

ITEM 6

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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Engagement mechanisms for climate change in Pendle

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline proposal to widen engagement on climate change in Pendle.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the proposed engagement model for climate change is noted and approved

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To enable a climate change engagement platform for Pendle to facilitate ongoing discussion, networking and inspire community based action.

ISSUE

The purpose of the Climate Emergency Working Group is to develop and drive the PBC climate change action plan influencing and engaging partners and key stakeholders to commit to action.

As part of the wider engagement process for the action plan, and for the CEWG as a whole, CEWG Members have previously raised the issue of *how* we engage with public and partners on climate change to gain ideas and insights, learn more about public opinion, inspire action and share good practice.

In Pendle, it appears there isn't a public platform for climate change that's not affiliated to one particular group or environmental cause. An event back in 2019, pre-dating the Climate Emergency Working Group, proved hugely successful with over 50 individuals in attendance, indicating the enthusiasm and commitment to address climate change at a grassroots level. Similarly, the schools event held in 2018 was oversubscribed with over 100 school children from two thirds of Pendle primary schools attending a climate change school summit.

The CEWG was established as a Working Group of PBC Executive, to drive action on the key climate priorities. As a Working Group, it doesn't operate as a public forum.

CEWG community representatives do a sterling job raising awareness of the issues and lobbying PBC and government to take action on an extensive range of related topics and themes. But the challenge for the CEWG is to remain focused to increase its ability to deliver on climate priorities. Responding to all calls for action dilutes its effectiveness to deliver- with the limited resources available we need to ensure these are targeted at the areas that will make the biggest difference locally.

It's important that all the issues channeled by members to the CEWG are captured and those that support delivery of the priorities are addressed by the group. The themes and topics beyond the strategic priorities need a home- somewhere that enables dialogue and discussion and inspires grassroots responses - a public forum that enables climate conversations, inspires actions and shares good practice.

Lancashire Community Climate Action Network (LCCAN)

It is worth noting the recent developments across Lancashire to establish a community network for all those interested in climate change. Launched in mid-May at Edge Hill University, the event attracted over 70 groups across Lancashire (see Appendix 1 for event feedback). Along with numerous community and grassroots organisations and groups, it now involves all three Lancashire-based universities who are working together to support the Network's development and community organisations. The three universities link-up will also strengthen the Network's position when for example applying for funding, dealing with larger organisations, organising activities, providing expertise, finding research partners, etc.

It's aim is to provide a space for organisations to network, share good practice and lobby collectively on action, influencing decisions and being the community voice for Lancashire 2050, ensuring that climate appropriate responses remain integral to the Lancashire 2050 vision and actions.

Pendle was represented at the launch event on 17th May with 3 members of the CEWG in attendance. All recognised the value of such a forum in influencing decisions and inspiring action. There's a desire to remain involved in the Network and to promote it more widely in the community.

Proposal

It is proposed that Pendle aligns itself with the emerging Lancashire structures and establishes a public platform for climate conversations and action, a Pendle version of LCCAN. This will provide a space for Pendle groups and organisations to come together, network, share good practice and learning and inspire grassroots action. Those issues that will support delivery of Pendle's climate priorities can be cascaded to CEWG. Others that require a wider strategic response can be cascaded to LCCAN to influence the Lancashire 2050 strategy.

Although PBC could support the launch of such a forum, the forum would need to take ownership of any emerging platform, which, following the launch, could be virtual in nature ie a FaceBook page.

This way would ensure there is a platform for people to voice their concerns/ ideas for climate change and help inspire neighbourhood action. It enables issues to be discussed and community solutions identified whilst also cascading issues that require a strategic response to either/ and CEWG and LCCAN.

It is proposed that a Task Group consisting of CEWG members is set up to explore and develop this public forum, with a view to launching it in September, after the summer holiday.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: A public forum provides a community voice for climate change issues in Pendle and will support the engagement process in the development and delivery of the Pendle Climate Action Plan.

Financial: None arising directly from this report.

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: Having a mechanism for community engagement on climate is key for identifying long term solutions for Pendle.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Feedback from the Lancashire Community Climate Action Network

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A