



**REPORT OF:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**TO:** POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

**DATES:** 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

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## **CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN 6 MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Committee on progress on the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That progress be noted.
- (2) That the focus for the next six months be on the Strategic Objectives and actions referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the report.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To demonstrate commitment to the PBC Climate Emergency Declaration.

### **Introduction**

1. Pendle Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, instigating the Climate Emergency Working Group and associated Pendle Council Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020-2025. The Plan was approved by P&RC in March 2020.
2. The Climate Emergency Working Group monitors implementation and performance of the Action Plan with P&RC receiving 6 monthly update reports. This is the first update report to P&RC.

3. Members may recall the 2020/21 £100,000 budget approved to support the Climate Emergency Declaration, which the Climate Emergency Working Group has allocated as follows:

Capital (£50,000)

- £30,000 to support the Electric Vehicle infrastructure
- £20,000 for Home Energy Programme (match funded by £20,000 DFG)

Revenue (£50,000 Small Grants Scheme)

- £20,000 Climate Action Fund- Schools
- £25,000 Climate Action Fund- Communities
- £5,000 Creative engagement of young people

4. Additionally, PBC has committed £30,000 (over 2 years 2020-2022) to support the Lancashire Woodland Connect campaign to increase tree cover throughout Pendle and to help off-set carbon emissions locally.
5. The 7 priority themes of PBC's Climate Emergency Action Plan are:
  - **Support and enable sustainable travel**
  - **Reduce carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment**
  - **Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption**
  - **Support our communities to take action**
  - **Support our future generations to find solutions**
  - **Mainstream climate change**
  - **Support biodiversity and the natural environment to help local carbon off setting opportunities**
6. Each priority theme is supported by a number of Strategic Objectives. Although Covid-19 has restricted the extent to which these Strategic Objectives can be delivered (as Council resources are redirected to supporting the Covid-19 response), we are able to demonstrate progress, albeit limited, against the majority of the Strategic Objectives
7. The summary below focuses on the Strategic Objectives that have commenced delivery since April 2020.

Priority Theme	Strategic Objective	Progress Summary
<b>1.0 Support and enable sustainable travel</b>	1.1 Encourage sustainable travel amongst PBC staff	Cycling infrastructure improved on main PBC sites Developing a staff e-bike pool scheme Cyclescheme limit increased to £1,500 Active staff involvement in Cycle September campaign

	1.3 Enable and promote active travel such as cycling and walking	Cycling routes identified as part of the Nelson masterplan Signposting work underway
	1.4 Support and enable a green transport infrastructure	Cycling widely promoted as family activity in the absence of the high profile cycling events EV infrastructure underway
<b>2.0 Reduce carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment</b>	2.2 Encourage energy efficiency standards and improvements and reduce fuel poverty	Delivered through the CHiL (Cosy Homes in Lancashire) programme Potential for a Pendle renewable energy showcase housing development, subject to securing European funding.
	2.3 Implement compliance in existing core strategy policies for all new development proposals, unless it can be demonstrated that compliance with the policy is not viable or feasible	Existing planning policies have been reviewed and updated in Local Plan (Part 2), which is due to be considered by P&RC on 26 November 2020. It includes a new Policy ENV27 Towards Zero Net Carbon
<b>3.0 Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption</b>	3.1 Reduce Single Plastic Use in the council and in the community	Contamination campaign prepared for Nov to 'recycle it right'
	3.2 Embed environmental practices	Reduced paper consumption and increased use of IT amongst Members and officers
<b>4.0 Supporting our communities to take action</b>	4.1 Develop a media campaign to encourage community action on climate change	Recycling campaign, 'Together we Recycle' delivered
	4.3 Work with voluntary and community groups to enable collective action on climate change	Climate Action Small Grants Programme – Communities developed. As the launch coincided with national lockdown, this has now been deferred to the New Year
<b>5.0 Supporting our future generations to find solutions</b>	5.1 Work to ensure young people are engaged in solutions.	Climate Action Small Grants Programme- Schools developed. As the launch coincided with national lockdown, this has now been deferred to the New Year.

<b>6.0 Mainstreaming climate change</b>	6.1 Understand our own carbon footprint and review targets for carbon reduction	One Carbon World Carbon Footprint produced and reported to CEWG Carbon reduction target 2019/20 achieved for our building stock but not transport fleet
	6.2 Include climate emergency considerations in all key new Council policies and plans	Climate Change embedded in Strategic Plan 2020-23  Climate Emergency budget approved and agreed
<b>7.0 Support biodiversity and the natural environment to help carbon off-setting opportunities</b>	7.2 Improve opportunities for biodiversity and enhance and preserve the natural environment	Tree & Woodland Strategy and targets approved Tree planting plan 2020/21 approved Invested in the Lancashire Woodland Connect initiative to facilitate tree planting Town and Parish Councils invited to submit areas for planting.
	7.3 Invest in tree planting and woodland management	£30,000 allocated to the Woodland Connect Initiative over 2 years

8. The outstanding Strategic Objectives which we now need to focus on going forward are:

1.2 Reduce emissions from PBC's transport fleet  
2.1 Heat our buildings with low carbon and/or renewable heating and change behaviours towards energy consumption  
4.2 Identify PBC assets to support community action  
5.2 Work with local schools, Nelson and Colne College and other education bodies to increase understanding and involvement in climate change solutions  
7.1 Improve land and building management practices to better retain carbon

9. It is suggested that over the next 6 months, we focus on the associated actions of the above Strategic Objectives (albeit recognising the potential Covid-19 impact on delivery), and that P&RC receive a comprehensive annual update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan in April 2021.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** The Climate Emergency Action Plan will support delivery of the Strategic Plan and longer term, the PBC's Climate Emergency Declaration.

**Financial:** A 2020/21 budget of £100,000 has been allocated to support implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan. Additionally, £30,000 has been allocated to support tree planting through the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme over a 2 year period.

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

**Risk Management:** Covid-19 has impacted on capacity to deliver the Climate Emergency Action Plan across the Council and is likely to continue affecting delivery in the short term.

**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.