REPORT FOR: Approval

1. Purpose

1.1 Powys County Council declared a climate emergency in September 2020 when the council agreed to a cross-party motion on climate change. The Climate Change Strategy (see Appendix A) builds on that declaration highlighting how acting on climate change meets all four pillars of vision 2025 strengthening the councils existing policies and transformational approach.

2. Background

2.1 A report detailing the draft Climate change Strategy, titled the Red Kite Climate Vision and Strategy was presented to Cabinet on the 23rd of November. The following point were noted:

- The publication of the draft Red Kite Climate Vision and Strategy for engagement.
- The engagement of stakeholders and collection of feedback on the draft strategy through and online consultation questionnaire,

3. Action

3.1 Following these recommendations, a Climate Strategy survey was conducted from 15th December 2021 to 7th January 2022. The survey was advertised to stakeholders via external communications channels including press, email, and regular social media posts and internally to staff.

3.2 There were 170 respondents to the online survey and five responses by email. The below tables detail the number of views and responses received (See appendix B for key findings of the survey)

	English	Welsh	Total
Views of the project pages during the engagement period	924	8	932
Respondents to the online survey	169	1	170
Responses by email	5	0	5

3.3 Through the detailed feedback from our residents a clear message was received, regarding the importance of Climate change to them. The survey showed that;

- 97% of responders felt that Climate change was important to them
- 96% of responders were concerned about the impacts of climate change.

3.4 Once we received feedback from the survey, we were able to examine what residents were telling us. Reviewing their feedback on the Draft strategy, we were able to redraft the Strategy based on their views and feedback.

3.5 Overall, of feedback received was positive, with a few recommendations highlighted. The key changes to the strategy can be broken down into the following 4 key themes. These were:

- **Clarity on who the strategy was aimed at**
- **Lack of urgency or emphasis on ‘emergency’**
- **The objectives were not SMART**
- **Could be simpler/less jargon / wordy**

3.6 These areas have been addressed, and the revised Climate Change Strategy was presented to the Climate Action Programme Board on the 25th of January for any final feedback and approval. Following the Board minor changes were made on the benefits, innovation and collaboration sections and the draft strategy was agreed.

3.7 The final strategy was then presented to the Cross-Party Working group on the 2nd of February. At both these boards we also presented the feedback received and how the feedback was incorporated into the new document.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 The strategy identifies the need to identify funding opportunities to support the strategy and the implementation of actions. Funding for the transition to net zero by local authorities is something Welsh Government is currently implementing but details are not still being developed. External funding is relied upon to meet the scale and pace of change that is required to get to net zero by 2030.

4.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 officer) notes the comments above this strategy sets the vision and the way forward but the costs of implementing the strategy are not yet identified and as the work develops any financial resourcing will need to be considered in Service Integrated Business Plan's and considered as the Council develops its annual revenue and capital budgets, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Legal: the recommendations can be accepted from a legal point of view

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: " I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Data Protection

6.1 No personal data will be included in the publication of the Climate Change Strategy.

7. Comment from local member(s)

7.1 N/A

8. Recommendation

9.1 To approve the publication of the Climate Change Strategy as set out in Appendix A.

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Appendix A Climate Change Strategy

Appendix B Summary