

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 6th APRIL, 2022**

PRESENT –

Councillor S. Cockburn-Price (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

David Albin

Co-optees

Sylvia Godfrey

John Turley

Jane Wood

Officers in attendance:

Gill Dickson Principal Policy Officer

Aiden Stephenson Climate Emergency Officer

Jane Watson Head of Democratic Services

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Z. Ali and C. Lioni, Dr. Caroline Spencer-Palmer and David Penney).



14. DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided an outline of an engagement plan for the coming months, predominantly to gain ideas and insights for the upcoming revised Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Additional aims were to learn more about local public opinion on climate change and to assess the level of local support for community energy in its different forms. It was acknowledged that the youth were the main target audience for this engagement plan, as referenced as a theme in the current Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The report also provided options for broader and more long-term engagement.

There was a discussion around the Council's own carbon footprint and what measures were in place to address these. It was reported that an annual emissions report was produced and provided information on the targets which were mainly focused on buildings and fleet. The targets were relatively low and were worked out year on year.

Reference was made to a report which outlined the findings of a study undertaken by One Carbon World in March, 2020 and a question was asked about the recommendations they had made and what progress had been made with them. It was explained that the study focused on Co2 emissions for the Council's buildings and fleet. The targets were 2% reduction in the Council's building stock and 5% reduction in its fleet. One Carbon World had been asked to explain the methodology used to assess the Council's carbon emissions but these hadn't been received

The issue of offsetting these targets was also discussed and it was acknowledged that the targets should perhaps be reviewed. It was reported that an annual emissions report was submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee each year.

AGREED

- (1) That the implantation of the Communications and Engagement Plan be supported.
- (2) That a review of the targets to address the Council's Co2 emissions be undertaken and the Climate Emergency Action Plan be reviewed.

15. COMMUNITY RENEWABLES

The Chief Executive submitted a report to outline a shortlist of potential sites for community renewable energy schemes. This included:

- Earby Youth Hostel
- County Brook Mill, Foulridge
- Black Moss Reservoir
- Ogden Reservoir
- Roughlee Weir
- Higherford Mill

There were a number of issues associated with the first four sites but consideration could be given to Roughlee Weir and Higherford Mill and a comparison was provided appended to the report.

It was acknowledged with both of these sites that potential sources of funding would be required and further information on this was to follow.

The Group felt it was worthwhile looking into progressing with both Higherford Mill and Roughlee Weir proposals to see which would work the best but Higherford Mill was felt to be the first choice with the quickest return.

The Group also discussed the need to continue to consider solar power and reference was made to the Prospects Foundation in Hyndburn which was a wind farm that had been set up ten years ago on Oswaldtwistle Moor.

AGREED

- (1) That investigations be undertaken into the potential for a hydropower scheme at Higherford Mill and Roughlee Weir as detailed in the report.
- (2) That investigations be undertaken to establish a small scale solar power farm on Council owned land in the South Valley, Colne.
- (3) That consideration of public opinion on community energy, including its different participatory forms be incorporated into the Communications and Engagement Plan.

16.

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive submitted, for information, an update on progress with the Climate Action Fund grants.

It was suggested that additional information be provided in the next update advising on timelines for the projects and reasons why a grant was not approved. Also information on additional funding streams where applicants could be signposted to.

17.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

AGREED

To be confirmed.

Chairman _____