

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	Wednesday, 22 January 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Climate Emergency Working Group Update	Cllr Sue Jones Environment	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Y
Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	Yes
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council? This should only be in exceptional circumstances.	No
Is this report confidential? If <b>Yes</b> , insert details of the relevant exclusion paragraph(s). These are listed in the Constitution Part 4, page 25 (Access to Information Procedure Rules)	No

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update Cabinet on progress of the Climate Change Emergency Working Group; the reasons why the working group was formed, the scope of the review and the indicative first priorities for the group.

## PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Cabinet to receive this report for information and express any feedback or suggestions that can help shape/inform the ongoing process.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3. In July 2019 Full Council passed a motion which declared a Climate Emergency with the overarching goal of “rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030”. This goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment. Following this declaration a cross party working group was established and asked to report back to Council detailing the proposed scope of the review and actions.

## CORPORATE OUTCOMES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (tick all those applicable):

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	X
Place, Homes and Environment	X

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	X
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## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which advised that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C. Their review of over 6,000 sources of evidence found that, with a rise of 1.5°C, there would be risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. It warned that we have only 12 years left within which to take the serious action required to avert this crisis and avoid the worst impacts.
6. Please note that this document refers to emissions of “carbon” or “carbon dioxide”. This should be considered shorthand for all greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon dioxide.
7. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a statutory target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. In May 2019 the UK Committee on Climate Change recommended that the UK Government increase the statutory target to Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Government has now adopted this target.
8. In parallel, the UK Climate Change Act established the National Adaptation Programme. The corresponding UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies 6 priority risk areas: flooding, high temperatures, water supply shortages, natural capital, food production; and pest and diseases.
9. In July 2019 this Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and well-being of our residents and therefore proclaimed a Climate Emergency with immediate effect.
10. To combat this threat, the borough sets a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030. For avoidance of doubt, this goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking into account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.

11. In order to implement this decision, a Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency was created. This group is made up of the following:
- Air Quality Lead (Cllr K Jones In the Chair);
  - Cabinet Member responsible for the Environment;
  - Chairs of each Neighbourhood Forum;
  - Representatives of each political group represented on the council (2 Labour Members (including Air Quality Lead), 1 Liberal Democrat Member, 2 Conservative Members) (Cllr S Thurlbourn vice-chair)
  - Such other Members, including co-opted members, as the working group shall consider appropriate.
  - Officer support.
12. It was agreed by Council that the Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency shall:
- Incorporate the Council's existing Air Quality Action Plan into its wider plans;
  - Devise and propose further measures in pursuit of its goals;
  - Monitor progress towards its goals;
  - Report back to full Council at least four times per year on its progress in achieving its goals.

#### **PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)**

13. The first two meetings have been held of the Climate Emergency Working Group on the 28<sup>th</sup> October and the 5<sup>th</sup> December with the first order of business defining the scope of the group.
14. Firstly, it was considered important to define in the group what was meant by the term "carbon neutral". It was agreed to mean no net carbon emissions beyond the 1990 levels as measured in accordance with a formula to be agreed by the Working group.
15. The group agreed that we will need to reduce emissions close to zero without offsetting. This will dictate the approach adopted in the future and the levels of investment required for the different solutions. Currently the Council's approach is not to offset but to reduce consumption through for example LED lighting and generation from Photo Voltaic panels. This approach may have to be reconsidered to achieve the ambitious targets in the report.
16. What was clear to the group was that achieving "carbon neutral" targets by 2030 will be reliant on external factors outside the direct control of the Council, including the pace of technological developments and national policy changes and a key emphasis of any such target will be the lobbying for national and international changes.
17. It was agreed to use the Green House Gas (GHG) protocol as a framework for the group's scope. This is designed to provide a framework for businesses, governments, and other entities to measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions in ways that support their missions and goals. It provides the

accounting platform for virtually every corporate GHG reporting program in the world.

- 18.** To help describe direct and indirect emission sources, improve transparency, and provide definitions for different types of climate policies and business goals, three “scopes” (scope 1, scope 2, and scope 3) are defined for GHG accounting purposes by the protocol.
  - Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions which occur from sources that are owned or controlled in the borough, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, etc.
  - Scope 2: Indirect GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, heat, steam or other fuels consumed by the borough.
  - Scope 3: All emissions are a consequence of the activities of the borough but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the borough. Some examples of scope 3 activities include holiday flights and products made internationally and shipped.
  
- 19.** The group agreed to include those elements contained within the Greenhouse Gas Protocol defined as Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. Direct emissions shall be taken as including fuel (energy), vehicles, farming, quarrying, waste produced and deposited within the borough from Domestic, Commercial, Industrial, Educational, Farming and leisure activities. It does not include those emissions generated by vehicles travelling through the borough, i.e. on motorways or by railway.
  
- 20.** The Climate Emergency Working Group is planning activities in four key areas-
  - To cut the Council’s direct carbon emissions to net zero carbon by 2030.
  - To use the Council’s direct areas of wider influence. These are areas where the Council can have a significant impact on reducing wider carbon emissions and mitigating climate in the District- Housing, planning / building control, tree planting.
  - To become a climate change leader for the borough. The Council does not have any direct control over significant causes of emissions e.g. transport, agriculture, industry and housing. However, we can adopt a leadership role and engage with, influence, support mitigation of climate change across the whole District.
  - To investigate, promote and as required implement measures to help mitigate against the impacts of climate change (e.g. heatwaves, cold spells, drought, pests).
  
- 21.** The Working group meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> December discussed some indicative actions as detailed in the table below which will be drawn into a Climate Change Strategy for the Council and will be submitted to Cabinet in June 2020 for approval.

### Indicative Actions Arising – priorities for the strategy

1. Devise a data collection/monitoring process for comparing 1990 and current carbon emission levels (to include current carbon sinks e.g. trees)
2. The Council will sign and accept the grant offer from One Carbon World. One Carbon World are partnered with the UN Climate Neutral Now Initiative. One Carbon World will then assist the Council in measuring our carbon footprint, potential carbon reductions and provide 300 tonnes of carbon credits.
3. Work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources.
4. Lobby Government on issues that the Council do not have any direct control over to reduce carbon emissions e.g. transport, agriculture, industry and housing.
5. Influence the Local Plan and Central Lancashire Core Strategy by working toward developing planning policies that reduce carbon emissions.
6. Undertake full review of paper use in meetings with the aim of paper free meetings.
7. Reviews the Council's Borough Investment Fund to give due weight to Climate Change targets in the Investment portfolio.
8. Undertake a campaign in partnership with Lancashire Waste Partnership with the aim to reduce contamination in recyclable materials and reduce, reuse and recycle waste.
9. Undertake a waste and printing audit in the Council with a view to minimisation and reduction and to investigate how we can recycle hard to recycle waste.
10. To increase local resilience to climate impacts already happening. To include working with the Environment Agency on the Preston and South Ribble flood defence scheme, consideration of excess heat within planning decisions and to provide advice to residents and businesses.
11. Introduce both solar panels and thermal panels to the roof of the Civic Centre to reduce the Council's reliance on gas.
12. Replace all lights in the Civic Centre and car park to LED Lights.
13. Investigate a green energy supply to the Council's buildings to ensure renewable sources of energy used.
14. Set up staff working group to identify and implement practical ways of reducing carbon across the Council.
15. Investigate the possibility of electric vehicle pool-car or bike. (civic and/or for developments across the borough).
16. Switch cleansing vehicles to plug in electric and with technological advances switch other specialised vehicles (e.g. ride on mowers) to electric in line with replacement programme.
17. Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting

alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible.

18. Produce a Climate Change Strategy for Council by June 2020.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

22. The working group has been set up as a cross party group with the aim of inviting experts and members of the public to contribute to the priorities.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

23. An alternative option is for the Council to do nothing and wait until national and international government policy changes. As detailed in the report above waiting is not an option due to the advancing risk of global warming.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

24. Air Quality is an integral part of the overarching goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030. The actions detailed in the Air Quality Action Plan have already been agreed at Cabinet and therefore will be delivered in addition to the actions proposed in this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

25. The proposed scope and indicative priorities sets out action by the Council in regard to the issues which are within the Council's control and which can be met within the existing resources and powers. It also sets out an approach to secure action by a wide range of partners within South Ribble, giving us the best chance of delivering the scale of change required. It is therefore considered an appropriate approach to address the risk of climate change for South Ribble.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

26. Any proposed new or revised policies will require a review of the relevant impact assessments in accordance with the statutory requirements which include the Equalities Act 2010.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

27. A new dedicated post of Climate Change officer has been created and funded from within existing budgets in order to help to facilitate the delivery of the Corporate Plan outcomes in relation to Air Quality, Climate Emergency and single-use plastics. The Climate Change Strategy planned for June 2020 will inform the Council of any potential additional budgetary implications which will need to be fully assessed and approved in accordance with the Council's constitution.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

28. The Climate Change Act 2008 which established a UK commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 from 1990 levels. The Council decision made in July 2019 declared a Climate Emergency and requested for a Standing

Working Group on the Climate Emergency to be set up and to provide regular updates on the matter.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

There are no background papers to this report.

### **APPENDICES**

There are no appendices to this report.

LT Member Jennifer Mullin  
Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

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