

# APSE Wales Renewable Energy and Climate Change Advisory Group 24.6.20 Impacts of COVID 19



# Immediate impacts of COVID 19 - key issues

- Environmental positive impacts for local air quality, congestion, biodiversity
- Public transport at massively reduced capacity network and connectivity greatly reduced
- Social distancing rules currently 2M require alternative measures – Subsequent wearing of Face Coverings in parts of UK on Public Transport network (Border travel issues for networks)
- Loss of revenues for organisations and services eg. Car Parking revenues / Green bin waste collection
- Increased walking and cycling

# Impacts and key issues - Continued

- Traditional work place for all organisations changed and connectivity (broadband issues) restricted following directive to work from home where possible
- Variance in technologies prescriptive for inter agency and partnership working across organisations
- Critical services continue with new restrictions and working practises
- Lack of confidence / Public mistrust in national and local Govt. undermining successful work completed to date
- Financial impact and resilience for delivery of ongoing public services

# Way forward - Potential positive impacts

- Embrace and maintain some changes
- Opportunity to progress the digital agenda – virtual meetings / home working improve technology hardware / skills /support
- Post Covid changes to traditional work space and commuting patterns
- The Climate and Ecological Climate declaration could be improved by behaviour changes for organisations to aspire to become net carbon zero. Include opportunities for organisations to become ecologically positive organisation behaviour change

## Way forward - Potential positive impacts continued

- Active travel opportunities to introduce sustainable travel and new commuting routines
- Improve connectivity and transport network
- Harness the improved walking and cycling activates improved health tacking high levels of obesity with associated health impacts
- Improved air quality and lower pollution and some calculation required of the economic benefits to encourage continuation

# Drivers for change and learning points

- Recovery from COVID 19 Pandemic for organisations and continue to ensure the environment is sustainably protected, maintained and enhanced now and in the future.
- Renewable and sustainable sustainability is still a long term commitment and will be increasingly challenging
- Reduce the impact of Climate Change
- Help to meet the requirements of the Environment Act 2016
- Achieve a Carbon neutral public sector by 2030.
- Welsh Government Carbon Reporting post April 2020

# Drivers for change and learning points continued

- Take a whole APSE organisational approach to lessons learned
- Opportunity for a change in culture to consider renewable energy and climate change and carbon alongside more conventional priorities such as cost and time.
- Most delivery will need to be incorporated within the day to day decision making and work of organisations for their staff, contractors and partners.

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# Open discussion

- To hear your views on impacts in your organisation and key areas
- The way we will conduct all our activities – Operations Business as Usual Projects and interventions we undertake as organisations

