

## **COUNCIL 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STRATEGIC CHANGE PROGRAMME FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION BY THE CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND CABINET MEETINGS ON APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

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**Expand the last line Climate Change to include the following text (taken from the Motion to Council):**

The Council received and supported a notice of motion on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to declare a climate emergency on behalf of the whole of Neath Port Talbot County Borough and called upon the government of the United Kingdom to do the same.

In doing so, the Council acknowledged the effects of climate change can already be seen throughout the world with more intense and frequent hurricanes in the America's, severe flash flooding in Pakistan and sobering droughts in China which we have not seen for generations if at all. Locally, we have seen harrowing floods in Skewen. Also, throughout the borough in Aberdulais, Ystalyfera and Port Talbot to name but a few. Record breaking heatwaves in July 2022 added additional pressure on local residents and devastating storms which have resulted in an enhanced regional focus on sea defence works throughout the borough. The doorstep effect of climate change are detrimental to the residents of Neath Port Talbot and its time we demand change. Not just for our generation but for our children and grandchildren and all those who follow. The clock is ticking on the time for fossil fuels so let us not be those fools who rest on the inactions of others but rather chart and enhance a renewable course for Neath Port Talbot.

This updated strategic change programme sets out some actions that will assist in implementing the commitment made on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. However, the Council is committed to undertaking a fuller review of its Corporate Plan prior to the financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 by which time we will have articulated the wider actions we need to take to ensure Neath Port Talbot becomes carbon neutral by 2030. This will include but is not limited to:

- Publicising climate emergency and promote a greater awareness of the truth of climate change amongst the local population.
- Working with relevant experts in research and development to:

- Review our current strategies and action plans for addressing climate change;
- Identify any further policy changes or actions which we could undertake, within the scope of our powers and resources, to meet the challenge of climate emergency;
- Seek the help of local partners and other research bodies to explain to the community work already underway and achievements already made, as well as targets for the future.

Further information about the work done in 2022-23 by the Council will be contained in the Annual Report for that period which will be published later this year.

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As we move into 2023/2024, the Council has set its revenue budget based on five key areas and these are repeated below. The revised strategic change programme reflects the budget decisions and also incorporates the local priorities of the Rainbow Coalition for 2023-24. These are firmly set in the context of an unequivocal commitment to taking action to respond in full to the climate and nature emergencies as set out in the Motion to Council referenced on the preceding page.

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**Active Travel** -Additional action to be added in the right hand column:

To develop an NPT Active Travel Plan which sets out the strategic vision for active travel in NPT and demonstrates how the active travel network will be improved and extended through the County Borough over the next 5 years. At the same time, extending and improving our active travel network whilst also maintaining our public rights of way, both of which contribute towards a reduced reliance on private vehicles and encourage more people to walk and cycle.

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Amend second line, left hand column. Replace text with 'Increase awareness of the climate change and nature emergencies'

Amend second line, right hand column. Replace text with 'Increase engagement by the workforce and citizens with the climate change and nature emergencies'

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Add Transport for Wales and Network Rail to the Partnership list

Replace NPT Active Travel Plan with NPT Active Travel Network Map