

PSB Project Group Report

Prepared by: Ieuan Griffiths & Sara Dafydd

Well-being Plan Aim	All place-based pilot projects will aim to address the 6 well-being aims as outlined in the Ceredigion Local Well-being Plan 2018-23. A place-based delivery framework will prioritise integration and will incorporate a deep-dive holistic approach to both community and individual resilience.
Our Values	Welsh Language, Tackling Inequalities, Involvement, Sustainability, Leading by Example
Project Group Name	Carbon Neutral Aberystwyth and Decarbonisation Strategy
Chair	Dewi Day , Aberystwyth University

Project Group Membership <i>(Names in bold signify attendance at the meeting)</i>			
Ceredigion County Council	Naomi McDonagh, Sara Dafydd , Lynne Walters, Lyndon Griffiths , Bethan Lloyd Davies , Cllr Alun Williams , Rhodri Llwyd, Dr Sarah Groves Phillips, Cllr Keith Henson , Beti Gordon, Emily Edwards	Aberystwyth University	Rhodri Llwyd Morgan
		Natural Resources Wales	Yvette Eley , Thomas Vetter, Rachel Jarvis , Peter Frost
Hywel Dda University Health Board	Paul Williams , Terri Shaw, Owen Harris	National Library of Wales	Mark Stevens
Welsh Government Energy Services	Rhys Horan , Huw Lewis, Brian Drysdale	Mid Wales Energy Plan	Thomas Yeo
		Coleg Sir Gar/Ceredigion	Vanessa Cashmore , Louis Dare

Mid & West Wales Fire Service	Neil Evans	CAVO	Chesca Ross
EcoDyfi	Andy Rowland	Co-Production Wales	Roxanne Treacy, Vikki Butler

SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT GROUP MEETING

Key Points discussed at Project Group meeting: 12.01.23

9.1 Welcome, Introductions, and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were noted for Sarah Groves-Phillips, Terri Shaw and Rhodri Llwyd.

9.2 Standing Item - Local Wellbeing Plan, including an update on the public consultation – Naomi McDonagh

NMc reported that the consultation phase for the draft Local Wellbeing Plan is still ongoing, and will come to a close on 31 January 2023. In accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, the consultation must run for 12 weeks. With regards to engagement, NMc reported that a Press Release and social media posts have gone out with an additional round scheduled for 17 January 2023, relevant webpages including the Consultations site on the Ceredigion County Council webpage has been updated, and Public Services Board colleagues have received a copy of a digital pack of resources for sharing with their respective Communications Teams. A total of 32 stakeholders have been contacted promoting the consultation and requesting distribution amongst their networks, including elected members, Town & Community Councils, Disability Forum and Children & Young People Services Provider Forum.

Paper copies of the draft Plan, response forms, Easy Read and Young Peoples versions as well as posters with QR codes are also available at all Ceredigion libraries, including the mobile library vans. Paper copies of the consultation documents have also been circulated to Mirus and Mencap. An engagement event facilitated by the Co-production Network for Wales was held with 13 primary schools and 3 secondary schools, with excellent feedback received. NMc confirmed that child friendly versions of the feedback are in the process of being produced. The consultation was also promoted at an LGBTQ+ Winter Pride Event held in Carmarthenshire.

NMc confirmed that a reminder email would be circulated imminently as responses are currently lower than hoped, and urged partners who have not yet contributed to do so prior to the closing date. The responses will need to be analysed and the draft Plan

amended to reflect the feedback received prior to final sign off by PSB members in April. NMc reported that the PSB have a statutory requirement to publish the new Local Wellbeing Plan 2023 by May.

ACTION: The Partnerships Team to circulate a reminder email on the Local Wellbeing Plan consultation.

9.3 Climate Adaptation – Yvette Eley

Yvette Eley (EY) shared a presentation on Climate Adaptation. EY confirmed that urgent emission reduction is now required in order to maintain warming levels of 1.5-2°C. However, the United Nations have indicated that projections estimate that warming is on course to increase to 3°C, and that current climate plans are insufficient to deal with the consequences of this rise. With this in mind, it has been urged that adaptations plan for 2-4°C warming and that urgent action is undertaken to ensure that levels remain at the lower end of the scale. EY reported that even if net zero were to be achieved, historical emissions remain a problem due to the long lifespan of the greenhouse gasses already in the atmosphere.

The UK Climate Projections (UKCP) is a set of tools and data that shows how the UK climate may change in the future. YE reported that this resource has been utilised to inform Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) recent work on future climate risks. The Met Office anticipates that if the high emissions pathway trajectory continues, warmer and wetter winters as well as hotter and dryer summers can be expected. Sea level projections suggest that even a low emission scenario would see a rise in levels of around 30-70cm, whilst a high emission scenario would see levels rise anywhere from 50-100cm.

EY reported that NRW are drafting their first Climate Adaptation Plan in 2023, and are currently consulting with the NRW Business Board to refine information. The draft includes a comprehensive list of NRW activity, an assessment of what is currently being done by the organisation on climate adaptation, and an assessment of the urgency and lead time for action. Each climate risk has also been scored. Consideration is being given to success measures, how progress is reviewed and the necessary data for collation to evidence achievements and progress. YE confirmed that once the draft can be shared, conversations can be held with PSBs across Wales on how the actions included can be supported.

The Chair enquired as to whether the draft will identify the highest priority risks, as some organisations are still focussed on reducing emissions and do not have capacity in terms of funding or resources to consider adaptations in addition. YE confirmed that NRW are awaiting further information with regards to identifying the most urgent risks, and agreed that resources and constrained budgets are having a detrimental effect on planning. Rhys Horan (RH) enquired as to whether the proposed interventions list included in the Plan will be costed, and whether work will be undertaken to support non-public sector bodies to consider Adaptations Plans. YE stated that

the NRW Adaptation Plan will be the first step, so that any lessons learnt and challenges identified during the process can be utilised and resolved prior to supporting public and private sector organisations to carry out similar Plans in the future. As part of NRW's response to the Local Wellbeing Plan 2023-28 consultation, a recommendation will be made for a Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment to be undertaken.

ACTION: YE to share the PowerPoint slides on Climate Adaptation.

9.4 District Heat Network Update – Dewi Day

Following an economic feasibility study, the Chair confirmed that a report outlining design and costs for the scheme has been produced, which has determined the viability of the project in terms of heat and density. Internal conversations within Aberystwyth University indicate a lot of support for the scheme, and next steps will include engaging with the Welsh Government Energy Service to discuss how the scheme can be progressed. As a multi-agency scheme with multiple funding sources, the Chair confirmed that the project is complex and slow moving, but it was hoped that a clearer idea of progress would be achieved in the coming weeks.

9.5 Partner Updates – Detailing project, initiatives, and training opportunities which will be of assistance for the Local Wellbeing Plan 2023-28

The Chair reported that Aberystwyth University is in the process of finalising its Net Zero Strategy, which includes a list of projects and timescales in order of priority. Sign off on Aberystwyth University's solar farm is also imminent so that the grid can become fully operational. The University's tree planting project has seen 20,000 trees planted to far, with the remainder to be completed next winter. Paul Williams (PW) noted that Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) have a Decarbonisation Delivery Plan, which includes a number of action plans. A low carbon heat grant has also just been secured.

Bethan Lloyd Davies (BLD) provided an update on Ceredigion County Council's (CCC) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure project, which will be entering phase 2 in the coming weeks. So far, 68 EV charging spaces have been provided across the county. Following feedback at Cabinet the week previously, the Net Zero Action Plan will need to be costed moving forwards. BLD also noted that due to the age of the Biomass in Aberaeron, consideration will be given to replacing it in the future. The Team also met with National Grid recently, where it was determined that Ceredigion isn't likely to require additional grid capacity in the future.

Cllr Alun Williams (AW) suggested that National Grid are made aware of the good work that is already being undertaken in Ceredigion, in addition to highlighting potential projects that are being restricted due to the grid's constraints. It was agreed that bigger and more ambitious projects could be undertaken if these constraints were to be resolved. RH reported that the grid is a

challenge across Wales, and proposed that local area planning with partners may assist in identifying what is needed to reduce demand on the grid moving forwards.

9.6 Proposed approach by NRW to the Well-being Plan Consultation – Rachel Jarvis

Rachel Jarvis (RJ) delivered a presentation on Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) consultation and approval process. As the NRW Board need to approve and sign-off 14 PSB Wellbeing Plans across Wales, a national framework to steer consultation responses and make clear recommendations to the PSBs was devised. A copy of the draft response was circulated to group members for their consideration prior to the meeting, and any comments, questions or feedback was welcomed. RJ explained that the response was structured using NRW's National Framework, and that 5 key categories have been utilised in order to review each of the Wellbeing Objectives. The approach aims to facilitate the process of approving the Plan by the NRW Board, and ensure that the organisation, alongside partners, are able to deliver on the aims and objectives outlined.

An overview of the draft response was delivered by RJ, including NRW Feedback, Aspirations for Future Well-being Plan Delivery and NRW Contributions against each proposed Objective. With regards to Economic Wellbeing, RJ explained that NRW would like the Plan to be better aligned with the Mid-Wales Growth Deal (MWGD), reinforce the potential for Brexit and the newly proposed Welsh Government Sustainable Farming Scheme to drive significant change, drive support for socially responsible public procurement and highlight natural assets as well as financial. RJ noted that NRW were pleased that the Plan recognised the importance of access to green and blue spaces as part of the Social Wellbeing Objective, but were keen to see reference to sustainable transport, increased engagement with communities, and recognition of the disproportionate impact on specific communities when it comes to environmental risks and hazards. In relation to Environmental Wellbeing, RJ noted that there had been extensive discussion at other sub-group meetings regarding the reference to water quality and phosphate pollution, and that it was agreed that the umbrella term of water quality would be retained which would also allow consideration of other issues relating to water such as the marine environment. RJ reported that NRW would be well placed to take the lead on a Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment to inform how to progress a targeted approach for delivery for climate adaptation within Ceredigion. In response whether rural and environmental crime could be referenced as part of the Cultural Wellbeing Objective, NMc reported that the Ceredigion Community Safety Partnership are currently undertaking a Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder which will give an indication of the main issues affecting the local area.

RJ confirmed that once the 3 PSB sub-groups have had an opportunity to reflect on the draft response and put forward any queries and feedback, that the document will be amended and submitted as a final response to the PSB.

9.7 Any other business proposed by members of the Steering Group

Alison Heal (AH) suggested that it would be beneficial for members of the group to read and consider the COP15 report, which has 23 actions.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions.

Next meeting: 27th of April 2023 at 10:00-12:00

DRAFT