

PSB Climate Emergency Board Initial Collaboration Outcomes and Proposed Action Plan

Background

1. In January 2020, Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) authorised the establishment of a Climate Emergency Board (CEB) with the following objectives:
 - Share best practice and define and integrate the individual PSB members' climate change actions in a way that optimises them and delivers greater climate protection impacts;
 - Develop a monitoring mechanism to measure the impact of collective actions;
 - Authorise the occasional participation and input of a select group of external stakeholders who could inform and add value to our collective Climate Emergency response.
2. In October 2020, a further presentation to the PSB board, following the publication of Cardiff Council's Draft One Planet Cardiff Strategy, outlined the progress made by the CEB to that point and set out the following principle aims:
 - To build and promote a city wide One Planet Cardiff approach.
 - To deliver an agreed set of targets and a coherent partnership approach to delivery.
3. The following broad areas for potential collaboration were also outlined:
 - **Land assets** – from small sites for increased biodiversity or EV hubs, to large scale sites for renewables?
 - **Circular Procurement** – strong collective action to favour sustainable supply chains and to minimise waste?
 - **Movement** – agile working, staff commute incentives, low emission fleet and infrastructure collaboration?
 - **Local Area Energy Planning** – matching future demand and future supply?
 - **Divestment** – agreeing an approach to move away from fossil fuel investments?
 - **Social prescription** – building on existing successes to link health and sustainability?
4. Since then, the CEB has met several times and its membership has now extended to include Western Power Distribution, Wales and West Utilities, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water and Cardiff University. Each of these organisations brings a new and important dimension to our collective efforts around carbon neutrality and climate change.
5. This report summarises the discussions of the CEB to date, provides an update on the status of Carbon action plans for each of the partner organisation and reports back on some initial short term partnership project ideas and delivery targets. The report also proposes the resource commitment likely to be needed to put these into effect, and seeks commitment from the PSB and individual members to commit to supporting these resource requirements.

Best Practice and Integrated Actions

- Discussions amongst the group have revealed some close synergies across individual carbon reduction activities. In particular most organisations are looking at energy use and retrofit across their estates, and considering ways to decarbonise their fleet and other vehicular movement activities. All participants also recognise the need to champion behaviour change amongst their employees and stakeholders to stimulate better and more informed choices. Much of the discussion of the group has been focussed on identifying areas where collaboration or a joint approach could add value beyond the scope of activity at the individual organisation level. The key themes and proposed collaborations that emerged from this discussion are detailed below.

Carbon Action Plan Status

- To provide some context to our collective actions we audited each member's carbon reduction activities and a summary table of the outcome is shown below. Please note that some Partners have yet to respond:

	Climate Emergency Declared	Date of Current Carbon Reduction plan	Emissions scope covered		Carbon Reduction Target	New Carbon Reduction being produced	Emissions scope covered		New Carbon Reduction Target
			1&2 (gas electricity, fleet fuel)	3 (procurement, staff commute, waste)			1&2 (gas electricity, fleet fuel)	3 (procurement, staff commute, waste)	
CCC	Mar-19	2015-2019	y	n	6% p/a	OPC - 21	y	y	Carbon Neutral 2030
C&V UHB	Jan-20	2020/21	y	n	3% p/a	21/22	y	tbc	tbc
NRW	WG declaration	Current	y	y	Neutral 2030	na	-	-	-
SW Fire & Rescue									
SW Police									
Wales & West Utilities									
Western Power	N/A	Annual OFGEM report	y	y	OFGEM targets	Annual OFGEM report	y	y	Carbon Neutral by 2028?
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water									
Cardiff University									

Monitoring mechanism to measure the impact of collective actions

- In May 2021, Welsh Government (WG) issued its framework for how carbon monitoring should be considered by public bodies in Wales. This methodology has been discussed briefly by the CEB who have also viewed presentations on Cardiff Council's carbon modelling work (described in more detail in the One Planet Cardiff Report).
- The WG guidance is relatively recent, and each partner organisation is still digesting this and considering its own internal response. On that basis it is considered too early to agree a framework for monitoring collective PSB action, though the WG guidance does itself provide a consistent framework for benchmarking and monitoring progress. Each PSB Partner should have submitted its baseline carbon analysis data to WG this Autumn so it is proposed that we report back in more detail on this issue at a later PSB meeting once we are able to gather the collective results and carbon reduction proposals.

Partnership Project Ideas

10. The following topics have been discussed and agreed by the CEB as the most impactful areas for joint work and collaboration. For each a description of the benefits, potential resource requirements and initial steps are provided for the PSB's consideration.

Engagement for Culture Change

11. All CEB partners agreed that cultural changes will be needed to maximise progress towards carbon neutrality and that there was a particular opportunity for us to engage with staff across the partner organisations in a consistent way and on consistent and impactful issues.
12. Cardiff Council has commissioned consultants to advise on a behaviour change and engagement strategy as part of its One Planet Cardiff agenda. This will recommend the best methods of ongoing engagement and highlight the areas and topics which, from experience elsewhere, are expected to deliver the most impact. (It is likely that this will include commuting and travel behaviour, waste management and domestic energy conservation)
13. As an initial step, Cardiff's consultants have drafted a staff questionnaire for use in the Council and it is suggested that this is distributed to staff at all CEB partner organisations which could then develop a much richer, city or region wide set of responses upon which to develop a more holistic engagement strategy.
14. *Resource Requirements:*
 - A small contribution from PSB partners (and associated organisations) to cover survey and analysis costs and to develop a consistent set of recommendation for each partner organisation to consider and report back to the CEB and PSB.
 - A commitments to put key recommendations into a firm and approved policy and action context, and to develop collective means of measuring impacts
 - Develop and commit to collective targets and monitoring

Low Emission Fleet Procurement and Infrastructure

15. Most partners confirmed active internal discussions around the transition of fleet vehicles to electric and other low emission technologies, though it was also recognised that each was in a different stage of their strategy development and procurement cycle. It was suggested that better sharing of information on this area between partners would be useful in developing some longer term synergies that could then potentially drive both cost and carbon savings in the supply chain.
16. Of particular interest was the concept of a shared pool car arrangement for staff, which could operate in a similar way to existing car clubs. With a central shared resource of this sort, partner organisations could reduce or eliminate the need for directly owned vehicles, relying instead on a jointly commissioned car club/rental service where the specification of low emission vehicles could be fully embedded. It was felt that the market would respond more positively to this sort of proposition with the very wide customer base that would be offered through customer collaboration.

The wider benefit of making cars available to the general public outside of core working hours was also highlighted for its potential to contribute to a city wide reduction in the need for car ownership.

17. A more joined up strategy on the installation of shared EV charging infrastructure at strategic locations across the city was also identified as a potential area for collaboration.
18. *Resource Requirements:*
 - A commitment from PSB partner organisations to bring fleet managers and other relevant staff together in a regular forum from Autumn 2021 to share information and prepare more detailed feasibility assessments for collective procurement of fleet, pool car and charging infrastructure projects by Spring 2022.
 - A commitment to use this feasibility stage to develop common zero tailpipe emission transition targets for Partner Organisation fleet vehicles ahead of the national curve.
 - A PSB contribution to fund a dedicated facilitator and scribe for this work. (Estimate £3-5k per organisation)

Tree Planting and Land Management

19. Cardiff Council's Coed Caerdydd project is now operational and seeks to increase tree coverage and other carbon capturing and biodiversity enhancing planting significantly across the city. Partner organisations agreed that there were potential planting opportunities across their various estates and some initial joint projects have already been identified. These include the identification of more wild/unmaintained areas, a strategy for "no mowing in May", and the identification of areas of land for more permanent tree planting and canopy management.
20. The Coed Caerdydd project is now well resourced and already acts as a city wide focal point for this activity. CEB partners agreed that an active and ongoing dialogue to support and possibly accelerate this programme would be useful.
21. *Resource Requirements:*
 - PSB partner commitment to engage their respective estates departments actively with the Coed Caerdydd project with a view to confirming a pipeline of sites for enhanced tree planting and/or land and biodiversity management.
 - A commitment to agree a set of specific targets and monitoring for this activity.

Procurement Pledge

22. Welsh Government's ambitions for a carbon neutral public sector in Wales will apply to all PSB partners and is also relevant to the additional members of the CEB. The WG reporting framework makes it clear that Scope Three Emissions, those "caused" through an organisation's procurement, staff commute and waste activities, should be included in Carbon Reduction Plans. Cardiff Council has identified that its procurement

activities significantly dominate the total organisational carbon footprint, accounting for over 80% of the total. This pattern is likely to be similar amongst all PSB partners.

23. It is clear that there is much work to do in this area and some potentially major and disruptive decisions will need to be considered by all PSB partners. However the CEB has also discussed that there may be some low-regrets high-impact changes that could be made relatively quickly and with limited resource implication as an immediate and assertive gesture of things to come. Potential ideas that have been discussed include the elimination of single use plastics in catering supply procurements, specifying that x% of supplier deliveries should be in low emission vehicles, or switching to lower emission fuels (e.g. HVO diesel) for existing fleet.
24. The CEB would therefore like to issue a “Procurement Challenge” to the PSB lead members to identify and commit to a short term, low-regrets procurement specification change for implementation in the short term. The proposal would be for lead members to commit to taking this challenge back to their organisations for discussion, with a view to bringing back at least one pledge to the next PSB Board Meeting. Where possible, members could also then look to be motivated by and replicate the actions of others which could enhance the collective local impact of the initiatives.
25. *Resource Requirements:*
 - A Commitment from PSB leads to consider procurement options within their organisations and return with a “Procurement Pledge” to the next PSB board meeting.
 - A commitment to share and adopt best practice and to publicise and promote success stories as a signpost for future change

Areas for future work at the CEB

26. As the Climate Emergency agenda grows and gains shape, the need for strong leadership and governance is ever more clear. It is suggested that the CEB could be a more effective and impactful forum with regular and committed attendance from senior level decision makers and “Climate Champions” from each organisation. We would like to suggest therefore that each Partner adds an additional resource to the CEB to ensure that the right decision makers are present in the meetings and have the authority to commit to relevant actions moving forward.
27. In particular, there is a clear need to discuss procurement strategies, divestment away from fossil fuel holdings, staff commute patterns and collective behaviour change and this diversity of topic underlines the need for strong support of the CEB.

Recommendation

- PSB members to consider the proposed commitments and initial steps listed above under Partnership Project Ideas and under each project as ‘Resource Requirements’ - paragraphs 10 to 25.