Climate Change Programme Action Plan

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021-22
CCBu1	Buildings	All Council buildings and schools electricity delivered through a green energy tariff by 2025	2022	Large percentage of buildings are now included in the green energy tariff. Remaining buildings are being added as and when existing energy contracts end.
CCBu2		Review and rationalise building assets and leases considering new ways of working	2022	The council's Asset Management Plan has been reviewed in line with the climate change strategy and wider Council ambitions. Rationalisation of assets is ongoing.
CCBu3		Improve the standard of energy efficiency within Council buildings through retrofit measures such as; insulation, glazing, installation of efficient / renewable heating systems, and reducing building electricity use.	2022	Energy efficiency works continue to be completed across the Council's assets. A full scoping exercise is needed to determine what remaining improvements can be made and this will inform a completion rate and investment need.
CCBu4		Further explore renewable energy opportunities for Council buildings, council office car parks and depots	2022-23	Work is ongoing with Welsh Government Energy Service to determine feasibility of sites for further renewable energy generation.
CCBu5		Design and refurbish buildings for carbon neutral / low energy operation, biodiversity net benefit and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	2022	Mandatory requirement for new, extended and refurbished schools to be Net Zero Carbon in operation (NZCio). The first NZCio school is in plan. Ambitious plans also underway for first NZCio care home. New builds are estimated to have 20% cost increase to meet NZC standard.
CCBu6		Ensure green infrastructure is considered throughout all existing Council assets and future schemes	2022	Ongoing process identifying feasibility of potential green infrastructure projects on a case by case basis. Links have been made to ensure officers are consulted on potential of inclusion in future schemes.
CCBu7		Continue to carry out flood investigation and alleviation to identify proactive mitigation measures & prevent recurrent flooding	Ongoing	The Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy is being reviewed and will encompass areas of recurrent flooding.
CCBu8		Prioritise nature based solutions to flooding remediation proposals	Ongoing	This will also be encompassed in the Flood Risk Management Strategy review.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCBu9		Explore feasibility for rainwater harvesting within Council assets, particularly on high water usage sites.	2023	*No update*
CCBu10		Support schools and Town & Community Councils to reduce operation's emissions and engage with our building users to encourage positive behaviour change	2022	Toolkits are being developed for schools and Town & Community Councils to provide advice and guidance on carbon footprint calculation and mitigation measures. This will include aspects of technology, behaviour and best practice.
CCBu11		Develop plan for the decarbonisation of Council homes in line with Welsh Government guidance to ensure optimised thermal efficiency and minimised cost of heating	2022	Decarbonisation strategy in development. Bid secured through Optimised Retrofit Programme for pilot housing scheme which will inform future schemes. Estimate £80k cost per house to meet NZC.
CCBu12		Continue to deliver programmes with private households and local businesses to reduce fuel poverty and provide access to wider energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes.	Ongoing	The Domestic Energy Efficiency Team continues to provide energy efficiency advice and support with installation of energy efficiency measures. Decarbonisation network developed for Deeside industrial area to develop aims and objectives and share good practice. Funding secured through Shared Prosperity Fund to provide grants for commercial carbon reduction feasibility studies.
CCBu13		Provide support through Flood Risk Planning to businesses and households to better implement property flood resilience	2024	Updated TAN 15 will be available June 2023 with guidance from NRW.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCM1	Mobility & Transport	Review fleet policy with consideration for charging of vehicles.	2022	Policy under review to incorporate decarbonisation of fleet.
CCM2		Learning from accelerated change due to COVID-19, review and implement policies and initiatives that support the reduction of carbon emissions from business mileage. Continue to implement and develop agile working practices to reduce employee journeys and utilise virtual meetings. Act as an example to businesses.	2022-23	Hybrid Working Policy has been published encouraging flexible working approach and utilisation of virtual meetings.

CCM3		Ensure vehicle charging points are available at key areas across the county - rural and urban.	2022	17 electric vehicle charging points have been installed across 8 public car park sites across the county.
CCM4		Introduce electric vehicles into the recycling fleet	2022	2 x trial vehicles have been awarded by Welsh Government. These will be implemented into rounds once received and charging infrastructure has been established.
CCM5		Transition of small fleet vehicles to electric and alternative fuels (hydrogen, etc)	2023-24	*No update*
CCM6		Transition of heavy vehicles to electric or alternative fuels (hydrogen, etc)	2027	*No update*
CCM7		Facilitate a car sharing forum for employees – once measures post COVID-19 are reviewed.	Post-Covid	*No update*
CCM8		Actively promote the existing employee cycle to work scheme to increase participation and review cycle storage facilities at principle work places (i.e. County Hall, Mold, County Offices, Flint, Ty Dewi Sant and Alltami Depot)	2022	Review needed of resources required to improve uptake eg. Storage facilities, showering facilities, electric bike charging infrastructure, and sufficient safe cycle routes to work places.
CCM9		Promote and launch a managed salary sacrifice scheme for low and ultra-low emission vehicles.	2022	Launch of scheme delayed due to resource being allocated to other priorities.
CCM10		Promote use of public transport, active travel, and further develop the Council's walking and cycling network	2022	Active Travel Network has gone through consultation and moving to next stage improvements.
CCM11		Promote multi-modal transport journeys and the development of strategic transport hubs. Improve access to storage, charging and hiring facilities.	2022	Review of current transport hubs needed to determine if they are fit for purpose and any additional facilities needed to support active travel connections.
CCM12		Investigate further opportunities for reducing car use with consideration for local contexts and accessibility through ultra-low emission areas, car free zones and pedestrianised streets.	2023	Place plans will be developed during 2023-24 for town centres. The associated consultation processes will include car use needs within each town centre.
CCM13		Work with partners to enable greener fleet in the public transport sector (buses, rail, taxis) including Council contracted services such as school transport	2023	2 x electric buses are being introduced into the public service on a trial basis. This will allow for monitoring and review ready for wider roll out in future.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCP1	Procurement	Review of procurement strategy in line with the Council's carbon ambitions to ensure specific measures around carbon and biodiversity are embedded in procurement process.	2022	Procurement Strategy currently being reviewed to reflect carbon ambitions and need for this to be embedded within procurement processes.
CCP2		Increase the utilisation of the TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) framework in procurement across the Council's operations by working with employees who manage procurement activities	2022-23	TOMs framework has recently been updated with additional carbon outcomes included. Key tenders need to be identified to target for carbon outcomes.
CCP3		Work collaboratively with Denbighshire County Council to develop a toolkit to ensure all procurement exercises are awarded giving appropriate consideration to carbon reduction priorities and monitor contract against declared emissions. Provide communication and training to all affected employees suppliers and prospective bidders.	2022-23	Working with Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to develop a toolkit for implementing carbon measure scoring within tender processes. Expected launch of toolkit early 2023. WLGA will also provide support to officers and suppliers in utilising the toolkit. Dedicated resource is required for embedding this into the Council's procurement process. Potential for joint resource with Denbighshire County Council as Joint Procurement authority.
CCP5		Enable carbon offsetting best practice schemes providing local place-based environmental outcomes, where required	2022-23	Research continues into best practice for carbon offsetting within procurement.
CCP6		Ensure carbon reduction is appropriately considered throughout Council procurement policy, strategy, business cases, commissioning templates, tender evaluations, etc.	2022-23	Commissioning form to be reviewed to include carbon reduction and Exceptions report to be modified to include carbon.

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCP7		Increase local participation and stakeholder involvement by working with local businesses to ensure decarbonisation and social value outcomes are achieved	2022-23	*No update*
CCP8		Work in collaboration where procurement of goods and services can be utilised on a regional or joint basis	2022-23	*No update*

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCL1	Land Use	Identify current carbon storage capacity within Council assets through mapping habitat types	2022-23	Mapping exercise is ongoing. Revenue is needed to commission this work.
CCL2		Investigate the potential of our land assets for new renewable energy installations and operating models and develop these schemes to increase the amount of energy generated from these sources	2022	Work is ongoing with Welsh Government Energy Service to determine feasibility of sites for further renewable energy generation.
CCL3		Undertake a study identifying land for habitat restoration and tree planting schemes within land assets to mitigate climate change and enhance biodiversity	2022-23	Land mapping exercise is ongoing. Sites have been identified for potential tree planting however further feasibility of these sites is needed.
CCL4		Audit the amount of herbicide and pesticide use on Council land assets	2023	Use of herbicide and pesticide is being recorded and where possible use is rationalised and alternatives adopted.
CCL5		Increase proportion of Council land managed for biodiversity	Ongoing	Network of 109 nature areas across county covering 11.8hectares – grassland estate with reduced mowing regime managed for wildflower diversity.
CCL6		Support the increase of tree canopy cover across the county in line with the Urban Tree and Woodland Plan.	Ongoing	Canopy cover at risk due to storm damage and ash dieback. Ash dieback action plan in place and opportunities being developed for further tree planting.
CCL7		Assess impacts of Ash Dieback and tree planting within Flintshire assets on canopy cover and net carbon sequestration	Ongoing	As above.
CCL8		Increase area with reduced mowing regimes to enhance biodiversity and increase carbon storage	Ongoing	*No update*

CCL9		Strengthen the monitoring of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) installation and quality in new developments.	Ongoing	*No update*
CCL10		Explore best practice policies and encourage provision of space for food growing in new developments and vacant and under used sites	2023	Sites receiving improvements such as water harvesting measures. New sites identified for food growing and are going through feasibility. Currently 16 food growing sites across the county covering 3.8hectares.
CCL11		Review and improve recycling provision in Council offices, schools and public buildings and remove use of single-use plastics. Communicate and engage building users to utilise provision	2022-23	Review of recycling provision in Council buildings taking place. Trials of on-demand collections at schools are ongoing.
CCL12		Support circular economy initiatives diverting reusable items from disposal through recovery at Household Recycling Centres	Ongoing	Deconstruction and set aside available at household recycling centres for large household items to be repaired and reused or broken down into component parts for recycling. Working with Flintshire Refurbs and local charities.
CCL13		Create guidelines for Council procurement of food in offices, schools, etc, to be local and sustainable	2025	*No update*
CCL14		Undertake a land use strategy to ensure land is managed and protected for green infrastructure, decarbonisation and biodiversity benefit.	2023	*No update*
CCL15		Work with Tenant farmers to share best practice on sustainable farming, increasing carbon absorption and biodiversity value.	2023	*No update*
CCL16		Work with communities to increase biodiversity value and carbon storage.	Ongoing	*No update*
CCL17		Identify opportunities to acquire new Council land for the purpose of carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement.	2023-24	*No update*

Ref.	Theme	Action	Target start date	Progress 2021/22
CCBe1	Behaviour	Ensure climate change and biodiversity is considered a priority in decision making across all Council services	2022-23	Integrated Impact Assessment, Capital business case template, Asset Management Plan, Procurement Strategy and Due diligence form within Social Services have been reviewed to reflect carbon ambitions. Ongoing exercise to identify and review further key decision making policies.
CCBe2		Ensure Councillors and employees complete carbon literacy / introduction to climate change / Naturewise training. Inclusion of climate change within induction process.	2022-23	20 x Council employees have completed Carbon Literacy training. This should be a mandatory requirement for Elected Members and Senior Managers. Minimal financial cost of £10 per person can be absorbed through existing training budgets. E-learn module for climate change and biodiversity under development as part of a regional commission.
CCBe3		Engage employees and Trade Unions to renew job descriptions to include climate change and biodiversity responsibilities where applicable, e.g. managers, budget holders, planning.	2023-24	*No update*
CCBe4		Facilitate transition towards a 'paperless Council' through, for example, digitisation of wage slips, report packs, contracts, applications.	2022	Enrolment of new Elected Members included iPad and laptop to remove need for paper-based report packs post-May 2022. Default is that paper copies of reports are not sent out. Behavioural change communicating policy on printing needs to be adopted by Officers and Members.
CCBe5		Facilitate corporate volunteering for climate and biodiversity action	2023-24	*No update*
CCBe6		Investigate the possibility of divesting pensions and other investment portfolios away from fossil fuels in support of green energy.	2022	Clwyd Pension Fund have a climate change strategy in place to achieve net zero carbon by 2045. Divesting decisions are made by Committee. Investment of £50 mill agreed on clean energy projects in Wales. Sustainable active equity mandate being implemented.

CCBe7		Facilitate community events and activities to raise awareness of climate change and how to reduce carbon footprints.	2023	4 x events taken place as part of Wales Climate Week – energy saving and carbon footprint drop in sessions across the county. 'Calculating your carbon footprint' page launched on FCC website and climate change e-newsletter launched to over 900 subscribers.