

Economy, Residents and Communities Scrutiny Committee

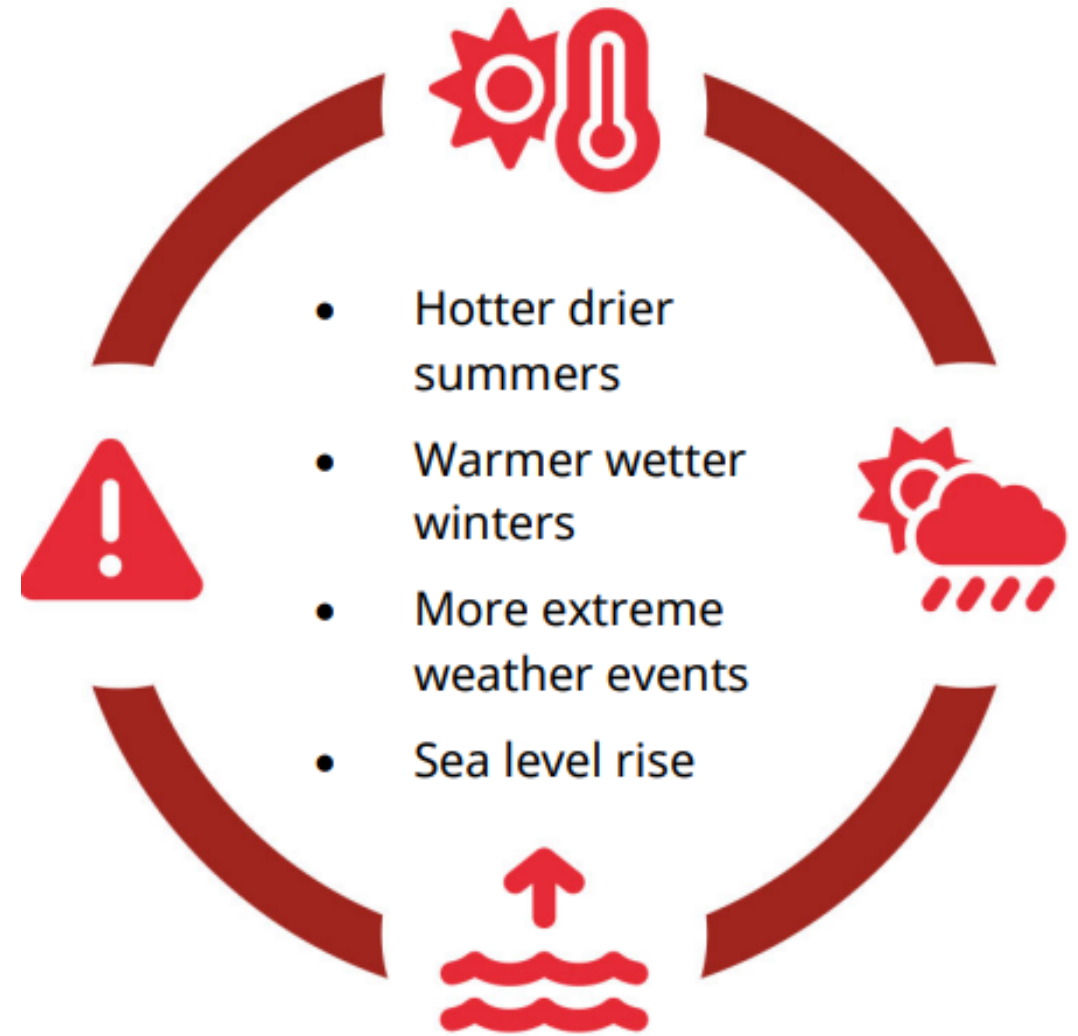
Climate overview

Thomas Yeo – Climate & Nature Programme Delivery Manager
05/06/23



Impacts of Climate Change

- Action required needs to consider reducing our impact (mitigation) on the climate and therefore the damages we will see and responding to the risks (adaptation) of climate change to build climate stability and resilience.



Impacts of Climate Change

- The increase in levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere is the main reason the average temperature of the planet has increased, especially over the last half century.
- An increase in temperature leads to far-ranging implications that are very damaging for the environment, nature and for us as humans.
- The average temperature in Britain is now 1°C higher than it was a century ago, and sea levels are rising 3mm each year (UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017: HM Government).
- This may not appear to be significant, but we must remember that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that insects, which are vital for pollination of crops and plants, will lose half their habitats following an increase of 1.5°C.
- An increase of 1.5°C will lead to rising sea levels that will affect 6 million people living in coastal areas around the world.



Climate Change & our Natural Environment

- Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate in Wales, the 2019 State of Nature report estimated that 1 in 6 of Wales' species are at risk of extinction. Since scientific monitoring began in the 1970s, 73 species have already gone extinct in Wales and a further 666 species are threatened with extinction.
- The 2020 State of our Natural Resources Report also shows that Wales' species and habitats are in serious decline and the resilience of our ecosystems is in decline too.
- Biodiversity provides the life support systems enabling all organisms, including humans, to survive. It is essential to economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being.
- A decline in biodiversity will impact on the provision of food, the changing climate, and our own resilience as a species.



Key pressures contributing to biodiversity loss in Wales

- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- Development
- Intensive Agriculture
- Pollution
- Woodland Management
- Hydrological Change

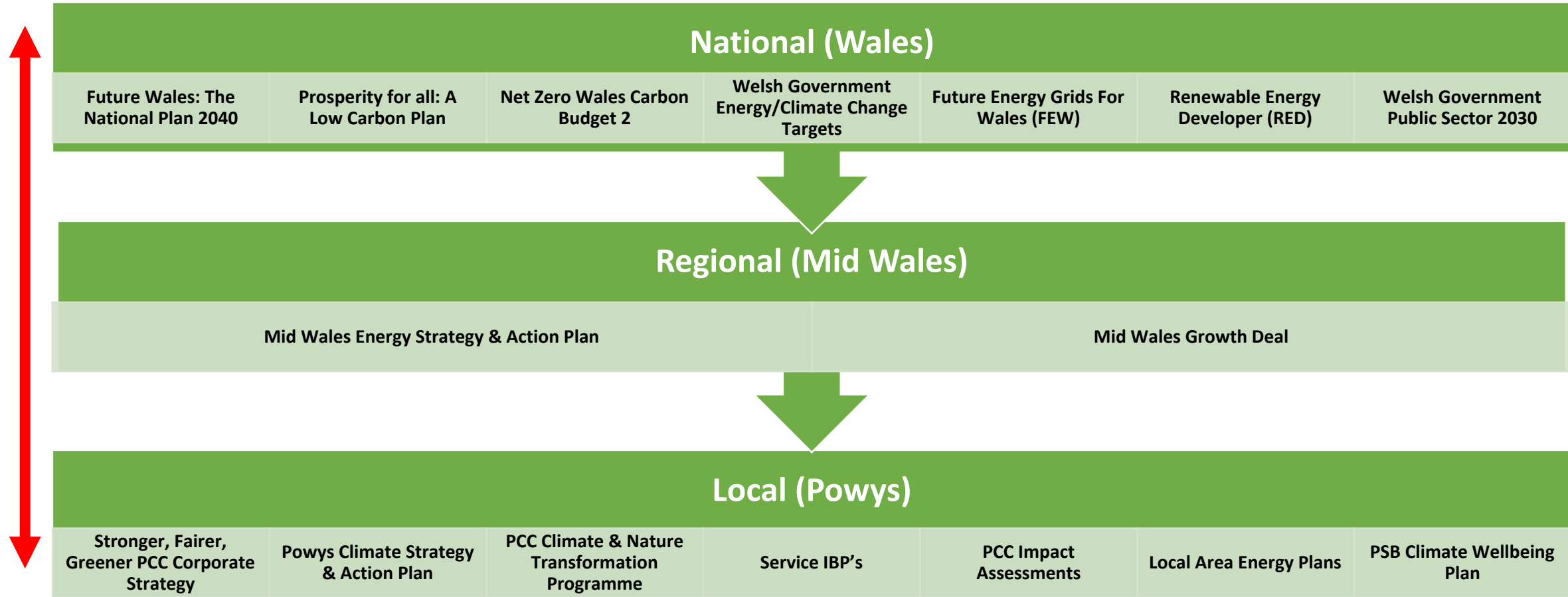


Alignment Between National, Regional & Local



National to Local Energy Planning

GRYFACH tecach GWYRDDACH STRONGER fairer GREENER



Welsh Government Climate & Nature Emergencies

- In 2017, the Welsh Government set the ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030
- The Welsh Government became the first government in the world to declare a climate emergency on 29 April 2019, which was subsequently passed by its parliament, the Senedd, on 1 May 2019
- The Welsh Government becomes one of the first governments to declare a nature emergency on June 30th 2021, where it called for statutory targets to be set to halt and reverse the decline in biodiversity



Welsh Government Climate & Nature Policy

- Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (particularly Section 6 local authority duty)
- Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2018
- Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (2016–2020)
- Net Zero Wales plan for Carbon Budget 2 (2021–2026)
- Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales



The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales

2020 - 21



Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales

- The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) for Wales is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Wales.
- The NRP priorities are the current national priorities for our natural resources, for everyone to take action. They support the integration of biodiversity into decision making across Welsh Government and local delivery through area statements. The priorities are:
 - Delivering nature-based solutions;
 - Increasing resource efficiency and renewable energy
 - Taking a place-based approach.

Welsh Government commitment to tackling climate change

Welsh Government 2019
**Prosperity
for All:
A Low Carbon
Wales**

- In March 2019, the Welsh Government published Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales which includes Policy 20: Support the public sector to baseline, monitor and report progress towards carbon neutrality.
- Welsh Government developed a route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector to outline the requirements and targets for the “Team Wales” approach for a net zero public sector by 2030.

Welsh Government Carbon Budgets



Welsh Government
**Net Zero Wales
Carbon Budget 2
(2021-25)**

In March 2021, the Senedd passed a suite of regulations to increase Wales's emissions targets from those set in 2018 and to set Carbon Budgets 2 and 3 in line with them. The targets and budgets set in law followed the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) recommendations.

- Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25): 37% average reduction (with 0% offset limit);
- Carbon Budget 3 (2026-30): 58% average reduction;
- 2030: 63% reduction;
- 2040: 89% reduction;
- 2050: at least 100% reduction (net zero).

Welsh Government Public Sector 2030 Target

Vision

By 2030, choosing zero carbon will be routine, culturally embedded and self regulating across the Welsh public sector.

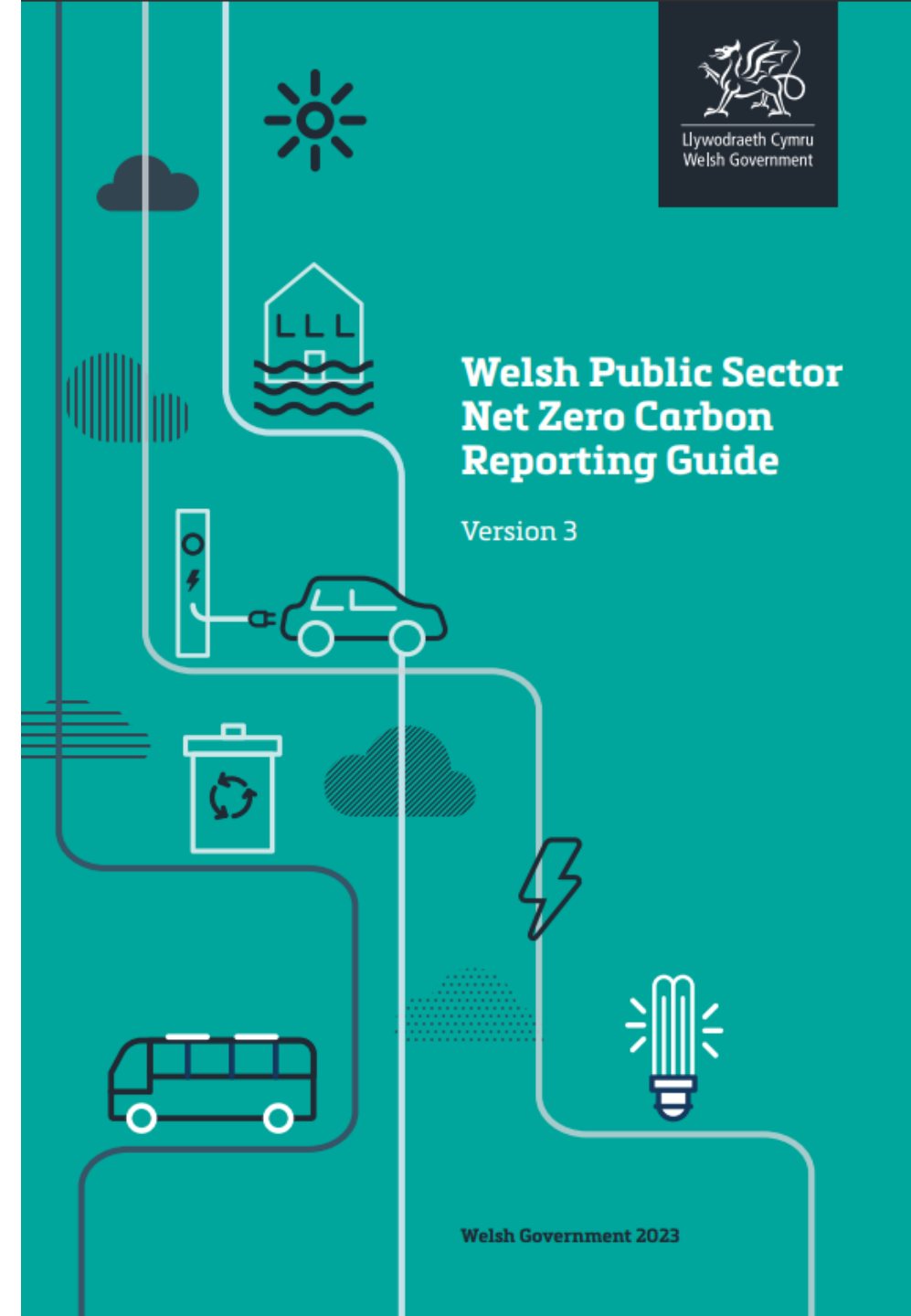


Powys County Council Carbon Accounting



Why do we use carbon accounts?

- The Carbon Accounts provide us with an overview of our carbon footprint and the emissions across council assets and operations
- This allows us to find the areas with the highest emissions and target our action and monitor progress
- This ensures that the measures taken are the most effective at reducing our emissions



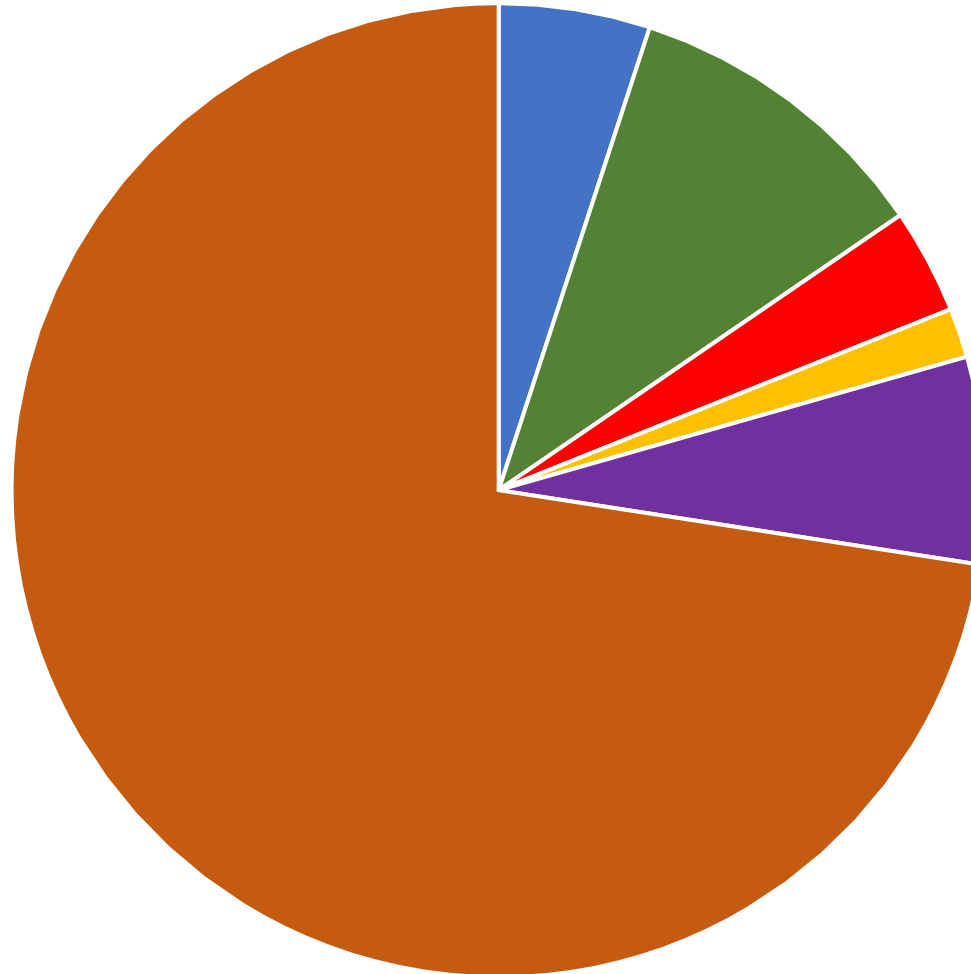
How are the numbers generated?

(Numbers are for example only)

- A specified measurement is taken
e.g. 20 litres of “Fuel X” was used
- This amount is multiplied by an emissions factor
e.g. 1 litre of “Fuel X” generates 0.5 kg CO₂e
- A CO₂e number is generated
Therefore: 20 litres X 0.5 kg CO₂e per litre = 10 kg CO₂e emitted



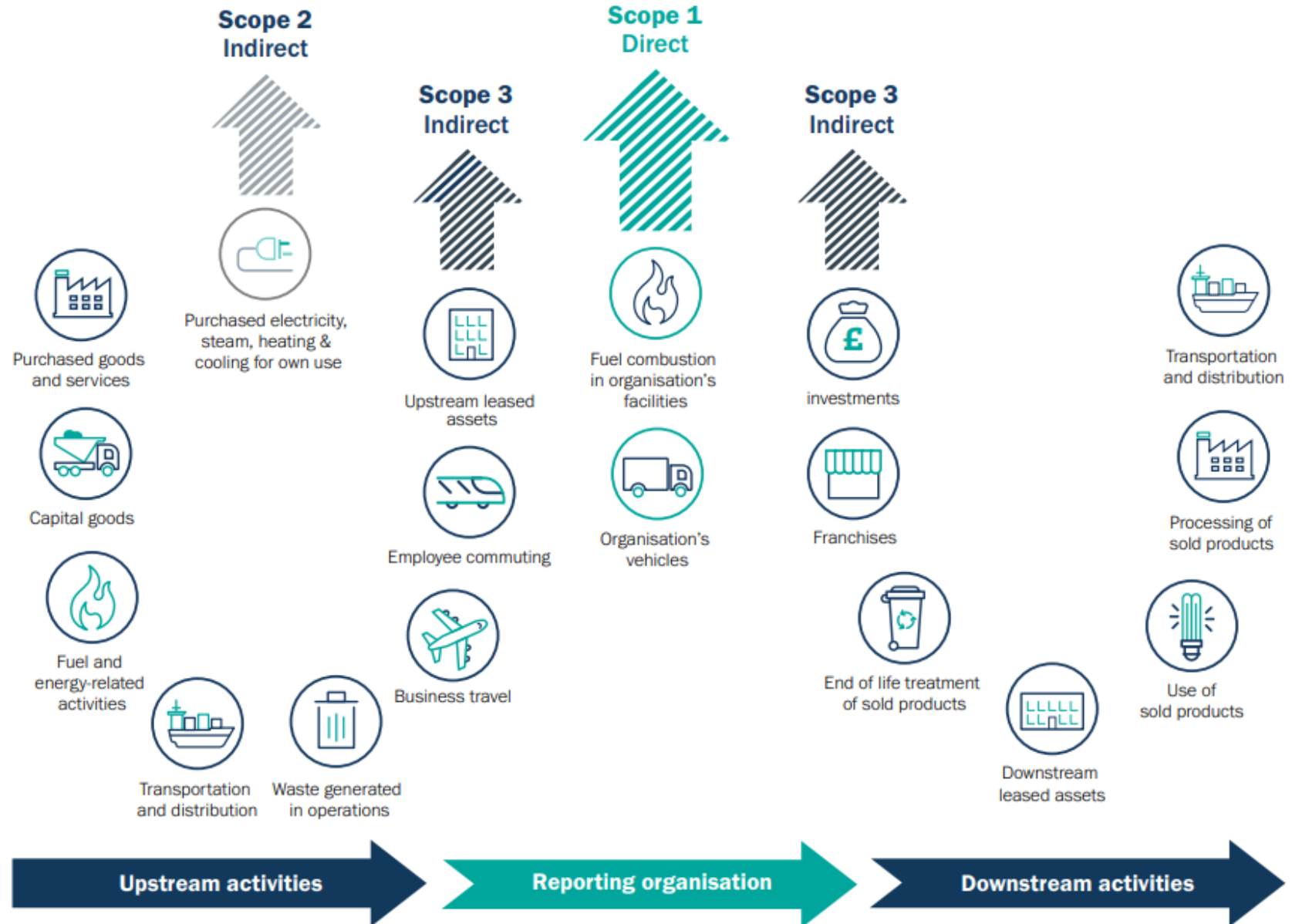
Breakdown of Carbon Accounts 2021-2022



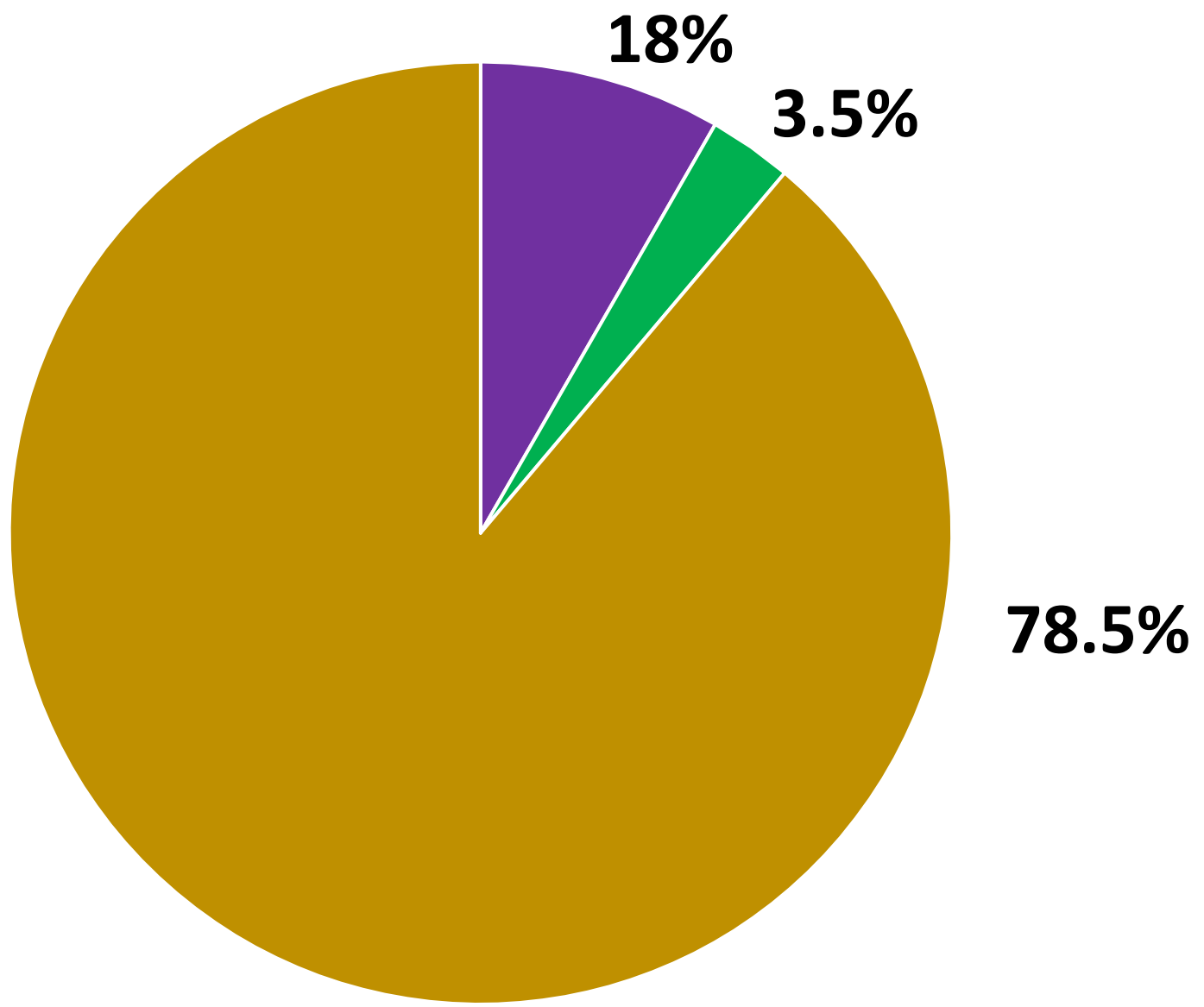
- Land use
- Fleet and equipment
- Business travel, commuting and homeworking
- Buildings and streetlighting
- Waste data
- Supply chain



Emission Scopes



Breakdown of Scopes for Carbon Accounts 2021-2022



■ Scope 1 ■ Scope 2 ■ Scope 3



How The Council Is Responding



Powys County Council Climate & Nature Emergencies

Powys Climate Emergency declared at full council on the 24th of September 2020

24 Sep. 2020

13 Oct. 2022

Powys Nature and Biodiversity emergency declared at full council on 13th of October 2022



AGW Report – Public Sector Readiness for Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

In the report, the Auditor General makes the following five calls for action from public bodies:

- Strengthen your leadership and demonstrate your collective responsibility through effective collaboration
- Clarify your strategic direction and increase your pace of implementation
- Get to grips with the finances you need
- Know your skills gaps and increase your capacity
- Improve data quality and monitoring to support your decision making



Assurance and Risk Assessment Review – Powys County Council

Audit year: 2021-22

Date issued: February 2023

Document reference: 3409A2023

Carbon reduction plan

Powys has a clear understanding of the scale of this agenda and comprehensive structures in place to develop and manage activity. However, it has not yet published a fully costed net zero action plan and needs to undertake further work to fully understand the cost of all its planned activity contributing to the net zero agenda



Assurance and Risk Assessment Review – Powys County Council

Exhibit 4: recommendation

The table below sets out the recommendation that we have identified following this review.

Recommendation	
R1	In order to meet its net zero ambition, the Council needs to fully cost its intended action plan and ensure that it is aligned with its Medium Term Financial Strategy.



Stronger, Fairer, Greener Powys



Our ambition is that by 2027, we will be:

Stronger - We will become a county that succeeds together, with communities and people

- that are well connected socially, and are personally and economically resilient.

Fairer - We will be an open, well-run, Council where people's voices are heard and help to

- shape our work and priorities, with fairer, more equal, access to services and opportunities.
- We will work to tackle poverty and inequality to support the well-being of the people of Powys.

Greener - We want to ensure a greener future for Powys, where our well-being is linked to

- that of the natural world, and our response to the climate and nature emergencies is at the heart of everything we do

Stronger, Fairer, Greener
Our Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan

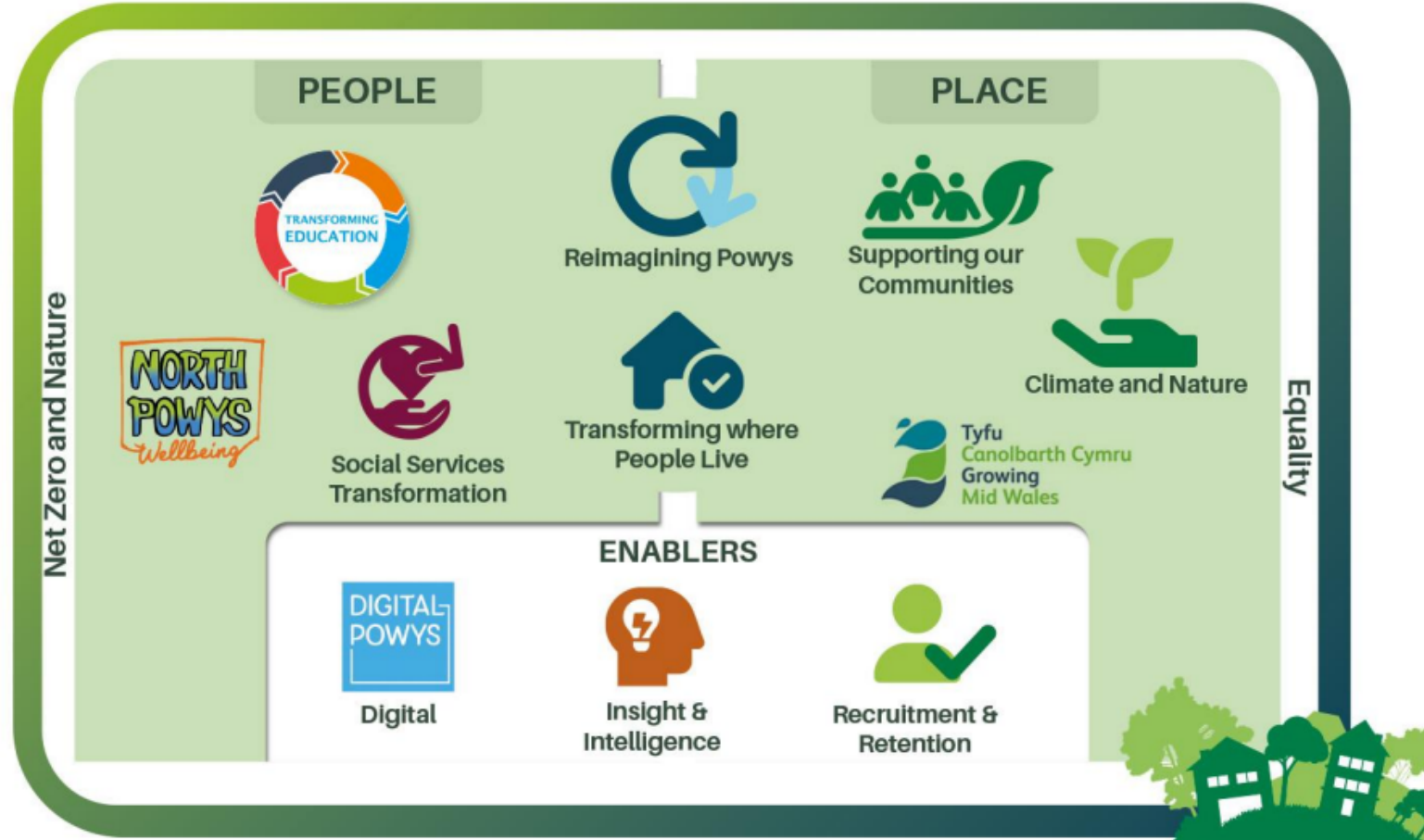
2023-2027

STRONGER
— fairer —
GREENER

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg



Powys County Council Transformation Portfolio



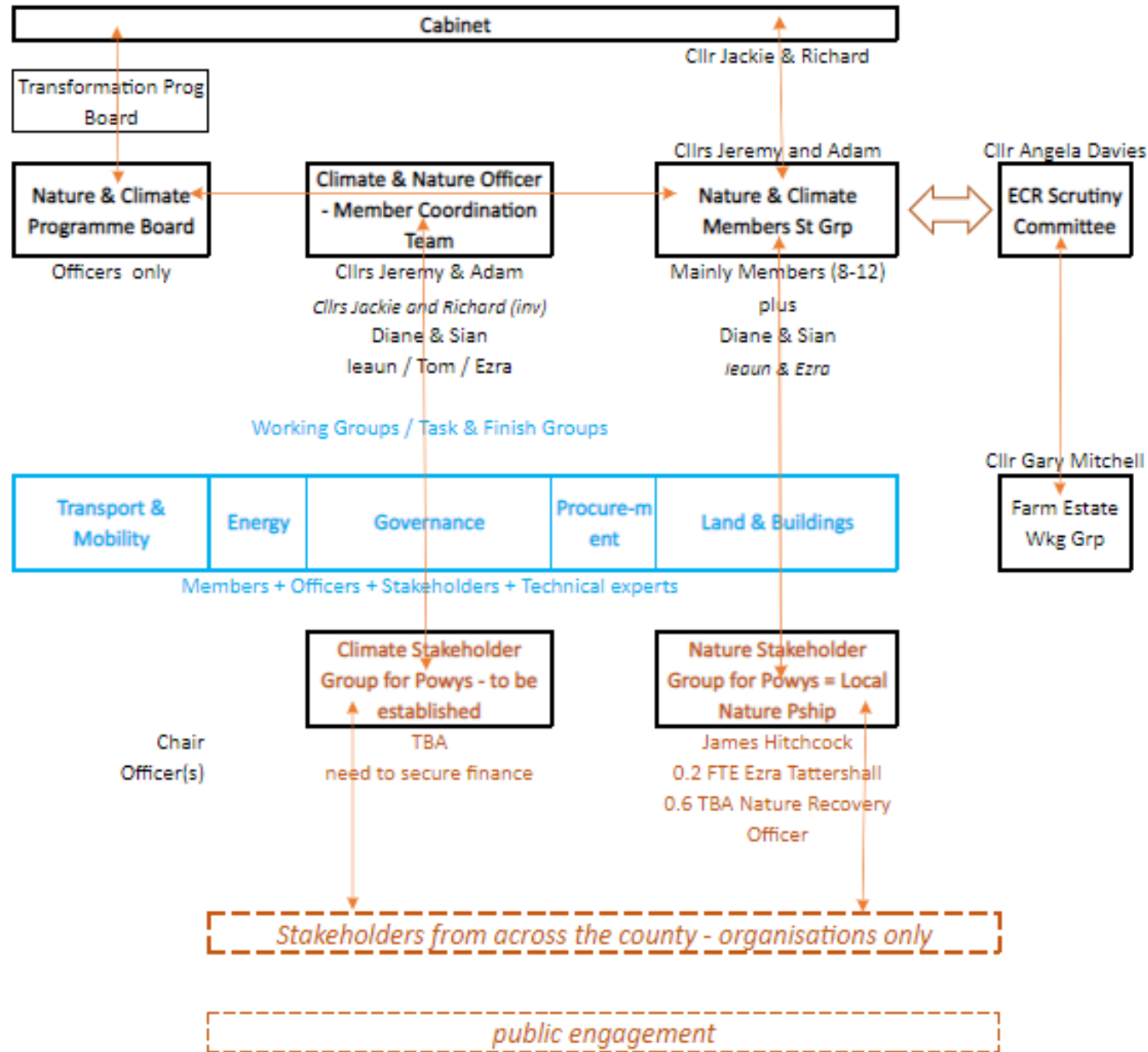
Powys Climate & Nature Programme



“The Powys Climate & Nature programme will deliver Powys County Councils ambitious climate and nature emergency declarations, ensuring the council and county make a just transition towards net zero, placing Climate and biodiversity at the heart of everything we do.”

- Energy (reducing energy demand, increasing onsite generation, exploring renewable energy opportunities)
- PSB Climate Wellbeing Plan
- Carbon Accounting (improved clarity of information to inform prioritised action and decision making)
- Climate Action Plans (Buildings & Land Use, Mobility & Transport, Procurement, Governance)
- Behavioural change, communications and engagement
- Embedding Climate and Nature into the heart of Powys County Council
- Nature & Biodiversity – section 6 duty, Powys Nature Recovery action plan & partnership





Programme Risks

- Financial resources (Capital and Revenue) to deliver programme of work and associated projects
- Officer resource, capacity and expertise at all levels of the organisation lacking to support delivery of net zero programmes
- County's transition away from fossil fuels will be hampered, in part, by the current grid infrastructure
- Reputational Risk – we declared climate and nature emergencies there's now external expectation we will deliver
- On current trajectory we will not achieve the goal of being a Net Zero council by 2030



Key Climate, Nature & Energy Strategies/Plans



Powys County Councils Climate Change Strategy



Net Zero Council 2030

Climate Action Plans

- Buildings & Land Use
- Mobility & Transport
- Procurement
- Governance



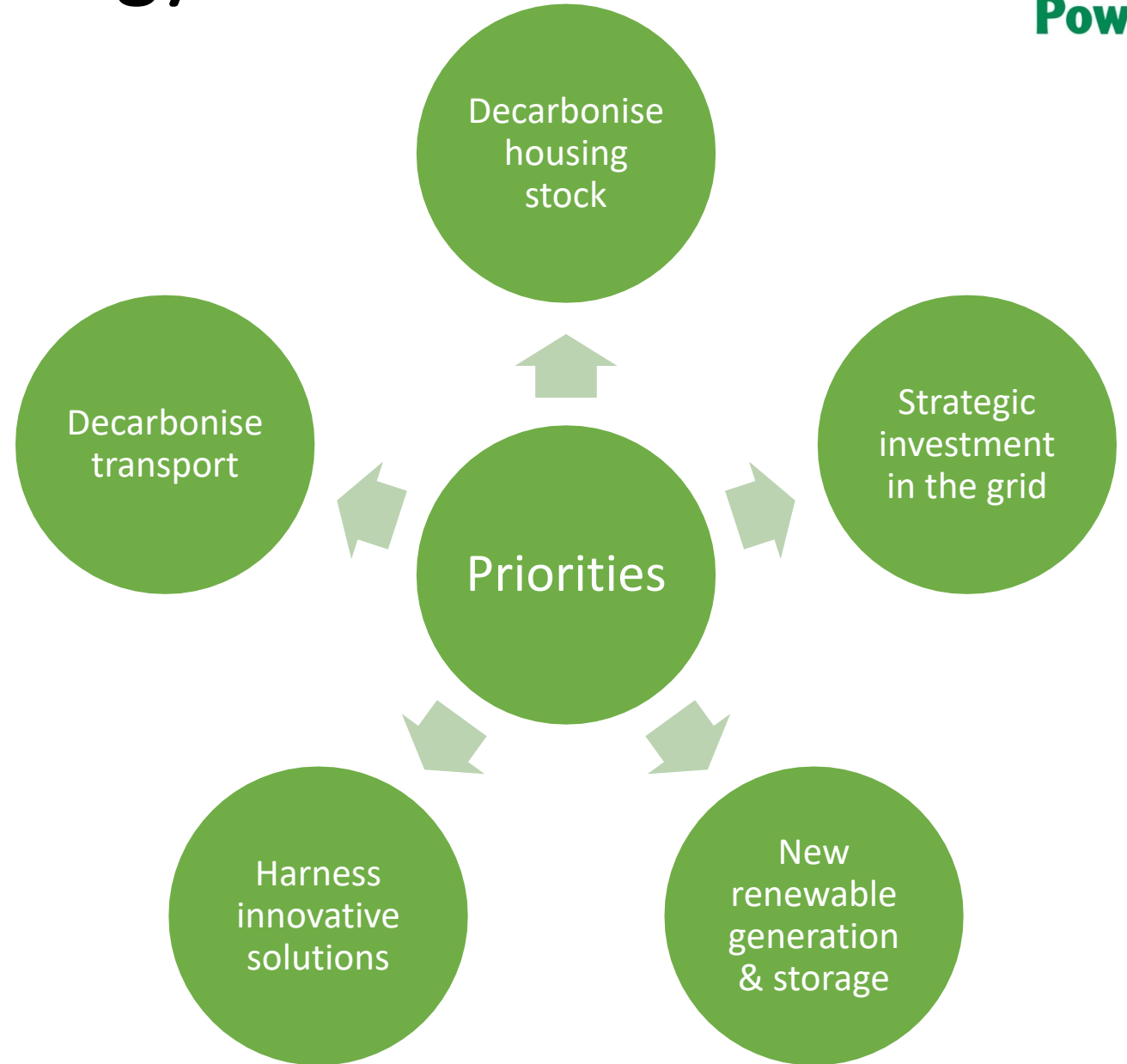
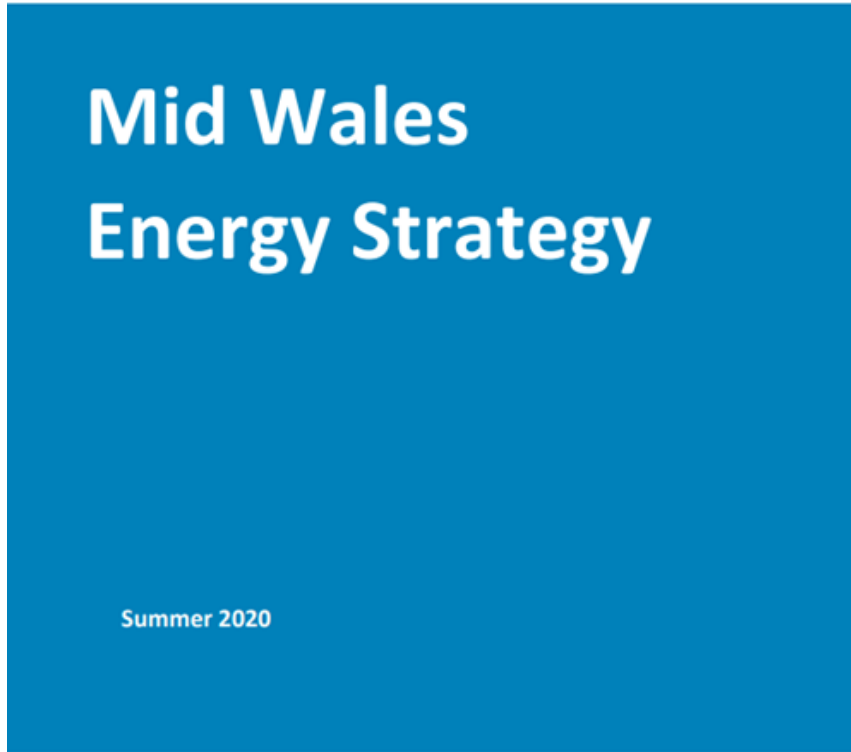
Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan



The Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan 2022-2032

- Powys County Council have developed the Powys Nature Recovery Plan in response to the Section 6 duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- To comply with the S6 duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities.
- The PNRAP takes the six objectives from the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales and sets them in the context of local priorities, inviting partners to work together to meet these objectives.

Mid Wales Energy Strategy



Funded and supported by:



Supported by:



Prepared by:



Thank You For Listening

