



As a key priority for the Liberal Democrats we welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation, and look forward to working with the administration to make good on our declaration of a climate emergency.

In responding we recognise that the strategy brings together existing work in this area together with new approaches and initiatives.

We welcome the 7 key themes, which take a comprehensive approach to the council's commitment to the climate emergencies. We also note the intention to declare biodiversity emergency – this should also recognise the nature crisis.

General comments:

One Planet Cardiff concept

Whilst 'One Planet Cardiff' is a neat frame for policy development, we have reservations about wider understanding and relevance. For public audiences it may be a bit of an abstract concept, which requires a degree of explanation, which could prevent the strategy from being fully understood by everyone in Cardiff. More needs to be done to improve understanding of what this means, or else the strategy should have a simpler title, such as Cardiff's Climate Change Commitments/Plan.

We are not convinced that enough people in Cardiff are actually aware of the threat climate change poses to Cardiff in terms of rising sea levels – so what will be done to inform as well as engage people, since we need a broadly shared consensus as to what the problem is, in order to get agreement on solutions? Younger people are rightly exorcised by this issue, but a great many of the adult population remain sceptical, or else see it as an issue that affects people elsewhere.

We need to measure what the level of awareness is around One Planet Cardiff, what propensity there is for change, and identify barriers to change in order to remove them for and with people. The council should identify people who are already living in sustainable ways and use them as case studies, to promote best practice and make the idea of behaviour change less daunting.

Transformation in approach

We are concerned about the lack of anything transformational in terms of the approach to public engagement on this. This strategy makes us feel even more so that the rejection of a Citizens Assembly at Full Council in October 2020 was misguided and premature. We would like to see the introduction of a One Planet Cardiff Forum to actively engage and consult with residents on this strategy. Such a forum should be led by organisations and community groups in this area.

There is mention of a social floor but the concept of an ecological ceiling is not discussed in such depth, in terms guiding equitable and sustainable decision making. The two need to go hand in hand, to ensure that while no-one is left behind economically. We should also draw a line in terms of what compromises the city is prepared to make in terms of economic development.

Individual capacity and behaviours

There also needs to be recognition that people don't all have the same means, and therefore this will limit some people's ability to contribute to behaviour change. There needs to be a greater emphasis on business and organisational change, rather than simply focusing on individuals. Whilst the strategy focuses on the council and its own functions, more attention should be given to the



ability of the council to support enhancing activity such as retrofitting and community energy generation/

Citizen engagement and empowerment

The strategy seems very top-down – it leads with council commitments, then city wide objectives, and then lastly with public behaviour change – instead we think we should be crowd sourcing ideas at all levels and asking what people can do, rather than telling them what they should do, with an emphasis on this strategy being led by the citizens of Cardiff, and not the council, otherwise it risks becoming something that the council owns and has full responsibility for.

We would also like to see more done to understand what messages, communication frameworks, and actions best move people to act and which may hinder efforts to get people on board.

Beyond Cardiff

In order to avoid a silo approach, where directorates work separately to make Cardiff a sustainable One Planet city, the strategy should align with Welsh Government policy, specifically the 7 Wellbeing Goals of the Future Generations Wales Act.

We also believe the approach to this strategy needs to acknowledge that the scope needs to extend beyond Cardiff and into the South Wales Central region beyond our boundaries, given the amount of people who work in and visit Cardiff from elsewhere. Consideration should be given to the City Portrait's Initiative – how can our city be home to thriving people, in a thriving place, whilst respecting the wellbeing of all people and the health of the whole planet?

We also believe that while 2030 is an ambitious target, and one we should stick to, however the council needs to be aware that with the National Grid and Ofgem working to a target of 2050, it may be tricky to get all necessary stakeholders to align their plans with the council's objectives.

Specific area of focus: Energy

The strategy makes reference to encouraging the uptake of Smart Meters to deliver efficiencies in the use of gas and electric, however there is no mention of working towards being more efficient with water use. Smart Meters are also available to monitor and reduce water consumption.

The use of hydrogen to fuel homes needs to be fully explored with external stakeholders and we should be wary of being locked into carbon intensive electricity generation via incinerators.

Cabinet recently approved plans for home retrofitting scheme. There is significant potential here to not only drive improvements in energy efficiency but also to move people out of poverty and improve health outcomes. This strategy should seek to maximise the potential of such scheme.

Specific area of focus: Built Environment

We are concerned that only 1,500 of the 14,000 new homes planned are going to be high quality sustainable. We believe this doesn't go far enough.

We believe that Carbon Impact Assessments need to be undertaken for any new developments, whether they be housing, or for example, projects such as the new Indoor Arena and new roads. Modelling should be undertaken at conception. We also believe that the life cycle of buildings needs to be taken into account – too many buildings seem to be torn down after just a couple decades of use. This is not a sustainable approach to economic development. The strategy makes use of the



Doughnut Economics approach but does not follow this through fully. A key part of the approach is around development and the built environment going beyond a 'do little or no harm approach' (sustainable development) and being regenerative by design, not just sustainable.

We would like to see a commitment to Cardiff Council – and wider public bodies – becoming Carbon Literate Organisations. This would include planning, highways, and economic development.

We believe that the built environment and transport infrastructure go hand in hand, and should not be seen as distinctly separate areas for improvement. Active travel infrastructure and public transport routes need to be at the forefront of development, and not an afterthought. Similarly private vehicle parking also needs to be taken into consideration as part of the built environment as well as a transport mode, and what impact this has on a development being sustainable.

Specific area of focus: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

We welcome the commitment to increase tree coverage however the planting of new young trees does not make up for the removal of mature trees. We would like to see tighter restrictions and penalties for damage and loss of trees. We would also like to see greater emphasis on place in relation to city greening – many trees are lost in residential areas and the same number of trees are not planted, leading to a net loss of trees in some areas. Access to green areas and the presence of trees in residential areas are a part of the social floor of the Doughnut.

In addition to a City Tree Farm approach, we would like to see Cardiff become a National Park City. Examples from other British cities such as Birmingham National Forest provide examples of what is possible in urban environments.

We believe Cardiff should make a zero deforestation commitment via its procurement process. One way to do this would be to become a Sustainable Palm Oil City like Chester, through the use of risk assessments for suppliers.

The strategy makes no reference to the use of chemicals in managing the city's parks, despite significant concerns.

Specific area of focus: Transport

We believe that while EV is part of the solution, we need to avoid a situation where we see drivers switching en masse from diesel and petrol cars to electric, not least because of; how resource intensive the process of manufacturing EVs is, how the charging infrastructure could prove highly problematic for pedestrians, how it will lead to a huge demand on the National Grid's electricity supply, and how they do nothing to address problems around congestion and particulate matter. We would like to see a target in the strategy for an overall reduction in car use across the board.

We believe the omission of Cardiff Airport is a mistake. While it is outside of Cardiff, and is owned by Welsh Government, it is used heavily by the population of Cardiff, and we need to address how we as citizens contribute to carbon emissions through the use of it.

We welcome the intention to develop a 'last mile' strategy for freight.

Specific area of focus: Waste

We would like to see a deposit return scheme set up by the council for bottles and cans to combat street litter, and raise awareness of the issues around single use drinks containers. This should go hand in hand with a campaign to increase the provision and use of water fountains and refill



stations, as well as working with hot drinks vendors to encourage customers to choose reusable containers rather than single use.

We believe there is not enough on the concept of reducing consumption, with a heavy emphasis on recycling and a small emphasis on reuse. We live in a very disposable society, which while it is not entirely within the control of the council to combat this, the council does need to work towards scaling back on this, which would also assist in terms of addressing problems with street litter and fly tipping.

Talk of eradicating single use plastics must be caveated. While it is clearly desirable and necessary to reduce the use of these, they are vital to some people with disabilities. We should not as a council take an approach which could be discriminatory, instead it needs to be proportionate.

Specific area of focus: Food

We are disappointed to see little mention of reducing the consumption of meat in Cardiff. We believe the council should implement 'Meat free Mondays' or a similar scheme, across local authority canteens, to educate and inform people about the alternatives to meat, and the benefits of reducing the consumption of meat both for the environment and for individual health.

We believe the council should work with business to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the practice of food being wasted that isn't sold.

In terms of the council's procurement power, more should be done to ensure that food sourcing for council-run food provision (such as day centres, care homes, and schools) are sustainably sourced – including giving attention to miles travelled, sourcing, and how Cardiff can support the local economy.

Specific area of focus: Water

The strategy makes reference to encouraging the uptake of Smart Meters to deliver efficiencies in the use of gas and electric, however there is no mention of working towards being more efficient with water use. Smart Meters are also available to monitor and reduce water consumption.

The concept of sustainable urban drainage needs to be made real for residents in Cardiff – especially with an increase in heavy rainfall, it's important people understand the link between natural environments and good drainage – for example, paving over gardens reduces capacity for rain water to be soaked up, in addition to reducing biodiversity which is vital for local wildlife.