

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD ON 16th MARCH, 2020
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT –

Councillor A. R. Greaves (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*Jonathan Nixon
Yvonne Tennant
Tom Whipp
Shelia Wicks*

Co-optees

*Caroline Palmer Health and Social Care
John Turley Greenpeace
Jane Wood Friends of the Earth*

Officers in attendance:

*Dean Langton Chief Executive
Gill Dickson Principal Policy Officer
Jane Watson Head of Democratic Services*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K. Hartley).



21.

MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 10th February, 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22.

DRAFT CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The updated draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020/2025 was submitted for consideration. It was noted that the Plan was a working document and would continue to change. An update would be submitted to every meeting.

The Group discussed a number of issues listed in the Plan:

- Electric charging points; pool of electric cars for staff and electric refuse fleet - it was acknowledged that there was still work that was needed to be done to improve the infrastructure to allow for any of this to happen. With regards to the refuse fleet a new lease had recently been signed but an electric fleet would be considered in 7 years when the lease was renewed.
- Planning Regulations – again this was a national issue and until any changes were made some felt that the focus should really be on what could be done with the current policies. It was

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acknowledged that there was a lengthy process to go through to implement any changes. Reference was also made to the enforcement powers within the Building Regulations.

- Trees – it was felt that more emphasis should be made in the Plan on the promotion of tree planting and possible re-wilding projects within the Borough. It was reported that a separate strategy re: trees were being developed based on the 10 point plan from the Woodland Trust.

AGREED

- (1) That once the Climate Emergency Action Plan had been endorsed by the Council it be shared with the County Council with a view to a meeting being set up to see how both Councils could work together to support the delivery of the Action Plan.
- (2) That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss options within the Planning Regulations around the climate emergency agenda as well as advice to national guidance/rules that the Council could promote with the Government and LGA etc.
- (3) That more emphasis on the benefits of tree planting be included in the Action Plan and this be promoted more.
- (4) That United Utilities be approached with a view to planting re-wilding projects on some of their land and this also be considered for some Council owned land.

23. PENDLE CLIMATE EMERGENCY BUDGET

The Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined proposals for the allocation of the recently agreed Climate Emergency Budget for 2020/21.

An initial allocation £50,000 in the Capital Programme had been agreed to support Climate Change initiatives, along with £50,000 revenue grant allocation to support Community Climate Action Schemes and £30,000 (over two years) to support the Ribble River's Trust Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme.

The Group were asked how best they wanted to utilise the £100,000 resource to optimise delivery of the Plan. A number of suggestions were included in the report.

- £20,000 from the Capital Programme be allocated to a home energy programme; along with scope to provide £30,000 DFG as match funding (£50,000);
- £30,000 from the Capital Programme be allocated to support the expansion of the electric vehicle infrastructure in Pendle to enable the installation of electric vehicle charging points in a number of Council owned car parks;
- Other budgets had been made available for tree planting on both Council and privately owned land;
- £21,000 from the Revenue Support Grant be allocated to set up a Community Action – Small Grants Scheme. Grants up to £1,500 could be made available for community groups to plan and deliver carbon reduction activities;
- £20,000 from the Revenue Support Grant be allocated to the Pendle Schools Climate Movement – Small Grants Scheme. Grants up to £1,000 could be made available to groups of young people who wanted to take action independent of their school/college. Grants up to £2,000 could be made available to schools/colleges for school carbon reduction initiatives. It was suggested that

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funding be allocated on a first come first served basis to prevent unrealistic delivery expectations towards the end of 2020/21. The scheme would be reviewed in October, 2020.

- £5,000 from the Revenue Support Grant be allocated to an arts organisation in Pendle to facilitate creative engagement with young people on climate change;
- £4,000 from the Revenue Support Grant be allocated for a Schools Climate Summit to be held later in the year.

There was a discussion about criteria for the allocation of the grants referred to above and it was felt there was a role for the Group with regards to administering the requests. The Group were advised that the Council had limited resources to assist with the process.

AGREED

- (1) That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to endorse the allocation of the 2020/21 Climate Emergency Budget as set out above.
- (2) That a report be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee bi-annually on resource allocation.

24. ONE CARBON WORLD

The Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined the findings of the One Carbon World report. The most significant sources of Co2 emissions identified were fuel use, primarily natural gas, but also diesel and petrol use in the council's fleet. One Carbon World had made a couple of recommendations to address this and these were set out in the report but also included in the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The Group discussed the existing annual carbon reduction targets for the Council which were:

- 2% reduction in its building stock;
- 5% reduction in its fleet

During discussion it was felt that these targets were realistic and represented an effective energy management.

They were also asked to reflect on the long term goal of carbon neutrality for the Council by 2030 and to what extent this could be achieved through both carbon reduction and off-setting methods. Any new targets would need to be considered within the context of the Action Plan.

One Carbon World had been approached for their guidance on offsetting the Council's carbon emissions and they had recommended this could be addressed by planting trees.

AGREED

That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to agree that One Carbon World be requested to review the Council's annual carbon reduction targets in light of its emerging Climate Emergency Action Plan and ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

25. CO-OPTees

The Group discussed the issue of co-optees. At the December meeting it was resolved “that up to 4 co-optees be invited to attend the next meeting ...” Groups and Town and Parish Councils had been invited to put forward names for consideration. Eight names were put forward with a further two after the deadline.

The Chairman and Group Spokespersons from the Group considered the requests and made a decision to appoint representatives spread across organisations and parts of the Borough. They also decided to increase the number of co-optees to five.

AGREED

- (1) That Caroline Palmer, Jane Wood, Shazad Sarwar, John Turley and Sylvia Godfrey be appointed as co-optees onto the Climate Emergency Working Group for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
- (2) That Andrea Beswick from Trawden Forest Parish Council also be invited to join the Group as a co-optee for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

Chairman _____