

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	25 January 2023
Report Subject	Climate Change Strategy
Cabinet Member	Collective Responsibility
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019 the Welsh Government called for the Public Sector to become net zero carbon by 2030. Following this declaration, Cabinet resolved in December 2019 to a Climate Change Strategy which would set key aims and actions for creating a net zero carbon Council by 2030.

The Climate Change Strategy and action plan were adopted by Council in February 2022. The strategy detailed the commitment to provide an annual update on the Council's carbon emissions with consideration for further areas for development in achieving the net zero carbon goal.

This report summarises the progress made in 2021/22 across the key themes within the strategy: Buildings, Mobility & Transport, Procurement, Land Use and Behaviour.

The total carbon emissions for 2021/22 saw a 1% increase on the 2018/19 baseline. All carbon emission sources have seen decreases beyond the percentage targets, aside from Procurement which saw a 24% increase. Emissions from this source are directly linked to spend value and therefore the current methodology is adversely affecting the Council's total carbon footprint.

Fleet transition to low carbon alternatives and provision of available EV charging infrastructure for Council fleet is progressing slowly. There is also a need to embed climate change and carbon reduction throughout the Council, and increased visibility and provision of training can achieve this.

Lastly, further developing efficient energy management within our buildings will enable continued reductions from this theme.

These areas need particular focus and revenue support over the coming year to accelerate decarbonisation and stay on track towards 2030 net zero carbon goal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To receive the report and note its contents.
2	To support the improvement of internal communications to raise awareness of the Council's positive progress in moving to achieve its climate change ambitions.
3	To support the introduction of embedding carbon measures into procurement processes within a pilot portfolio of the Council.
4	To support the case for an Invest to Save post and resources to introduce Building Management Systems within more of our building assets to improve the management of energy use.
5	To support the embedding of climate change principles throughout the Council, through delivery of Carbon Literacy training to Elected Members, Senior Managers and other key decision makers.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE REPORT
1.01	Background: In 2019, the Welsh Government declared a Climate Emergency in Wales, accepting the recommendations from the United Kingdom (UK) Committee on Climate Change and further setting ambitious plans for the public sector to be net zero carbon by 2030. In December 2019 Cabinet resolved to develop a Climate Change Strategy which would set key aims and actions for creating a net zero carbon Council, and this strategy and action plan was adopted by Council in February 2022.
1.02	Purpose: This report provides an update on the progress that has been made on climate change from adoption of the Climate Change strategy in February 2022 – January 2023. During the 12 months of this reporting period, there has been focus on implementation of key projects while carrying out the necessary research and development needed to progress within other priority areas. The report compares the most recent carbon emission data (Apr 2021 – Mar 2022) against previous year's data, and explains areas of increase and decrease. The report then breaks down progress in each theme within the published Action Plan, and starts to indicate where Capital and Revenue resource is needed to further progress within these actions.
1.03	The Climate Change strategy set out a milestone plan for key theme areas. Appendix 1 details the progress made against annual target emissions in order to stay on track with our net zero carbon goal. This can be summarised in the table below:

Theme	2018/19 actual tCO ₂ e	2019/20 actual tCO ₂ e	2020/21 actual tCO ₂ e	2021/22 actual tCO ₂ e	2021/22 target (% reduction) tCO ₂ e
Buildings	10,747	10,262	9,971	8,543 (-13%)	9,004 (9%)
Mobility & Transport	6,716	6,542	5,479*	5,504 (-16%)	5,938 (9%)
Procurement	28,970	29,227	25,366	32,446 (+24%)	23,337 (8%)

*Due to records retained during the COVID pandemic, in 2020/21, the figures for employee commuting were not previously included. The data detailed above is an estimate.

The table details the reductions made in 2021/22 against the 2018/19 baseline. An increase in emissions has occurred in Procurement due to the increase in spend in 2021/22. All other key themes have seen carbon reductions as we evolve into new ways of working post pandemic.

The Climate Change Action Plan captures the actions needed across the Council in order to achieve Net Zero Carbon by the 2030 goal. The Action Plan is divided into 5 key themes: Buildings, Mobility & Transport, Procurement, Land Use & Behaviour. To monitor progress within each of these themes, Officer Working groups were established with representation from key stakeholders across the Council's portfolios. This is a further way of embedding climate change into the Council, and Climate Change and Climate Adaptation actions continue to be included in the Council Plan.

There are 58 actions within the Action Plan that include both mitigation and resilience actions. This Action Plan is a working document that will be reviewed periodically as and when further intelligence is available to improve carbon reduction forecasts. The progress against this Action Plan is detailed in Appendix 2, and summarised below.

1.04

Buildings

We continue to invest in our buildings to improve their energy efficiency and subsequent carbon emissions. We have successfully secured Salix loans, Prudential borrowing, Welsh Government grants and utilised internal funds to carry out works across our estate including schools, industrial units and street lighting. These have included LED upgrades, improved insulation, and BMS (Building Management System) upgrades to improve management of energy. We also continue to invest in building mounted renewable energy to reduce the need for grid electricity by installing solar PV and wind turbines on schools and industrial units.

Due to these works we have seen a 3% decrease in heating from buildings, 37% decrease in electricity from buildings, and 44% decrease in electricity in street lighting.

Work has been underway in designing and developing the Council's first Net Zero Carbon school and is again demonstrating leadership by piloting a Net Zero Carbon Care Home which will be one of the first in Wales.

	<p>Rationalisation of assets continues as the Council moves out of the COVID pandemic and embraces new ways of working. The Asset Management Plan has been reviewed to reflect the Council’s carbon ambitions when building and land assets become available.</p> <p>Further opportunities exist to decarbonise our buildings and focussed resource needs to be made available to progress this in the coming year.</p> <p>The Council continues to provide energy advice and support to domestic properties – both Council tenants and private households. The team works to reduce the risk of fuel poverty and works with occupiers and contractors to fit energy reduction measures in homes including insulation, LED light bulbs, energy use meters, solar energy and improved heating systems such as air source heat pumps.</p> <p>In terms of economic strategy, place plans are being developed for each of our town centres over the coming year. These plans will help us to understand the regeneration needs within our urban communities and will consider carbon mitigation and adaptation and environmental impacts within these areas. The plans will give us a better understanding of our existing and potential assets and guide and shape decisions to ensure the county thrives and supports the wellbeing of our residents.</p>
1.05	<p>Mobility & Transport</p> <p>In 2021/22 we have seen a 51% decrease in Business travel, 11% decrease in employee commuting and 15% decrease in Fleet, compared to our 2018/19 baseline.</p> <p>The decrease in Business Travel and Employee Commuting can be attributed to the hybrid working patterns of the workforce coming out of the pandemic. The data for both of these areas has a reasonably high Relative Standard of Deviation (RSD) due to the methodology used to determine emissions. The RSD for this data can be reduced by improving the vehicle data we collect within our mileage travel claim forms for Business Mileage, and by surveying our employee base to determine methods of travel and average days travelled within Employee Commuting. This would also help us to better understand the impacts of home working on the Council’s carbon footprint. The provision of a salary sacrifice scheme for ULEV would also improve our emissions from these sources.</p> <p>The Council is working to understand the impacts of transition to alternative fuel vehicles with pilots of electric recycling vehicles and 2 electric buses introduced into the public service. These trials will allow us to understand the benefits and challenges associated with this transition, and better scope the network, infrastructure and training needed in order to transition while preventing any adverse effects to service provision.</p> <p>The largest impact in this area comes from our own Fleet. Work is being carried out to develop the Council’s EV Transition plan in line with the installation of EV charging points and the renewal of the Fleet contract. This project is one that has many contributing factors affecting a number of the Council’s portfolios. There are many aspects of this roll-out that</p>

	<p>could be detrimental to Council service provision if not completed correctly. Specific skills and knowledge are needed to progress and implement this plan across the Council – overseeing the operational aspects of location of charging points, managing vehicle routes, providing training on the use and care of electric vehicles, provision of ongoing maintenance, while ensuring all stakeholder parties are involved and engaged. The Council needs to invest in specific staff resource to manage the operational side of this transition to reduce the impact on Council service provision.</p> <p>We have invested in EV charging infrastructure to support the public transition to electric vehicles. Working with Swarco, the first phase of 15 public access EV charging points have been installed across the county within public car parks. Feasibility for further phases could see additional provision in well-identified locations.</p> <p>The Council continues to develop its active travel network across the county by identifying and bridging gaps in the network. The Welsh Government Bus Reform on franchising the Bus Network may impact on current plans around public transport.</p>
1.06	<p>Procurement</p> <p>In 2021/22 we saw a 24% increase in carbon emissions from supply chain. This increase directly correlates with a Council-wide increase in spend over 2021/22.</p> <p>The Council has a responsibility to consider how we can incorporate climate change considerations into our procurement in a way that is proportionate and relevant and influences the market. Reducing emissions from procured goods and services is a significant part of our climate response.</p> <p>Procurement continues to be a contentious reporting figure due to being based on the value of goods and services procured. This will continue to fluctuate in line with Council spend and therefore be an unpredictable carbon emission source until we are able to demonstrate actual carbon emissions within contracts.</p> <p>Work is underway to include the requirement of a carbon plan in contracts over £5 million as per Welsh Government guidance. The biggest impacts will come from establishment of tender scoring criteria on carbon emissions from each contract. This will allow us to add carbon specific weighting to tendering processes and monitor the contract for the actual carbon emissions produced as a result of that service. These figures can then be reported as actual carbon emission figures in place of the contract value.</p> <p>The emissions from procurement are split into a number of categories and therefore we are able to pinpoint the key spend areas. These are: Social Care services, Construction, Education Services, and other Professional Services. We can focus on introducing carbon measures</p>

	<p>within these key spend areas to ensure high impact on carbon reduction within Procurement.</p> <p>The Procurement Strategy is being reviewed to incorporate the introduction of measures to weight contracts with consideration for the carbon impacts of the contract and collection of that carbon emission data. Engagement work will need to be undertaken with suppliers to guide them on our carbon ambitions and the requirement for this data, and Council officers will require training to understand the carbon impacts.</p> <p>Management of this process – working with Commissioning officers, our current suppliers and prospective suppliers to enable the collection of this data – is onerous and the Council needs to invest in a skilled staffing resource for this. Opportunities may be available to utilise a shared resource with our Joint Procurement partner Denbighshire County Council.</p>
1.07	<p>Land Use</p> <p>The Council continues to work on understanding both existing and potential benefits of its land assets. Cross departmental working is being utilised to effectively map land areas that have potential for improved carbon absorption, natural flood defence and biodiversity net gain. These attributes must be weighed against current land use and other land priorities. Key sites will be identified this year to progress feasibility.</p> <p>The Council has demonstrated leadership with further investment in renewable energy with the launch of two new solar farms potentially generating 3MW of electricity. This complements our existing solar farms and landfill gas generation, with solar farms now at former Flint landfill, Crumps Yard, Connahs Quay, and Standard Road and Brookhill Way, Buckley.</p> <p>In partnership with University College London (UCL) we have demonstrated the need to innovate by trialling hydro power at Wepre Park. This installation is a proof of concept for this technology in providing renewable energy for the Visitor Centre from water flow.</p> <p>By investing in these technologies, we can move Flintshire, and Wales as a nation, away from energy produced by burning of fossil fuels. Further opportunities exist to invest in large scale renewable energy schemes and focussed resource needs to be made available to progress this in the coming year.</p> <p>Municipal waste continues to be sent to Parc Adfer energy from waste facility in Deeside which can power more than 45,000 homes. Kerbside food waste is sent to the anaerobic digester and green waste is converted into compost at the Greenfield facility. Kerbside recycling waste is collected and recycled largely within the UK. Links with Flintshire Refurbs and other charities has improved the waste treatment of large household items and white goods. Items are collected at kerbside or set</p>

	<p>aside at Household Recycling sites and either repaired and reused or broken down into their component parts for recycling.</p> <p>The provision for recycling in Council buildings can be improved through audit and education, and on-demand collections of recyclables are being trialled at Schools.</p> <p>Due to these streams avoiding waste being sent to landfill, the carbon emissions within our baseline are those from fuel used by the Waste collection vehicles. These emissions will reduce once effective alternative fuel sources are available for these heavy use vehicles.</p> <p>In terms of further biodiversity management, we now have a network of 109 nature areas across the county that incorporate reduced mowing regime, wildflower seeding, etc, with 11.8ha of our grassland estate managed for wildflower diversity. There are still opportunities to extend this network through land mapping and engaging with both internal and external stakeholders. The benefits of this network extend beyond biodiversity and provide accessible and visible green space to improve wellbeing.</p> <p>Progress to increase tree canopy cover in line with the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan has been affected by storm damage and the continued issue of ash dieback. Ash dieback action plan is in place and tree works are being recorded and continued work with private landowners.</p> <p>Community food growing sites continue to receive improvements and further potential sites have been identified for consideration for food growing. There are currently 16 sites across the county covering over 3.8ha.</p>
1.08	<p>Behaviour</p> <p>In order to embed climate change, work has been undertaken to review and update key decision making tools within the Council. The Integrated Impact Assessment tool is used for compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and ensure due regard is given to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage, when taking strategic decisions. It incorporates Welsh Language impacts, environment and biodiversity, health impacts, etc. This tool now incorporates the impacts associated with carbon to ensure strategic decisions consider our carbon ambitions. Further review of this document is taking place to ease completion by the Officer while ensuring all of the impact criteria is met. The Business case template for Capital expenditure has been updated to incorporate the mandatory modelling of a best-case carbon and biodiversity positive option. This process allows Officers to effectively consider the reduced carbon options within the early business planning process. Further support will be given to Officers completing the new requirements within this document. The Council's Asset Management Plan has been reviewed and updated to give due consideration for carbon impacts related to our building assets as well as the consideration of land use to support carbon ambitions. The Procurement Strategy is also being reviewed as described previously.</p>

	<p>To further support the embedding of climate change across the Council, the former Climate Change Programme Board was formalised as a Climate Change Committee and a Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Economy was established. The Board has oversight on the delivery of the Strategy and its Action Plan.</p> <p>In embedding carbon within the decision making of Officers and Members, the first phase roll out of carbon literacy training has taken place. Carbon literacy training should be a mandatory requirement for Elected Members and Senior Managers across the organisation. Cost implications to the Council have been reduced by providing in-house delivery of a package developed by Carbon Literacy Project specifically for Local Authorities. Twenty Officers within the Themed Working groups have attended this training and feedback has been very positive. The next phase of training needs to focus on Elected Members and Senior Managers across the Council and budget and time allowance for this must be accounted for.</p> <p>The wider employee base would benefit from completion of a more basic introduction to climate change, and Flintshire Council is leading a regional public sector commission to facilitate the development of an e-learn module for this purpose.</p> <p>Steps have been taken in the transition towards a 'paperless Council' through provision of hardware for Members to enable access to Report Packs digitally. The default position is now that paper copies of reports are not sent out unless specifically requested. This process is still ongoing to identify further barriers to utilising digital report packs. Further engagement work to improve behavioural change across Officers and Members is needed. Other areas of paper use across the Council are being identified and reviewed in line with the Digital Strategy.</p>
1.09	<p>Reducing the Council's carbon emissions alone – roughly 2% of the total emissions of the county - will not achieve the net zero Wales by 2050 goal, and the expectation is that we use our influence as a Local Authority to encourage local businesses, voluntary organisations, public services and the general public to work towards reducing their carbon emissions.</p> <p>We have developed a decarbonisation network for Deeside industrial area to develop aims and objectives and share good practice and are developing a toolkit for local businesses to calculate their carbon footprint and develop a carbon reduction plan.</p> <p>We have developed public facing 'Climate Change' pages within the Council's website which are regularly updated with our progress and provide a resource for the public and Council employees. In November we launched the Climate Change e-newsletter with a subscription of over 900. The newsletter highlights key projects, useful information and upcoming local and national events. The 'Climate change' topic is now available for selection in the Flintshire Council subscription topics.</p>

	<p>The Climate Change Programme Communication and Engagement plan ensures that all stakeholder groups are engaged and informed through a variety of media. During COP Cymru in November 2021, the Council shared its good practice by presenting on the Flintshire Solar Farms and continued investment and leadership in renewable energy generation. During Wales Climate Week in November 2022 drop-in sessions were organised across the county providing energy saving advice, carbon footprint calculations and allocations of trees to Welsh households as part of the 'My Tree Our Forest' programme. Plans are being developed for activities to engage businesses, residents and schools in climate change action.</p> <p>Networks continue to be developed across public and private sectors to ensure a comprehensive approach to climate change across the county. The Welsh Government Energy Service and Welsh Local Government Association lead both regional and pan-Wales networking groups for decarbonisation officers across the public sector. This is an essential resource for learning and showcasing best practice and provides opportunities for joint working projects where all organisations are working towards a shared outcome. Outputs from these groups are fed into the Local Government Climate Strategy Panel that is represented by Welsh Government. Wrexham & Flintshire Public Service Board (PSB) continues to provide a collaborative environment for all public sector organisations in achieving carbon and environmental ambitions, and the links these have with social prescribing and health and wellbeing.</p>
1.10	<p>External influences:</p> <p>The Audit Wales report 'Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030', published in July 2022, makes five calls for action from public bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration - Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation - Get to grips with the finances needed - Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity - Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making. <p>As a Council we have strengthened our leadership through a committed Cabinet Member for Climate Change, a formalised Climate Change Committee, and cross-departmental Officer working groups to demonstrate collective responsibility through collaboration. We are working with our public sector partners to better understand the finances associated with decarbonisation, and to share best practice with improved data quality. The Council must continue to increase the pace of implementation of carbon reduction projects and increased capacity where skills gaps exist by providing the necessary investment.</p> <p>In July 2022 Welsh Government also published their 'Decarbonising Social Care in Wales's report which highlights key actions needed by the</p>

	<p>public sector to better understand the carbon emissions from social care services and to ensure actions to decarbonise are included in strategic plans. The Council's Climate Change Strategy already encompasses many aspects associated with social care, however, this will be reviewed as part of the strategy review in 2024/25. Within this review content and detail will be compared to the 'Social Care route map' to ensure this service area is effectively represented. Future carbon emission submissions to Welsh Government will require a separate analysis of emissions from social care.</p> <p>The methodology for the 2021/22 carbon emission data submission to Welsh Government was modified to incorporate the addition of new measures around Homeworking. The methodology used for calculating these emissions has a very high Relative Standard of Deviation due to necessary data being difficult to determine. In order to make this data meaningful and a true reflection of the carbon impacts from home working, we need to better understand the quantity of time our employees work from home. This data collection could be tied into the wider 'employee commuting' survey. Due to the disparity of data, and emissions from Homeworking not being included in our baseline figures, we have not included this in scope for our 2021/22 carbon emission data report.</p> <p>With the addition of Homeworking emissions in 2021/22, and social care in 2022/23, the moving of reporting goalposts has potential to adversely affect the progress made in reducing our carbon emissions. It should be decided if any changes in methodology are to be included in future internal reporting or if the original baseline figures should be maintained.</p> <p>In December 2021, the Welsh Government committed to the development of regional energy strategies and Local Area Energy Plans in its approach to create a national energy plan by 2024. This exercise maps out future energy demand and supply for all parts of Wales to identify gaps and enable future planning.</p> <p>The North Wales Energy Strategy & Action Plan has now been developed through a public sector working group and has been approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. The strategy and action plan now needs to be endorsed by each Council, and implementation of this will be led by Ambition North Wales.</p> <p>Ambition North Wales are also leading on the development of the Local Area Energy Plans and work with each Council will commence in 2023. The Planning is being funded by Welsh Government and the resulting Local Area Energy Plan will inform both local and national investment and decisions on future requirements for energy across all sectors.</p>
1.11	<p>Significant change will not happen within the organisation without adequate capacity. This can take the form not only in the human resource to lead and manage projects or the financial resource to invest when needed, but also the political will and understanding of realising the long term benefits of decisions made today.</p>

	<p>In times of austerity, it is important to justify how spending decisions are made. Prioritising one area of urgency over another is down to how seriously the Council considers its responsibilities in terms of the ambition to become net zero carbon. The Council has a record of committing to investment in green projects highlighted within the Council Plan and this must be continued to achieve the ambitious targets set out.</p> <p>We have invested in staff capacity to lead the delivery of the Climate Change strategy, however we now need to utilise specific knowledge and skills to develop and lead change in decarbonising our Fleet, Buildings and Procurement. These roles should be located within the teams leading on the key actions to reduce carbon emissions from these work areas.</p> <p>The Council was successful in securing a degree apprentice in 'Low Carbon Energy and Sustainability' through Welsh Government's initiative to invest in green skills. This placement is in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University and is already proving to be a valuable resource for the programme.</p>
1.10	<p>By working to achieve these goals Flintshire County Council can make its contribution to tackling the climate emergency and a net zero Wales by 2050 as detailed in Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2021. Furthermore, achieving the Council's own well-being goals and those within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. As climate change and the environment are intrinsically linked the Council will also deliver on its statutory duties within Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Capital and revenue resource will be required to continue improvement of energy efficiency in buildings assets. Where possible SALIX loans and external funding will support this programme. Costs still to be determined.
2.02	Capital resource will be required for improvement of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support transition of fleet to EV. Installation cost approximately £600k supported by external funding.
2.03	Next stage large scale renewable energy generation estimated costs £1.1m. This could be funded through Prudential borrowing.
2.04	Dedicated staff resource is needed to progress the decarbonisation of both fleet and procurement. Opportunities exist to utilise a joint Procurement officer with Denbighshire County Council.
2.05	In order to educate and inform key decision makers on climate change actions it is essential that priority is given to completion of Carbon Literacy training. In-house provision of this is saving the Council approx £34,000 in training revenue. The estimated costs for delivery to all Elected Members and Senior Managers is £2,000.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT							
3.01	<p>There will be significant reputational risk if the County Council is not seen to take a leadership role in moving towards net zero carbon. Financial risk will be assessed on a project-by-project basis but lack of availability of internal and external funding will reduce the action that can be taken.</p>							
3.02	<p>Ways of Working (Sustainable Development) Principles Impact</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 490 1385 2067"> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 490 667 1077">Long-term</td> <td data-bbox="667 490 1385 1077"> <p>Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will require long term planning and a long term vision to ensure systems and services are fit for purpose as the climate changes as well as reducing the impact of harmful climate change through mitigation. Decarbonisation activities such as planting trees and developing renewable energy will have long lasting impacts over tens to hundreds of years. These activities also contribute to the climate change targets set by Welsh Government particularly Wales generating 70% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030 and becoming a net zero carbon nation by 2050.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1077 667 1592">Prevention</td> <td data-bbox="667 1077 1385 1592"> <p>Positive: In order to avoid the harmful effects of climate change it is necessary for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered in its land assets. Carbon emissions caused by human activities are the main cause of climate change. Mitigating climate change will help to reduce impacts such as extreme weather causing flooding / extreme heat, loss of wildlife and habitats, increased pests and diseases, etc. Adapting to the impacts of climate change now will improve sustainability of our communities as the climate changes.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="320 1592 667 2067">Integration</td> <td data-bbox="667 1592 1385 2067"> <p>Positive: Becoming net zero carbon integrates with the following priorities under the Council Plan; Green Council, Ambitious Council and Supportive Council. It integrates with the public service board objectives in the Environment priority of the Wellbeing Plan as well as the Smart Access to Energy project in the North Wales Growth Deal. It also integrates with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government's decarbonisation of the public sector agenda.</p> </td> </tr> </table>		Long-term	<p>Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will require long term planning and a long term vision to ensure systems and services are fit for purpose as the climate changes as well as reducing the impact of harmful climate change through mitigation. Decarbonisation activities such as planting trees and developing renewable energy will have long lasting impacts over tens to hundreds of years. These activities also contribute to the climate change targets set by Welsh Government particularly Wales generating 70% of its electricity demand from renewable energy by 2030 and becoming a net zero carbon nation by 2050.</p>	Prevention	<p>Positive: In order to avoid the harmful effects of climate change it is necessary for the Council to reduce its carbon emissions and increase the amount of carbon sequestered in its land assets. Carbon emissions caused by human activities are the main cause of climate change. Mitigating climate change will help to reduce impacts such as extreme weather causing flooding / extreme heat, loss of wildlife and habitats, increased pests and diseases, etc. Adapting to the impacts of climate change now will improve sustainability of our communities as the climate changes.</p>	Integration	<p>Positive: Becoming net zero carbon integrates with the following priorities under the Council Plan; Green Council, Ambitious Council and Supportive Council. It integrates with the public service board objectives in the Environment priority of the Wellbeing Plan as well as the Smart Access to Energy project in the North Wales Growth Deal. It also integrates with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Welsh Government's decarbonisation of the public sector agenda.</p>
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Collaboration	<p>Positive: The climate change programme offers multiple opportunities to work collaboratively both internally and externally – and this collaboration will determine the success of the programme. Collaboration with the following groups is needed to ensure decarbonisation is integrated into everything that the Council and the wider region does and plans for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government - Other public sector organisations such as local authorities, NRW, health boards, universities. - Private sector - Regional groups such as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board - Local Town and County Councillors - the local communities
Involvement	<p>Positive: If decarbonisation is to succeed and harmful climate change is to be avoided then everyone at a professional and personal level will need to be involved</p>

Well-being Goals Impact

Prosperous Wales	<p>Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions should enable strategic investment in projects and ways of working that could deliver savings or generate new income streams, therefore supporting delivery of local services. It should also facilitate the development of the low carbon economy through infrastructure projects, sustained tree planting, land management etc which can support local businesses and communities.</p>
Resilient Wales	<p>Positive: Decarbonisation of the Council's activities and services will promote resilience through actions such as: investment in renewable energy infrastructure which helps to reduce reliance on imports from across Europe and the World and the associated price fluctuations, and increasing ecological resilience through enhancing biodiversity particularly on land with low ecological value. By planning for climate change adaptation the Council's services and its communities will also be resilient.</p>
Healthier Wales	<p>Positive: Decarbonisation requires a shift to active travel, investment in green</p>

		infrastructure, support for local and sustainable food sources, and development of renewable energy which are likely to promote healthier lifestyles, improved wellbeing and reduced health impacts from poor air quality.
	More equal Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Cohesive Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Vibrant Wales	Neutral; No impact identified
	Globally responsible Wales	Positive: Reducing the Council's carbon emissions to net zero helps to mitigate climate change and therefore contributes to the achievement of Welsh Government, UK Government and international climate goals.
3.03	Not anticipated to be any negative anti-poverty, equalities or environmental impacts of the scheme.	
3.04	<p>The Council's Well-being Objectives</p> <p>Decarbonisation of the Council's activities will support the Green Council objective with a key impact of reducing carbon emissions mitigating climate change, for example, through the development of alternative and renewable energy production, promoting active travel, shifting to electric fleet vehicles, engaging with the supply chain and promoting a low carbon economy through the goods and services purchased.</p> <p>It can also contribute towards the success of other Council Wellbeing objectives such as 'An Ambitious Council' and 'A Caring Council' through providing local job creation and apprenticeships and therefore potentially reducing poverty through maximising residents' income and employability.</p>	

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – FCC Carbon Emission update</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Climate Change Action Plan progress</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>1. Prosperity for all – a low carbon Wales https://gov.wales/prosperity-all-low-carbon-wales</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Alex Ellis – Programme Manager Telephone: 01352 703110 E-mail: alex.ellis@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office
	<p>Capital Funding: Capital funding is usually utilised to acquire or improve a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p> <p>Carbon emissions: Used interchangeably with greenhouse gas emissions; meaning emissions of carbon dioxide, methane etc from human and natural activities and sources. Wider greenhouse gas emissions are collectively calculated into a ‘carbon dioxide equivalent’ displayed as CO₂e.</p> <p>Carbon sequestration: the process involved in carbon capture and the long term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Decarbonisation: Reducing and ultimately eliminating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>EV: Electric Vehicle</p> <p>Net Zero Carbon: Balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal or simply eliminating carbon emissions altogether.</p> <p>Revenue Funding: is utilised for items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment. Routine repairs are revenue expenditures and can include significant repairs that do not extend the life of the asset or do not improve the asset.</p>