

Report to	On
Cabinet	14 July 2021



Title	Portfolio Holder	Report of
Climate Emergency Strategy Review	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing)	Director of Communities

Is this report confidential?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members an update on the work undertaken on this hugely important issue and seek their approval to a revised Climate Emergency Strategy and updated Carbon footprint for the Council operations and the borough. .

Recommendations

2. That members note the work undertaken by the cross-party Climate Emergency Task Group.
3. That members note the current carbon footprint of both the Council and the borough.
4. That members approve and adopt the revised Climate Emergency Strategy.

Reasons for recommendations

5. In July 2019 the Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the Health and Wellbeing of our residents. To combat this threat the Council set a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030.
6. The effects of climate change are still identified national and internationally as one of the biggest threats to humankind and the wider environment. The issue has also grown in understanding, acceptance and importance over the last year in public, political and business worlds.
7. A cross-party Climate Emergency Task Group was formed to work with officers to achieve this goal. The Task Group have met regularly to move this agenda forward.

8. In July 2020 members approved and adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy. The Strategy, Appendix 1, provided background to the Climate Emergency issue, our current position in terms of the Council and the borough and identified categories of areas to concentrate on to achieve the overall goal of net-carbon neutral by 2030.
9. Members were also given a commitment by the Task Group that the strategy would be reviewed and revised each year, including an update on the current carbon footprint and work undertaken.

Other options considered and rejected

10. None a commitment was given by the Task Group and accepted by Full Council that the strategy would be reviewed, and an update given.

Executive summary

11. This report presents for members consideration and approval of a revised Climate Emergency Strategy. This Strategy provides an update on changes within the borough over the last year along with a revision of the stated goals, objectives and limitations of the group.
12. The Climate Emergency group made a commitment to review the Climate Emergency Strategy when it was first adopted, and this revision has been produced along with an updated carbon footprint calculation.
13. In producing the updated carbon footprint for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 it has been identified that the initial calculation undertaken for the Council operations by One Carbon World was incorrect. The methodology and figures produced by One Carbon World have only recently been made available and these have been corrected and raised with One Carbon World. They have acknowledged the error and agreed to release an updated report. The correction has significantly altered the Council's carbon footprint and thus the borough. The actual carbon footprint for 2018/19, which is nearly half that original presented, will be used moving forward. Additional information is presented within the Strategy.

Corporate outcomes

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

An exemplary council	X	Thriving communities	X
A fair local economy that works for everyone	X	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	X

Background to the report

15. 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.

- 16.** 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.
- 17.** 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.
- 18.** 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.
- 19.** To combat this threat, the Council 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.
- 20.** In order to implement this decision, a Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency was created. A scoping document has been presented to and agreed by members along with an interim action plan (Appendix 2).
- 21.** In July 2020 members approved and adopted a Climate Emergency Strategy. The strategy provided details and background to the Climate Emergency crises, sets the definition of the Council’s overall goal in relation to the Climate Emergency, presenting the calculated carbon footprint for both the Council operations and the borough. The strategy identified five categories on which any future actions would be aligned to assist with achieving the net carbon neutral goal.
- 22.** These categories were;

 - Transport
 - Energy and Built Environment
 - Waste and water
 - Consumption
 - Resilience – preparing for the consequences of climate change

23. The Task Group also committed to providing a yearly update to Full Council on the progress being made.

The Revised Strategy

24. It goes without saying that the last 12 months have been difficult due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and moving the overall Climate Emergency agenda forward has been hampered by some of the restrictions imposed on the population.
25. However, the Task Group have met regularly, and progress is being made. Details of the works undertaken are included within the attached revised Climate Emergency Strategy.
26. In producing the updated carbon footprint for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 it has been identified that the initial calculation undertaken by One Carbon World, to cover the Council's operations, was incorrect. The methodology and figures produced by One Carbon World have only recently been made available and these have been corrected and raised with One Carbon World. They have acknowledged the error and agreed to release an updated report.
27. The correction has significantly altered the Council's carbon footprint and thus the borough as a whole. The actual carbon footprint for 2018/19, which is nearly half that original presented, will be used moving forward. Additional information is presented within the Strategy.
28. The revised strategy is attached in Appendix 1 of this report.
29. There have been no fundamental changes to the previously achieved aims and objectives of the Strategy.

Update on Actions Undertaken

30. Following adoption of the Climate Emergency Strategy in July 2020, the Task Group have met on a monthly basis to progress the work towards the net-carbon neutral by 2030 goal.
31. It became obvious that the work needed to achieve the goal was vast, along with the sums involved and buy in from across the community, including employees, elected members, the public, and businesses was required.
32. An action plan covering the full ten-year period was required, identifying short, medium, and long-term objectives to reducing the carbon footprint. An Interim action plan was therefore devised and agreed by the Task Group to cover the first 12 months of the Strategy. The Interim action plan, Appendix 3, was agreed in January 2021, just before the Covid 19 Pandemic hit and restrictions were imposed.
33. The pandemic has significantly affected the ability to progress many of the identified interim actions, although substantial progress has been made. A full breakdown of the work undertaken against the Interim action plan is provided within Appendix 4.

- 34.** In addition, Officers have been able to secure external funding of £145,004 to provide carbon reduction measures to the Civic Centre. These works are to include;
- Additional solar panels to the roof,
 - Replacement of lighting throughout the civic centre to LED lighting,
 - A new building Management system, to allow accurate control and monitoring of heating, lighting and energy use,
 - Improved hot water provision aimed at reducing energy demand in the provision of hot water.
- 35.** Officers have also commissioned decarbonisation plans for the Council's largest six sites. These plans are to be presented to Full Council separately but will provide a road map on how to achieve carbon neutral states for the six buildings. To confirm the six buildings are;
- Civic Centre
 - Moss Side Depot
 - Leyland Leisure Centre
 - Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
 - Penwortham Leisure Centre
 - Bamber Bridge Tennis Centre
- 36.** One of the principal tasks over the last year has been to produce a robust Climate Emergency Action Plan so that the Council can progress towards a carbon neutral organisation and borough.
- 37.** This Action Plan is to be reported separately for adoption by the Council and involved a full and lengthy public consultation exercise involving the public, businesses, staff and elected members, along with colleagues from the County Council and across Lancashire.
- 38.** The Council's Corporate Strategy was also reviewed for 2020-2023 and identified as a key corporate project to "*Deliver a project to support the Green Agenda*". This project is reported to members regularly and the twelve projects within it are progressing.
- 39.** These include the planting of 27,000 trees towards the Council goal of 110,000, provision of additional footpaths and cycle paths, audits of the council's energy, waste and paper usage. Improving recycling rates across the borough and installation of electric vehicle charging points.
- 40.** Discussions are on-going with Energy4all, Lancashire County Council and Chorley Borough Council to develop a South Ribble and Chorley Community Energy Co-operative. The aim of which will be to seek funding and opportunities to develop a community owned renewable energy co-operative within the two boroughs to provide energy to the community and to feedback profits into the community.

Risk

41. Climate change is one of the biggest if not the biggest threat to human-kind (if action is not taken now). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified that we must prevent a 1.5⁰C rise in global temperatures to prevent a significant risk to risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.
42. The Council has made a commitment to achieving a net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, along with a commitment to review the Climate Emergency Strategy and provide an update on the Council's current carbon footprint. Failure to understand the current situation and the level of carbon emissions being generated by the Council and the borough will hamper any attempts to achieve this goal.
43. The revised strategy and associated greenhouse gas emissions report is therefore a key component to achieving this overarching goal and minimising the risk to both council and the borough as a whole from the impacts of climate change.

Equality and diversity

44. The revised strategy does not have any equality or diversity impacts associated with it. It is acknowledged that the wider work being undertaken on the climate emergency agenda may have impacts that need to be addressed as the work progresses.

Air quality implications

45. There are no direct impacts on air quality from this report, however the work undertaken by the Climate Emergency Task Group has a direct impact on air quality and there is significant cross over between the two areas of work

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

46. There are no direct finance impacts of this strategy but the implications of relevant schemes will be detailed in reports as appropriate.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

47. Part of the purpose of this report is to provide an update on actions taken on this vital issue. Part of the purpose of the report is to approve the revised Climate Emergency Strategy. It is correct that this report should be considered at Full Council. There are no legal concerns with the report.

Background documents

Climate Emergency Strategy 2020, July 2020
Interim Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2021, January 2021

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Revised Draft Climate Emergency Strategy, July 2021
Appendix 2 – Interim Action Plan, January 2021
Appendix 3 – Interim Action Plan update, July 2021

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