

REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATES: 15th JULY 2021

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CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline PBC's progress to date on the Climate Emergency Declaration and associated action plan.

To review the budget programme to enable effective delivery of the Climate Emergency Declaration in Pendle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That progress of the Climate Emergency Action Plan be noted.
- (2) That Members consider revising the Climate Emergency budget programme, as proposed in the report, to maximise opportunities for future progress.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To demonstrate commitment to delivering the PBC Climate Emergency Declaration.

Climate Emergency Action Plan

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 (CEWG) monitors implementation and performance of the Action Plan with P&RC receiving 6 monthly update reports.

3. The 7 priority themes of PBC's Climate Emergency Action Plan are:
- Support & 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 offsetting opportunities
4. PBC is working hard on actions to strengthen its green credentials. Over the last 6 months we've:
- Improved cycling infrastructure at both Nelson Town Hall and Fleet Street depot
 - Created and promoted new and existing cycling and walking routes
 - Considered opportunities to enhance the EV infrastructure across Pendle
 - Signed up to One Carbon World initiative to calculate, measure and work to reduce our emissions
 - Improved recycling information
 - Explored renewable energy initiatives
 - Achieved our 2020/21 tree planting targets.
5. A summary of progress to date on the Climate Emergency Action Plan is attached in Appendix 1.

Climate Emergency Budget Programme

6. To support implementation of the Climate Emergency Declaration, a budget of £100,000 was approved for 2020/21. In March 2020, CEWG suggested the Climate Emergency budget programme consists of:

£50,000 to support capital improvement works:

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

£50,000 Small Grants Scheme to support grassroots interventions in both community and school settings.

7. Unfortunately, the subsequent Covid-19 pandemic prevented further delivery of the budget programme with the limited staff resources redirected to support the Covid-19 community response. Additionally, the associated lockdowns and restrictions experienced over 2020/21 were deemed uncondusive for encouraging school and community activities. As such, there was limited progress with the budget programme and the £100,000 has now been carried forward into 2021/22.
8. Since the Climate Emergency Declaration, it is becoming more apparent that there is a need for increased capacity, as there is clearly a significant scale of work that needs to be progressed quickly, not only in addressing our own operations, but also within the wider community. At present, we are under resourced to effectively deliver the commitments in the Declaration. Co-ordination

of the Declaration currently falls within the remit of the Principle Policy Officer but there is limited capacity in this role to undertake the work extensively and to the level required to create and sustain positive change.

9. Pendle Council is currently part of the Lancashire Climate Emergency Officers group and there's an emerging realisation across districts that dedicated resources are required for climate change if we are to successfully deliver on our Climate Emergency commitments. A number of Councils are responding to this need (Hyndburn, Chorley, Preston and Lancaster) with some now appointing part-time dedicated Climate Change Officers.
10. Going forward, it is now suggested we review the Climate Emergency budget programme to potentially provide some much needed resource to galvanise action and establish a strong foundation for future delivery on climate change in Pendle. As such, it now seems a timely opportunity to re-consider the Climate Emergency budget and revise it accordingly. It is proposed that some of the budget is utilised to fund a time limited dedicated post to lead and co-ordinate our climate emergency response.

Proposed revised Climate Emergency budget programme

£50,000 to support capital improvement works:

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

Utilise up to £25,000 (including on-costs) for a 0.5 WTE Climate Emergency Delivery Officer to lead on Climate Emergency Declaration planning and implementation (see Appendix 2 for draft Job Description). Although current funding would limit this to a 12 month post, it will allow some much needed capacity to build the foundations for this work, including accessing other funding streams to support carbon reduction and implementation of the action plan. As with other Lancashire districts, it's proposed that we target environmental graduates, to draw on their specialist knowledge of the subject area and provide them with a gateway into employment.

Review of the post, and future Climate Emergency budget requirements, would be undertaken as part of budget planning cycle.

The remaining budget (£25,000 minimum) to be allocated as a Small Grants Scheme to support grassroots interventions in both community and school settings.

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. (It should be noted that additionally, £30,000 was allocated in 2020/21 to support tree planting through

the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme over a 2 year period. We are now in year 2 of this project)

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: Without dedicated resources for climate change, we are unlikely to meet our commitments outlined in our Climate Emergency Declaration.

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.

Appendix 1- Climate Emergency Action Plan progress

Priority Theme	Strategic Objective	Progress Summary
1.0 Support and enable sustainable travel	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
	1.2 Reduce emissions from PBC's transport fleet	Electric street cleansing vehicles demonstrated and benchmarked against diesel alternatives Discussion taking place with vehicle providers.
	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 options being considered to enhance infrastructure underway Funding bid submitted for funding to do a business case for a passing loop between Brierfield and Burnley to improve existing services.
2.0 Reduce carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment	2.2 Encourage energy efficiency standards and improvements and reduce fuel poverty	Working with Chil to secure funding from the Governments Green Energy fund which, if successful, will enable landlords to apply for grant funding to install renewable energy alternatives in their properties Harrison Drive scheme on site delivering 79 affordable homes. All properties include photovoltaic panels and ground source heat pumps
	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	Public consultation on Local Plan held 12 February-6 April. Comments on Policies ENV8-ENV17, which address Green Infrastructure, and Policy ENV27: Towards Zero Net Carbon are being considered by planning officers. Will report back to Member Working Group and Policy & Resources Committee and Council in late 2021.

3.0 Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption	3.2 Embed environmental practices	Reduced paper consumption and increased use of IT amongst Members and officers
6.0 Mainstreaming climate change	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 20/21 budget identified-budget programme to be revised
7.0 Support biodiversity and the natural environment to help carbon off-setting opportunities	7.1 Improve land and building management practices to better retain carbon	Moved to spot treatment rather than broadcast treatments to reduce the amount of herbicide used Exploring the use of deploying differential mowing techniques and re-wilding in suitable areas of our parks
	7.2 Improve opportunities for biodiversity and enhance and preserve the natural environment	Invested in the Lancashire Woodland Connect initiative to facilitate tree planting Annual tree planting targets exceeded New policies in Local Plan part 2 that strengthen our approach to landscaping and biodiversity within the planning system. Plan yet to be adopted
	7.3 Invest in tree planting and woodland management	£30,000 allocated to the Woodland Connect Initiative over 2 years

11. The outstanding Strategic Objectives which we now need to focus on going forward appear to be:

- 2.1 Heat our buildings with low carbon and/or renewable heating and change behaviours towards energy consumption
- 3.1 Reduce Single Plastic Use in the council and in the community
- 4.1 Develop a media campaign to encourage community action on climate change
- 4.2 Identify PBC assets to support community action
- 4.3 Work with voluntary and community groups to enable collective action on climate change
- 5.1 Work to ensure young people are engaged in solutions.
- 5.2 Work with local schools, Nelson and Colne College and other education bodies to increase understanding and involvement in climate change solutions

As outlined previously in the report, Covid-19 has prevented delivery of a number of actions, particularly the community based ones. Those objectives mainly affected are:

- 4.0 Supporting our communities to take action
- 5.0 Supporting our future generations to find solutions.

Should time limited dedicated resources be made available to support climate change agenda, it's suggested that re-engaging communities to galvanise and inspire grassroots action is a key priority.

Appendix 2

DRAFT Job role Climate Emergency Delivery Officer (2.5 days per week)

Job purpose:

To lead and coordinate action to support delivery of Pendle's Climate Emergency Declaration

To help design and implement solutions to the climate emergency, aligned to national policy and guidance.

To develop the Council's strategies, policies and actions for renewable and sustainable energy and fuel poverty to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and help to achieve the Council become carbon neutral by 2030.

To help deliver decarbonisation of the borough's homes, Council assets and organisations including businesses, schools and third sector.

To inspire and support communities to take action on climate change

Role:

Prepare business cases for climate change and sustainability schemes.

Provide high-quality advice and support to councillors and officers on climate change, and act as the representative of the council on climate change matters

Support the development of policies, strategies and workstreams to ensure the Council achieves its 2030 carbon neutral target.

Communicating effectively with stakeholders, residents, and council members on implementing a climate change action plan.

Provide advice and expertise to develop and implement climate change initiatives which the council can deliver

Keep up to date on best practice, developments, and trends in climate change.

Act as the lead on engagement programmes within Pendle on climate change, to deliver a range of activities to help support Pendle in reducing its carbon emissions and becoming carbon neutral by 2030

Plan, coordinate, monitor and report on the delivery of the Councils environmental agenda, monitoring performance and developing targets and action plans.

Attract additional funding for climate emergency schemes and initiatives.