

**REPORT OF:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**TO:** CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
**DATES:** 27 AUGUST 2020

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**PENDLE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To review the Climate Emergency Action Plan and budget programme in light of the impact of Covid-19 on communities.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) Consider the need to revise the 2020/21 PBC Climate Emergency budget programme.
- (2) Agree a revised Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020- 2022.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To ensure effective delivery of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

**Introduction**

1. At the last meeting in March, Members discussed and agreed the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the associated 2020/21 budget, both of which will support delivery of the Climate Emergency Declaration.
2. The subsequent Covid-19 situation has impacted on both the plan and budget proposals and Members are now requested to consider how we move forward with addressing climate change in the new norm.
3. The revised Climate Emergency Action Plan (Appendix 1) takes into account Covid-19 implications, with milestones and delivery mechanisms now amended to reflect this. It also takes into account the feedback from the last CEWG meeting, placing more emphasis on issues considered key such as tree planting and re-wilding.

4. Policy & Resource Committee are scheduled to receive a Climate Emergency Action Plan progress report in October 2020.

### **Climate Emergency Budget**

5. The total budget for Climate Emergency still remains at £130,000. Of this, £30,000 is to support tree planting over a 2 year period and has been allocated to the Lancashire Woodlands Connect initiative (facilitated by Ribble Rivers Trust) to support tree planting, particularly on private land.
6. The £50,000 2020/21 Capital Programme to support Climate Change initiatives remains unchanged:
  - £20,000 allocated as match funding against the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFGs) for a Pendle Home Energy Capital Programme. Initially, £30,000 DFG was to be used as match funding but this is now £20,000 given the DFG budget position. The Home Energy Capital Programme thus now totals £40,000.
  - £30,000 to support the expansion of Pendle's Electric Vehicle infrastructure by enabling installation of EV charging points in a number of PBC car parks.
7. The £50,000 allocated as revenue for a Climate Emergency community programme is more challenging as the new Covid-19 norm makes it difficult to deliver community and school based initiatives of this type. Likewise, capacity for programme delivery reduced over the lockdown period as resources were shifted to support the Covid-19 local response.
8. £21,000 had originally been allocated as a small grants scheme enabling community groups to plan and deliver carbon reduction activities in their neighbourhood. The maximum grant per project was £1,500. Applicants could include environmental groups, residents groups and Town and Parish Councils for projects such as community growing schemes, renewable initiatives, sustainable and active transport and waste campaigns.
9. A further £20,000 had been allocated to support the emerging Pendle Schools Climate Movement, enabling Pendle schools and the College to take collaborative local action. £9,000 had been allocated for creative engagement of young people, marked by another Pendle Schools Climate workshop at the end of the year to celebrate progress and plan further initiatives for 2021/22.
10. The lockdown over March- June has affected delivery of the Community Climate programme. The school closures, initial community isolation and social distancing have not been conducive for community events and activities.
11. The initial budget review was to be in October but given the changing circumstances, it would be more appropriate to move this forward, allowing us to consider alternative delivery mechanisms for a Covid-19 secure community programme, ideally with a view to commencing this revised programme from September.

## **Proposed revised Community Climate programme**

### *Pendle Schools Climate Movement (£20,000)*

12. All Pendle schools and Nelson & Colne College to be invited to apply for funding for climate change schemes on their premises. Operated on a first come, first serve basis, this funding will be promoted to all schools from September. It will be available for school specific initiatives rather than collaborative action between schools and could fund, for example, green screens in playgrounds, raised beds and signage for walk to school routes. The focus will be on physical rather than social assets with all initiatives Covid-19 assessed to ensure delivery and outcomes comply with latest guidance. It's suggested that the maximum per award is £2,500.

### *Community Grant Scheme (£25,000)*

Pendle's grassroot environmental groups will be encouraged to apply for a climate grant to help create climate friendly neighbourhoods. Similar to the schools grant scheme, the focus will be on enhancing spaces rather than social assets to ensure adherence to Covid-19 guidelines and could include, for example water bottle filling stations, community orchards and greening of alleyways.

13. Members are requested to consider including match-funding as a requirement for both the Schools and Community Grant Schemes to effectively utilise other potential funding streams and create synergy with other programmes.

### *Creative engagement (£5,000)*

14. Face to face engagement is more challenging in the current climate and we need to consider alternative, virtual means of involvement and engagement. The initial plans for face to face engagement with young people utilising creative tools such as videos and drama is not necessarily appropriate for the foreseeable future. It is suggested that the budget for creative engagement is thus reduced from £9,000 to £5,000 and, subject to Covid-19 developments, this supports a second Pendle Schools Climate summit to be held between Jan- Mar 2021.
15. Both the small grants schemes are about delivery. It's important that both the criteria and application process, although robust, are not overly bureaucratic, promote Covid-19 secure principles and have a quick turn-around to enable the projects time to deliver. It's suggested that the application assessment process is completed virtually by a panel of 4 CEWG Councillors, coordinated by the Principle Policy Officer. Assessments could be completed virtually within 2 weeks of receiving the applications, with applicants notified of the outcome the following week.
16. Although the aspiration is to launch the Community Climate programme in September in conjunction with schools reopening, it's likely this will be subject to the current Covid-19 situation which may impact on capacity to deliver this Grants programme. Hence a review of staff capacity will need to be undertaken in September and if necessary, a revised schedule then submitted for consideration at a future CEWG meeting.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** The Climate Emergency Budget will support delivery of PBC's Climate Emergency Declaration and associated action plan.

**Financial:** A 2020/21 budget of £100,000 has been allocated to support implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, along with £30,000 (over 2 years) to support tree planting through the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme

**Legal:** None arising directly from this report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from this report.

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from this report.

**Sustainability:** Addressing climate change and reducing Pendle's carbon footprint is fundamental for long term environmental sustainability.

**Community Safety:** None arising directly from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from this report.