

Climate Emergency Action Plan

July 2021

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Review of Strategy

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Introduction

In 2019, South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) declared a climate emergency, pledging to make the Borough carbon neutral by 2030.

In 2020, the Council approved the Climate Emergency Strategy for the Borough, summarising the global, national and local needs for such action, and how the Council will be acting to 2030 on this pledge. The strategy also agreed on a public consultation process to inform and influence the specific actions to be taken to deliver the strategy, and those actions to be prioritised.

This action plan acknowledges the contributions received during the consultation and sets out those actions we will be taking over the short, medium, and long-term, in support of the carbon neutral 2030 target.

The findings of the report will also be used as the basis for wider stakeholder engagement, to maximise the effectiveness of those actions that can be driven at a local level.

Background

What is climate change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world. Since the mid-1800s, humans have contributed to the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. This causes global temperatures to rise, resulting in long-term changes to the climate. (1)

Further information on historic national and international climate change actions can be viewed within the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy, and includes -

In 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which advised that global warming must be limited to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C. The IPCC's 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. A rise to 2°C would be even more catastrophic. It warned that there are 12 years within which to take the serious action required to avert this crisis and avoid the worst impacts.

The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050 against a 1990 baseline. However, in June 2019 the Government announced a revised target – that the UK will cut emissions to net zero by 2050 (relative to the 1990 baseline).

What is a climate emergency?

There is no single definition of what we mean by a climate emergency but generally it reflects the urgent need to drastically cut emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to be able to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Vision / Mission

In 2019, in response to these events, SRBC made a climate emergency declaration, setting an ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. In addition, we need to prepare the Borough for the effects of climate change, and this need for resilience and adaptation was also considered as part of the strategy.

The climate emergency strategy included a commitment to involve the residents and businesses of the Borough in the action plan process, and welcomed their involvement via a public consultation process.

The consultation process clearly demonstrated the concerns amongst participating residents and businesses about the climate emergency. Unfortunately, the timing of the consultation coincided with COVID lockdowns which meant we were not able to engage with our schools in the way we had planned. So as not to miss this important contribution we plan to further consult, including with our schools, once the pandemic has passed and include their responses in an update to members. We would like to thank all those residents, groups and businesses that contributed to the consultation process.

This action plan follows the initial consultation process and sets out the Council's actions, with timescales, between 2021 to 2030 in order to deliver on the 2030 carbon neutral pledge.

Analysis – Current Position

In response to the climate emergency, SRBC has already taken the following actions -

In July 2019 full Council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency.

Since this time the Council, through the climate emergency task group, has been working with partners and stakeholders to address the climate emergency. In July 2020, the Council published its Climate Emergency Strategy. This committed to a public consultation to inform the action plan, setting out those actions we will be taking to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

The Council has committed £250,000 to implement the action plan and obtained additional external funding to supplement this budget.

Through the work of the cross party climate emergency task group, we have -

Installed solar panels to the Civic Centre, reducing our reliance on carbon based fuel

Installed free public electric vehicle charging points at the Civic Centre

Hosting a virtual event for World Environment day 2021, to promote local actions and opportunities

Worked with partners to provide 4 additional EV charging point sites at Leyland, Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall and Penwortham – these are due to be installed during 2021

Installed several kilometres of new pathways and cycleways to encourage active transport and reduce reliance on carbon fuelled transport

Started to replace our own fleet with electric vehicles

Started to reduce our use of Single Use Plastics, with a commitment to eliminate them by 2025

Provided secure cycle storage facilities at the Civic Centre, along with improved changing facilities, to encourage staff to cycle or run to work

Via the planning process –

- Increased the number of domestic dwellings provided with EV charging points
- Increased the number commercial premises providing EV charging points for staff and customers
- Increased number of secure cycle storage facilities to encourage active transport within the Borough

Secured £145,000 grant funding to install further solar panels to the Civic Centre, along with installation of LED lighting and a new building management system to improve energy efficiency

Incorporated carbon reduction measures into our own new developments, such as the McKenzie Arms development

Undertaken energy audits at six of the biggest energy using buildings in our estate – the Civic Centre, Moss Side depot, Leyland leisure Centre, Penwortham Leisure Centre, Bamber Bridge Leisure centre and the Tennis Centre. The findings of these audits will inform future investment to improve energy efficiency and move to decarbonise energy production on site.

In addition to these carbon reduction measures, the Council (with the help of our partners and residents) have planted over 62,000 trees across the Borough

The Plan to 2030

This plan, in summary:

- Reaffirms our commitment for the borough to be Carbon neutral by 2030, and provides targets for the Council to deliver on this pledge
- Highlights our commitment to work with residents and businesses to deliver change locally, and share best practice and learning
- Explains how we will lobby central government for resources and legislation to make the 2030 target possible
- Sets out actions that will be taken to:
 - build and retrofit homes
 - provide for clean and sustainable travel
 - generate clean, renewable energy
 - reduce consumption and waste
 - support the creation of low carbon jobs
- Acknowledges the local effects of climate change
- Confirms our commitment to continue to work with partners and central government to enable the Council to react to the effects of climate change

The climate emergency task group will report to members on the progress made with the implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan at regular intervals. A full annual update will be presented to members at Full Council each year. In addition, regular updates on progress made will be published on the Councils website.

The action plan reviews will also allow for updates to include technological advances, changes in legislation and improvements that have been made across the borough.

The Council acknowledges that we cannot deliver this target alone – to be successful it will require the support and collaboration of central government, our residents and our businesses, and other governments internationally. The plan is ambitious, but necessary in order to provide a healthy and sustainable borough for the generations to come.

Whilst this plan focusses on our actions to 2030, we are fully accepting there will be more we can do both between now and are target date of 2030 and beyond. The role of the annual review of the action plan is to enable new ideas, new technology and changes in public opinion and legislation to be adopted and included.

Our aim for future generations of this borough is to leave a legacy of a green, sustainable borough in which green choices are affordable to all.

The investigation of the Council's (and the borough's) carbon footprint has identified that the biggest contributions to our carbon emissions are the use of diesel and other fuels, gas, and the waste we produce. When prioritising the actions within the plan these are the areas where we will look to concentrate our efforts.

During the next year the emphasis of the work will be on internal operations to showcase the Council as a community leader and on building community interaction through schools, businesses and community groups.

Carbon reduction measures

Fundamental to becoming a carbon neutral borough is reducing our carbon emissions. The actions required to reduce carbon emissions across the borough has been broken down into 4 sections –

- Transport
- Energy and the Built Environment
- Consumption
- Waste and Water

We also then consider, as a fifth action area, the options for offsetting for those residual, remaining carbon emissions.

The sixth area of action is focused upon having a Council that is prepared and resilient for the effects of climate change.

The actions provided for within this plan have been assigned timescales for implementation. Whilst it is acknowledged that some of these will be subject to change, for example due to emerging technologies or pandemic restrictions, they illustrate how the Council is to prioritise and progress these actions during the coming 9 years, to the final position of a carbon neutral Borough in 2030.

The timescales have been broken down as:

- Short term = 2021 – 2023.
- Medium term = 2024 - 2027
- Long term = 2028 – 2030
- Ongoing / Annual – 9 year commitment, from 2021 – 2030

This action plan specifies those actions required across the borough, but also the actions that the Council is intending to take as an organisation and local employer. For ease, the actions that are borough wide are presented within the action tables in black, and those relating to the Council as an organisation and employer are provided in blue italic text.

In implementing those internal actions, marked in blue italics, we are seeking to act as a community leader, setting high standards to show the improvements that can be achieved, so we are able to help others around the borough in doing the same.

1. Transport

Key messages

To achieve carbon neutrality within the borough, the large majority of vehicles on the road will need to be zero emission by 2030. This in turn requires an infrastructure to enable this transition.

The burden on transition and infrastructure development can be reduced in part by encouraging a shift to public transport and active travel (walking and cycling). However, the rural nature of some areas of the borough may see the continuing reliance on private vehicles.

The pandemic has required new ways of working for many people, including for some the ability to work from home or undertake less work-related travel. This reduction in work related travel should be supported as part of this action plan and the wider green recovery.

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale or target date
Electric Vehicles			
Improved access to EV charging points across the borough	200 public electric vehicles (EV) charging points to be provided across the borough by 2030	Central Government, LCC, local businesses	Ongoing Annual
EV provision as part of developments within the borough	EV charging facilities to be required as part of developments within the borough, as per the SRBC EV charging point developer guidance		Ongoing Annual
<i>EV provision as part of SRBC developments</i>	<i>EV charging facilities to be provided as part of SRBC developments, as per the SRBC EV charging point developer guidance</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
<i>Decarbonisation of SRBC fleet</i>	<i>100% SRBC fleet to be electric vehicles by 2030 (subject to suitable technology)</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Redistribution of Council owned parking spaces	(With the exception of accessible parking spaces) prioritise electric vehicle and cycle parking on Council owned car parks spaces Post pandemic, this will be reviewed to consider car sharing prioritisation too.		Short term
<i>Introduction of EV lease scheme</i>	<i>Introduction of staff lease scheme for electric and low emission vehicles</i> <i>Longer term, consideration of an electric vehicle only staff lease scheme</i>		<i>Medium term</i> <i>Long term</i>
Promotion of EV funding opportunities	To promote opportunities throughout the borough as they become available	Schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual
Active Transport			
Encouraging active transport	Completion of the green links programme, to provide 8km cycling routes and 5km Walking routes around the Borough.		Short term March 2022 Ongoing

	Use of planning process to ensure developments provide for active transport		Annual
	Consider provision of adult Bikeability refresher training		Ongoing Annual
Delivery of central Lancashire strategy to promote active transport	Use of planning process to ensure developments provide for access to public transport	LCC	Ongoing Annual
Improved access to secure cycle storage facilities	A minimum of 35 public secure cycle storage facilities to be provided across the borough by 2027	Local businesses	Medium term
<i>Further promote cycling incentives</i>	<i>Including the cycle to work scheme and cycle mileage, as appropriate</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Encouraging behavioural change			
Provision of a communication platform to facilitate car sharing	Post pandemic, research potential platforms for use across the borough, with a view to promoting car sharing in the future	Local businesses, residents	Short term (subject to pandemic restrictions and advice)
<i>Investment in communications technology to allow remote staff working</i>	<i>Assessment of equipment, infrastructure and training required to enable remote staff working as appropriate.</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
<i>Produce a business travel plan</i>	<i>Undertake a corporate travel audit to establish a baseline, review current travel and options for further reductions</i>		<i>Short term</i>
<i>Offer personalised travel plans for staff and elected members</i>	<i>Encouraging staff and elected members to make more journeys using active transport, public transport or in shared car journeys.</i>		<i>Short term</i>
Encourage use of business travel plans	Encourage businesses within the borough to make use of travel plans for their operations and staff. To facilitate this through the planning process; provision of guidance documentation/templates; and advertising	Local businesses	Short term
<i>Consideration of corporate mileage rates</i>	<i>Consideration of incentivised mileage rates for electric vehicles and low emissions vehicles</i>		<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Consideration of removing mileage rates for carbon based fuel vehicles</i>		<i>Long term</i>
Information and awareness raising	To facilitate use of public transport, car sharing, schemes, active transport and electric vehicles	LCC, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Short term
Working for national change			
<i>Lobby national Government</i>	<i>To provide fiscal incentives for the uptake of electric vehicles, provision of an</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>

	<i>adequate infrastructure and use of active transport. To provide a level playing field for the provision and use of public transport across the country</i>		
Respond to transport related consultations	<i>To facilitate / promote delivery of above actions at earliest opportunity</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>

In addition to the above actions, the Council has already committed to a large number of other transport related improvements across the Borough as part of its Air Quality Action Plan. For ease, these are provided as Appendix 1 to provide a full account of all proposed transport related actions.

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2. Energy and the Built Environment

Key messages

Energy production across the borough needs to be decarbonised on a large scale. To achieve carbon neutrality across the borough, emissions from buildings will need to be close to zero.

To achieve this, there will need to be a large-scale retrofitting programme for the existing housing stock (for example, to replace thousands of traditional gas boilers), improved energy efficiency of the structure of the building and enhanced reliance on renewable energy sources. Likewise, new buildings need to be built to a higher standard with energy efficiency and alternative renewable power given a priority.

A barrier to this change is likely to be the cost – there may need to be policy change at a national level to make such improvements financially viable for householders and businesses. There would also need to be a sufficient supply of competent installers to meet householder demand.

This borough wide change to the vast majority of domestic housing, including some properties granted but not yet built, is considered to be the largest single area of work required within this action plan. Without this, the carbon neutral target of 2030 may not be possible. It is this area of improvement that will require significant focus, investment and co-operation of the borough's residents during the coming decade if we are to meet our 2030 goal. The financial costs of retro-fitting housing is not to be underestimated, and we shall be lobbying national government to make this an affordable option for all.

At the same time, works are needed to reduce energy demand, through behavioural change.

The Council's own estate of buildings will need investment to 2030 in order for them to operate as carbon neutral. To this end we have started to undertake energy audits of the estate to prioritise those using the most energy and plan for the improvements required to the estate in the coming years.

For other buildings within the borough, we will be lobbying central Government to provide affordable retrofitting options for householders to allow them, at an affordable cost, to improve the carbon efficiency of their home.

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Improvements to Buildings			
Make best use of the planning processes to ensure all new housing stock is sustainable in design and affordable to heat	Including encouragement of renewable energy generation	LCC, developers	Ongoing Annual
Work with private landlords and housing associations to encourage best practice	Showcase high quality developments and best practice	Private landlords, local housing associations	Short term
	Enforce housing legislation to ensure statutory compliance		Short term
	Create a voluntary code of practice		Short term

Enforce private rented Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations	Work with landlords to secure compliance		Ongoing Annual
Investigate domestic retrofitting options	To understand emerging technologies, and those options most efficient and effective for the borough		Short term
Retrofit a domestic property	SRBC to organise, to use as a flagship of best practice for the borough	Schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Medium term
<i>The Council will seek to lead by example in its use of decarbonised energy</i>	<i>Production of decarbonisation plans for the Council estate</i> <i>Implement findings of decarbonisation plans across the Council estate</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
<i>Use LED lighting across the Council estate</i>			<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Work with colleges and businesses to provide training opportunities	To ensure the provision of training to meet local demand for installation of new technologies and retrofitting for existing housing stock	Schools and colleges, apprenticeship providers	Short term
Seek funding opportunities for low carbon heating	To expediate the implementation of energy and building related actions, for example via public sector decarbonisation schemes		Ongoing Annual
Energy Improvements			
Investigate potential for district heat networks	Produce an options paper, report to elected members.	LCC	Short term
Formation of a renewable energy co-op	Working with residents to form a co-op for the local production of renewable energy	Local businesses, voluntary sector, residents	Short term
<i>All electricity will be purchased via green tariffs</i>	<i>Rolling programme as present Council tariffs expire</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Investigate actions needed to improve capacity to store low carbon energy on Council owned land	Produce an options paper, report to elected members	LCC, local businesses	Medium term
Examine the possibility of large-scale solar projects within the borough	Produce an options paper, report to elected members	LCC Renewable energy Co-op	Short term
<i>Make use of emerging technology to continually</i>	<i>Continue to investigate opportunities for low carbon funding</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>

<i>improve how we act as an organisation</i>	<i>Ensure SRBC developments make use of low carbon technologies and set an example of good practice for other development within the Borough</i>		
Annual reporting of the Council's GHG emissions	<i>Reporting of emissions arising from Council activities and improvements</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Assist small businesses in conducting their own energy audits	Provide tailored information and advice to enable small businesses to assess their carbon footprint, produce decarbonisation plans and reduce energy demands	Local businesses	Short term
Learning from best practice	Learning from best practices in Councils such as Bristol, Coventry and Cornwall where successful progress has been made	Local Authorities	Ongoing Annual
Encouraging behavioural change			
Raise public awareness of smoke control legislation	Raise awareness of, and enforce, smoke control legislation to reduce the illegal burning of wood and solid fuels		Short term
Promote national Government low carbon incentives within the borough	Provide information on emerging technologies and funding methods for residents and businesses		Ongoing Annual
Information and awareness raising	To reduce consumer energy demand, and improved energy efficiency of buildings	LCC, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual
Working for national change			
Lobby national Government to ensure low carbon energy is available and affordable for everyone	Lobby government to provide affordable net-zero measures that are accessible to all Lobby government to raise the minimum standards for all new build projects via the planning process and building regulations		Ongoing Annual
Respond to energy and built environment related consultations	<i>To facilitate / promote delivery of above actions at earliest opportunity</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>

3. Consumption

Key messages

In order to reduce consumption, it will be necessary to raise awareness amongst residents and businesses as to the energy required to produce and transport the goods or utilities in question. This in turn can lead of behavioural change and a reduction in consumption. Small changes, by many users across the borough, has the potential to bring large savings in consumption related energy.

In this regard the Council, as an employer and large energy user, should seek to set examples of best practice and encourage the same across the borough.

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Reducing consumption			
<i>As an organisation we will seek to reduce our purchase and use of high energy commodities, for example single use plastics and meat based products.</i>	<i>Annual review of single use plastics strategy. Council has committed to eliminate the use of single use plastics by 2025</i>		<i>Annual Ongoing Medium term</i>
Provide free public access water fountains	Post pandemic implement 50 fountains pledge, providing free public access water fountains across the Bborough	Schools and colleges, local businesses	Medium term, or earlier as safe to do so
<i>We will move to a more plant based menu for functions and meetings, and to purchase products made within the UK in order to reduce transport miles.</i>	<i>As a Council we seek to set an example as to how to offer healthy, more plant based menu items whilst supporting local food businesses and reducing food miles</i>		<i>Annual Ongoing</i>
We will also work with partners, businesses and residents to encourage responsible consumption and share best practice.	Campaigns and events to support buying local, buying seasonal	Schools and colleges, local businesses, voluntary sector, residents	Short term
Work with schools, colleges and partners to encourage more low carbon cooking and	Both by schools/colleges and outside these environments by the students and staff	LCC, school meal providers, schools and colleges	Short term

meals, and reduce food waste			
Review Council procurement procedures	<i>To ensure environmental implications are adequately considered and weighted for all procurement activities</i>		<i>Short term</i>
Review of Council's use of insecticides and herbicides	<i>To consider environmental implications</i>		<i>Short term</i>
Work to improve the carbon emissions of Council events	<i>Provision of environmental assessments for all large Council organised events by 2027</i>		<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Council organised events to be carbon neutral by 2030</i>		<i>Long term</i>
Reduce consumption of paper and cardboard across all Council activities	<i>This will include a paper audit during 2022, to inform and influence change</i>		<i>Short term</i>
	<i>We will reduce paper and cardboard consumption by 10% each year to 2024,</i>		<i>Short term</i>
	<i>We will reduce paper and cardboard consumption by a further 5% each year to 2027</i>		<i>Medium term</i>
Reduce consumption by use of repair groups	Facilitate local repair café/ groups to encourage repair instead of replacement	Local businesses, voluntary sector	Short term
Use of street trading consents to prevent use of single use plastics	Post pandemic, revision of Council street trading consent conditions to reduce use of single use plastics	Local businesses	Medium term, or earlier as safe to do so
Work to reduce packaging of goods	Work with local manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and retailers to reduce packaging of goods, enabling consumer choice and reducing purchase of unnecessary packaging.	Local businesses	Short term
Investigate potential reduction in consumption within the agricultural improvements	Investigate potential savings and improvements across the agricultural sector, and how the Council can support the agricultural sector	NFU, agricultural sector	Short term
Learning from best practice	Learning from best practices in Councils and organisations where successful progress has been made	Local Authorities, school and colleges, businesses	Ongoing Annual
Repair and re-use			

Reduce consumption by use of repair groups	Facilitate local repair café/ groups to encourage repair instead of replacement	Local businesses, voluntary sector	Short term
Facilitate a cycle repair facility	Facilitate local facilities to encourage repair instead of replacement	Local businesses, residents Inc SRBC	Short term
Working for national change			
<i>Respond to consultations</i>	<i>To facilitate / promote delivery of above actions at earliest opportunity</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>

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4.Waste and Water

Key messages

Much work has already been done locally and nationally to reduce domestic waste going to landfill, and improve recycling.

However, waste production across the borough can be further reduced in the following ways:

- Reducing the amount of waste produced
- Re-using materials / waste where possible
- Recycling waste in order to minimise the volume being sent to landfill

This may require further behavioural change as improvements are made to the services available.

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Reducing waste			
We will work with partners, businesses and residents to reduce the amount of waste produced, promote reuse and recycling of waste and examine means of using waste as an energy source.	Investigate use of waste as an energy source	LCC, contract service providers, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual
	Investigate recycling options for harder to recycle materials		Ongoing Annual
	Implement collection of hard to recycle items within Council occupied properties		Medium term
	Implement collection of hard to recycle items across the borough		Long term
	Investigate new technologies available to improve our recycling service		Long term
	Work with partners to make best use of technologies and maximise recycling opportunities		Ongoing Annual
	Investigate the introduction of a business recycling collection scheme		Short term
Investigate use of rainwater harvesting	<i>Investigate the use of rainwater harvesting systems in council estate.</i>	United Utilities, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	<i>Short term</i>
	Promote safe use of systems with businesses, residents and schools		Short term
As an organisation we will strive to lead by example, reporting our consumption and all those measures we are taking to improve our performance.	<i>Water & waste monitoring – benchmarking, reporting and improving</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
	<i>Learn from best practice and promote this to local businesses and residents</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
	<i>By 2027 the Council will not send any of its own waste to landfill</i>		<i>Medium term</i>

As a borough, we will aim to send zero waste to landfill by 2030		LCC, Service providers, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Long term
<i>The Council has already committed to eliminating the use of Single Use Plastics by 2025.</i>	<i>Delivery of the SUP strategy including an annual review of our activities</i>		<i>Medium term</i>
Investigate those improvements than can be made to our recycling service	Including the goods we are able to recycle and those we are able to offer the services to.	Service providers, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual
Make best use of new technology to continually improve waste collection and recycling services	Making services accessible to all	LCC, Service providers, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual
Work with schools and colleges to promote sustainable use of water and elimination of waste		LCC, schools and colleges	Short term
Investigate potential agricultural improvements	Investigate potential savings and improvements across the agricultural sector, and how the Council can support improvements	NFU, agricultural sector	Short term
Encouraging behavioural change			
Work with United Utilities, partners, businesses and residents to promote the responsible use of water throughout the borough.	Promote responsible use of water amongst businesses and residents. Promote use of water saving devices such as tap inserts, water efficient showerheads and dual flush converters to reduce water demand Encourage the use of grey water storage for developments within the Borough	United Utilities, schools and colleges, local businesses, residents	Ongoing Annual Short term Short term
Promote local repair and re-use activities	Promote local repair groups Promote local donation points for the re-use of goods	Local businesses, voluntary sector, residents	Short term Short term
Work with residents to improve the percentage of waste recycled		Residents	Ongoing Annual
Working for national change			

Learning from best practice	Learning from best practices in Councils where successful progress has been made	Local Authorities	Ongoing Annual
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Off-setting

The Council is keen to prioritise carbon reduction over off-setting, however acknowledging that off-setting has a role to play. Whilst we do not presently use the actions below to formally calculate carbon offsetting, the measures below do provide offsetting functions as well as wider ecological benefits for the Borough

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Tree planning programme	One tree for every resident, planting of 110,000 trees including 1 tree per primary school child as part of Queens Green Canopy platinum jubilee celebrations	LCC, schools and colleges, local businesses, voluntary sector, residents	Medium term
	Continue to work with schools on additional tree planting		Short term
<i>Protect and enhance existing Council woodlands</i>	<i>To promote biodiversity across the Borough</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
<i>Protect and enhance existing Council wild meadows</i>	<i>To promote biodiversity across the Borough</i>		<i>Ongoing Annual</i>
Investigate peat conservation opportunities	Investigate potential local actions for improvements and conservation to peatlands	Lancashire Peat Partnership, Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, voluntary sector	Short term
Ecological assessments for developments within the borough	Through the planning process, provision of ecological assessments for proposed developments	LCC	Ongoing Annual
<i>Promote development of bee friendly habitats</i>	<i>Investigate how Council estate can be used safely to facilitate bee keeping</i>		<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Utilisation of council assets for bee keeping as identified</i>		<i>Medium term</i>
Investigate additional carbon capture technologies	Investigate those options suitable for the borough	Local businesses, agricultural sector	Short term
	Seeking funding opportunities for implementation of identified carbon capture technologies, including emerging markets for CO ₂ use		Medium term
Promotion of re-wilding	Encouraging re-wilding of areas of gardens and land across the Borough to provide food, shelter and corridors for wildlife	Schools and colleges, local businesses, voluntary sector, residents	Short term
Investigate additional potential offsetting measures	Investigate potential local actions for improvements and conservation	LCC, schools and colleges, local businesses,	Short term

		voluntary sector, residents	
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Methods of delivery

Commitment	Action	Timescale
Develop a climate emergency staff forum	Training elected members and staff in climate emergency issues, to increase engagement and awareness	Short term
	Formation of a staff forum	Short term
Develop a climate emergency citizen assembly for the borough	Provide a forum for inclusion of residents, to support community initiatives, share best practice and further engage local communities	Short term
Make best use of emerging technology	In all areas ensure we are making best use of new technology, where possible seeking external funding opportunities and engaging in pilot schemes.	Annual Ongoing
Engage with schools and colleges	Provide a forum via the schools for the involvement of young people throughout the borough	Short term
Make a greater difference by working in partnership with others	Participate in a cross Lancashire Local Authority group to share best practice, and improve funding opportunities	Short term
Communicate our work internally and within our community	Use of Council website, social media, parish councils, community Hubs, voluntary sector	Short term
Strive for continuous improvement and learn from best practice	Continue to explore a wide range of technologies and effective outcomes	Annual Ongoing
Climate emergency impact to be considered as part of all Council reports	In all areas, the climate emergency impact of Council decisions requires full consideration.	Short term
Staff volunteering programmes	Facilitate staff volunteering for community related activities that support the Climate Emergency agenda and action plan.	Short term

Resilience

Climate change is not only a challenge of the future. We are already observing changes in the UK climate, with average temperatures having risen by around 1°C over the last century. We are seeing a trend towards warmer winters and hotter summers, sea levels around our coast are rising by around 3mm a year and there is emerging evidence of changing rainfall patterns [2].

In 2017 the Government published the UK climate change risk assessment [2]. The report identifies six priority risk areas

- flooding and coastal change
- to health and well-being from high temperatures
- water shortages
- to natural capital (including freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity)
- to food production and trade
- from pests and diseases and invasive non-native species

This national risk assessment is due to be revised in 2022.

Further information about our resilience works can be found within the Council's Climate Emergency strategy, which can be accessed at [Climate Change Emergency - South Ribble Borough Council](#)

Figure 1. The Adaptation Sub-Committee’s assessment of the top six areas of inter-related climate change risks for the UK [3]



In acknowledging the effects of climate change, and the likely future effects, we must plan for actions to prepare the borough for the effects of these changes and put in place actions to mitigate their effects.

Our resilience actions will include:

Infectious Diseases

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Tackling infectious disease	Continue to investigate cases and outbreaks of food and water related infectious diseases	National Government, Food Standards Agency, Public Health England, United Utilities, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)	Annual Ongoing
Responding to emerging pathogens	Continue to work with partners to identify and respond to emerging cases and outbreaks of infectious diseases	National Government, Food Standards Agency, Public Health England, CIEH	Annual Ongoing

Food safety

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
SRBC Sustainable food procurement	Reduce volume of meat used and ordered, purchase more local and seasonal food to reduce food miles	National Government, Food Standards Agency, DEFRA, trading standards service, Local Government Association, PHE, CIEH	Annual Ongoing
Continuing to meet the Councils	Continue to ensure that food manufactured, stored, distributed,	National Government, Food Standards Agency,	Annual Ongoing

statutory food safety commitments	prepared and sold within the Bborough is safe for human consumption.	DEFRA, trading standards service, Local Government Association, PHE, CIEH	
Continuing to inform consumer choices	Maintenance of the national food hygiene rating scheme	Food Standards Agency	Annual Ongoing
Continuing to participate in the national food safety sampling programme	Working with partners to target the annual sampling programme to focus attention on foods of high risk, emerging risks and new / novel foodstuffs, imported foods	National Government, Food Standards Agency, DEFRA, trading standards service, Local Government Association, PHE, CIEH	Annual Ongoing
Working with partners to promote best practice and ensure consistency	Sharing best practice, avoiding duplication of work, providing shared training opportunities	The food safety technical group, forming part of Environmental health Lancashire	Annual Ongoing

Planning and Flooding

Commitment	Action	Partners	Timescale
Consider climate emergency in all planning developments	Assess likely impact of climate change and impact upon proposed development to ensure the development can withstand changes and does not exacerbate the problem	National Government, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council	Annual Ongoing
Embed climate resilience within planning process	Continued collaboration with Lancashire County Council and the Environment Agency Ensure flood defences, excess heat are considered as part of planning applications.	National Government, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council	Annual Ongoing
Encourage re-gardening	Encourage change from hard, impervious surface such as concrete to gardens and ponds to improve biodiversity and reduce water run off	Residents forum, community hubs	Short term
Reduce soil erosion along rivers	Work with landowners and farming community to encourage planting and green banking protection measures	National Government, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council, local landowners, community hubs	Short term
Continue to provide a timely and robust response to local flooding events	Continue to provide support to residents and local businesses following local flooding events	National Government, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council	Annual Ongoing

Performance – how we demonstrate success

On a regular basis the Climate Emergency strategy and action plan will be revised to update elected members and local communities on the progress that has been made in the preceding period. The strategy and plan will also be revised periodically to take account to emerging technologies, funding streams and best practice to allow our actions to evolve in a targeted and effective manner.

These updates, where possible, will include carbon savings and additional impacts.

The Council will calculate and report greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Resources

The Council has a designated climate emergency budget of £250,000 to date, of which approximately £200,000 remains.

Additional substantial funding will be required to achieve this action plan over the coming years. This will be requested as required.

References

1 The Met Office. <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/climate-change/what-is-climate-change>, (accessed 27th April 2020)

2 Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) (accessed 26th February 2021)

3 Committee on Climate Change (2016) UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Synthesis Report, www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/synthesis-report/ (accessed 26th February 2021)

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Glossary

BEIS – The department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Biodiversity – The variety of animal and plant life on Earth

Carbon budget – the amount of carbon dioxide that can be emitted to be in line with keeping temperatures well below 2°C and pursue a 1.5°C limit to rising temperatures

Carbon dioxide – a key greenhouse gas with a long life-time in the atmosphere.

Carbon neutral – having no net release of carbon dioxide into the environment. Carbon Neutral may be used as short hand for Net Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions, taking into account our direct emissions in the city from energy use and transport but also our total indirect emissions which includes aviation and the consumption of goods and service produced elsewhere.

CO₂e - this stands for carbon dioxide equivalent. This allows the comparison and inclusion of other GHGs (e.g. nitrous oxide and methane) as well as carbon dioxide. It represents the corresponding amount of carbon dioxide that would be required to produce the same level of warming as other GHGs.

Carbon offsetting – practices to neutralise remaining emissions that cannot be removed entirely

CIEH – Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Decarbonisation - Reducing the carbon emissions from an energy system.

DEFRA - Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Direct Emissions - Direct emissions refers to Scope 1 and 2 emissions in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Protocol and include the Council's use of gas, electricity, transport fuel and water.

EA – Environment Agency

FSA – Food Standards Agency

GHG – Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, which absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄), and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Moreover, there are a number of entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine- and bromine containing substances, dealt with under the Montreal Protocol. Besides CO₂, N₂O, and CH₄, the Kyoto Protocol deals with the greenhouse gases sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and perfluorocarbons (PFCs). (IPPC)

Greenhouse effect - Greenhouse gases effectively absorb thermal infrared radiation, emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself due to the same gases, and by clouds. atmospheric radiation is emitted to all sides, including downward to the Earth's surface. Thus, greenhouse gases trap heat within the surface-troposphere system. This is called the greenhouse effect. (IPPC)

Global warming – an increase in combined surface, air and sea temperatures averaged over the globe and over a 30-year period (IPPC)

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations body for assessing the science relating to climate change

Kyoto Protocol – this commits industrialised countries to limit and reduce GHG emissions based upon the 1990 levels. (United Nations)

LCC – Lancashire County Council

NOx – term for the nitrogen oxides that are most relevant for air pollution, namely nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide. NOx gases react to form smog and acid rain as well as being central to the formation of fine particles (PM) and ground level ozone, both of which are associated with adverse health effects.

Offsetting - Carbon offsetting refers to the purchase of a tradeable unit, representing emissions rights or emissions reductions, to balance the climate impact of an organisation, activity or individual. Although they can be stored

PHE – Public Health England

PM – particulate matter. Particulate matter is formed in the atmosphere because of chemical reactions between pollutants. These particles include dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. Particulate matter is in the air pollution emitted from vehicles, factories, and burning of fossil fuels

Scope 1 emissions– direct GHG emissions – these occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the company, for example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles, etc.; emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment (Greenhouse Gas Protocol.org). They are mainly energy related.

Scope 2 emissions– Electricity indirect GHG emissions – this accounts for GHG emissions from the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the company. Purchased electricity is defined as electricity that is purchased or otherwise brought into the organisational boundary of the company. Scope 2 emissions physically occur at the facility where electricity is generated. (Greenhouse Gas Protocol.org).

Scope 3 emissions – all other greenhouse gas emissions that occur as a result of activities taking place within wider operations, supply chains, investments, etc.

Sequestration - the uptake of carbon-containing substances, in particular carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Solare PV – Solar Photovoltaic

SRBC – South Ribble Borough Council

Sustainability – meeting the needs of current generations, without compromising future generations or the environment

Vector - Vectors are mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas that spread diseases. A person who gets bitten by a vector and gets sick has a vector-borne disease.

WHO – World Health Organisation

Appendix 1 – Summary of actions from the Air Quality Action Plan 2018

Identified Actions and Lead Authority

Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
To publicise and encourage the use of the Lancashire based Air Quality Guidance Document for Developers.	Planning – policy / development control	SRBC – Environmental Health / Planning
To include the above air quality guidance document within the revised Central Lancashire Core Strategy	Planning - policy	SRBC - Planning
To develop and embed a low emission strategy into planning decisions	Planning – policy / development control	SRBC – Planning / Environmental Health
To require a suitable air quality assessment in line with a published Air Quality Guidance Document for Developers for all planning applications as identified within the document	Planning – development control	SRBC – Planning / Environmental Health
Develop an ‘Electric Vehicle Charging Points Guidance for Development’ guidance document and have this included within the revised Central Lancashire Core Strategy	Planning - policy	SRBC – Environmental Health
Ensure adequate Electrical Vehicle charging infrastructure is provided on all Planning Applications in line with the Council’s Electric Vehicle Charging Points Guidance for Developments	Planning – development control	SRBC - Planning
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
Require suitable travel plans to be produced, and implemented on all relevant developments in line with the low emissions strategy	Planning – development control	SRBC - Planning

Require secure cycle storage to be included on all relevant domestic, commercial, industrial, and leisure developments	Planning – development control	SRBC - Planning
Require adequate changing facilities to be provided for use of staff / visitors for all relevant commercial and industrial developments	Planning – development control	SRBC - Planning
Promotion of living walls / green roofs	Planning	SRBC – Planning / Environmental Health
Investigate ways to limit the use of solid fuel heating in developments	Planning	SRBC – Planning / Environmental Health
Improved Planning enforcement	Planning	SRBC – Planning / Environmental Health
Securing four major road developments identified within the Lancashire County Council ‘Central Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan’	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council – City Deal / Highways
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
To review all traffic light sequencing to reduce the amount of standing traffic	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council – Highways, with input from SRBC – Environmental Health
To investigate the provision of a link road between Centurion Way and Tomlinson Road	Infrastructure	SRBC - Planning / Environmental Health
Consider road layouts within the AQMA’s to see whether	Infrastructure	SRBC – Environmental Health

improvements can be made to reduce congestion		Lancashire County Council – Highways
Look to improve signage to redirect HGV traffic away from areas of poor air quality	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council – Highways
Work with Highways England to improve signage to the motorways to advise HGV's to use Junction 29 instead of junction28	Infrastructure	Highways Agency SRBC – Environmental Health
Provide advice and contacts to businesses to help them chose low emission vehicles, & develop travel plans	Infrastructure	SRBC - Environmental Health Lancashire County Council – Highways
Improve the cycle infrastructure within the borough, especially along routes to schools and employment sites	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council – Highways
Maintain & Sweep cycle routes on a regular basis throughout the borough	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council – Highways SRBC - Neighbourhoods
Improve the electric vehicle infrastructure across the borough	Infrastructure	Lancashire County Council SRBC
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
Provide electric vehicle charging points on council owned car parks and buildings	Infrastructure	SRBC – Car parking
Offer free or reduced parting tariffs for electric vehicles	Infrastructure	SRBC – Car Parking
Anti-Idling Campaign in declared AQMA's and outside schools, colleges and leisure centres	Infrastructure	SRBC – Environmental Health Schools, Colleges
Encourage the greater use of public Transport	Buses & Taxis	SRBC -

Work with taxi firms to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles (Electric)	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Licensing / Environmental Health
Further reduce the age limit of taxis within the borough	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Licensing / Environmental Health
Stop taxis and buses idling within AQMA's and outside schools & Colleges	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Licensing / Environmental Health Lancashire County Council - Highways
To consider a reduced taxi license fee for electric vehicles	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Licensing / Environmental Health
To work with both bus and taxi companies to apply for any grant bids available	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Licensing / Environmental Health Public Health Lancashire
Implement an 'Electrify campaign – encouraging businesses to only use electric taxis	Buses & Taxis	SRBC – Environmental Health
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
Encouraging Car Sharing within the borough	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health Lancashire County Council Public Health Lancashire
Development and delivery of education programmes to schools	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health Schools, Colleges
Development of educational material for businesses	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health / Economic Development
Development and run a campaign to reduce school traffic e.g. walk/cycle to school	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health Schools, Colleges
Investigate the provision of personal travel plans for residents and employees within the borough	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health

Promote cycling within the borough, including cycle to work day, salary sacrifice scheme	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health / Sports Development
Promote walking within the borough, including promotion of walking routes, the Leyland Loop	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health / Community
Encourage ‘walk to school’ and the use of ‘walking buses’ across the borough for all schools	Travel Choice & Education	SRBC – Environmental Health / sports development Schools, Colleges
Encourage elected members to car share and use alternative forms of transport, in particular to council meetings and functions	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Leader, Leader of the opposition
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
Replace the mayoral car with an electric car	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Neighbourhood Services / Members
Provide education and information relating to air quality through members learning hours, leaflets and councillor connect	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Environmental Health
Air Quality shall be considered within the decision making process on every report to cabinet, council, portfolio holder decision etc	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Democratic Services / Environmental Health
Replace the civic centre pool car with an electric car	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Neighbourhoods
Systematically replace the depot vans with electric vehicles	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Neighbourhoods
Systematically replace grounds vehicles with electric vehicles as technology becomes available	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Neighbourhoods

The provision of electric vehicle charging points at council buildings, initially the civic centre and depot. These may be provided free of charge to enable the installation of cheaper charging points and encourage the uptake of electric vehicles	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Neighbourhoods / Property Services
Apply for the Workplace EVR point Government scheme	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Neighbourhoods
Action	Broad Topic Area	Lead Authority/Department
Sign up to the nhs fleet solutions salary sacrifice scheme' this allows staff to purchase via salary sacrifice a new car (to be restricted to electric vehicles only) including all insurance, tax, and servicing	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Human Resources / Environmental Health
Provide secure lockable cycle storage facilities at the civic and depot	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Neighbourhoods
Provide suitable changing rooms and storage facilities for use of staff	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Neighbourhoods / Property Services
Continue with the 'bike to work' salary sacrifice scheme	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Human Resources
Provide cycle reassurance training for any member of staff, elected members who wish to receive it	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Sports Development
Encourage staff to use alternative modes of travel e.g. cycling and walking	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Comms
Promote car sharing among staff	Internal to SRBC	SRBC - Comms
Alter the policy to allow essential users to leave their cars at home and walk/cycle to work on certain days in line with business requirements and manager agreement	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Extended leadership Team

without the risk of loss of the lump sum		
Develop an internal travel plan and offer individual travel planning guidance to staff and elected members	Internal to SRBC	SRBC – Environmental Health

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