

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2023**

*PRESENT –*

**Councillors**

*David Albin  
Zafar Ali  
Chris Church  
Sarah Cockburn-Price  
Mohammad Kaleem  
Yvonne Tennant*

**Co-optees**

*Sylvia Godfrey  
David Penney  
John Turley*

**Officers in attendance:**

<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Gill Dickson</i>	<i>Programme Manager</i>
<i>John Halton</i>	<i>Principal Planning Officer (Policy)</i>
<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Jessica Robinson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Whipp, Dr Caroline Spencer-Palmer and Jane Wood.)*



**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**AGREED**

That Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price be appointed Chair of the Working Group for the municipal year 2023/24.

**2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

**AGREED**

That Councillor Zafar Ali be appointed Vice-Chair of the Working Group for the municipal year 2023/24.

### **3. MINUTES**

Requests for updates on the following matters arising from the Minutes of the meetings of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 were made:

- Tree Planting Plan.
- Call for Sites Programme.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council Car Parks.
- Climate Change Staffing Resources.
- The Decarbonisation of Council Buildings.
- Exploring Pendle's Geothermal Energy Potential.

A request for a progress report on the Gibb Hill project and its management was also made.

With regards the Tree Planting Plan, Call for Sites Programme and the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council Car Parks, updates were not currently available but would be given at the next meeting of this Working Group.

With regards Climate Change Staffing Resources, a request had been made to the Council's Executive for the creation of a dedicated Climate Emergency Officer post but had been declined.

With regards the Decarbonisation of Council Buildings, Liberata's Property Services Team were undertaking various energy assessments and developing business cases to identify/ prioritise projects with a view to submitting an application to a future Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding round.

With regards Exploring Pendle's Geothermal Energy Potential, Professor Jon Gluyas' offer of having a resource evaluation of the Pendle area conducted by his own Students at Durham University had not been considered further, as yet.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That the Minutes of the meetings of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 be agreed as correct records and signed by the Chair.
- (2) That updates on the Tree Planting Plan, Call for Sites Programme and the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Council Car Parks be reported at the next meeting of this Working Group.
- (3) That Professor Jon Gluyas' offer of having a resource evaluation of the Pendle area conducted by his own Students at Durham University be considered at the next meeting, along with other potential Student support sourced by the Head of Economic Growth.
- (4) That a progress report on the Gibb Hill project and its management be provided to Group Members via e-mail.

### **4. PENDLE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Principal Planning Officer (Policy) shared his Climate Change and Planning Presentation and Briefing Note on screen whilst providing a verbal update. Some areas of discussion included:

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- The ways in which Pendle's Local Plan would seek to address the Climate Emergency which included:
  - Promoting energy efficiency;
  - Reducing carbon emissions;
  - Reducing flood risk and;
  - Protecting and enhancing Pendle's green infrastructure and the natural environment.
- The Strategic Objectives of the Local Plan which included:
  - Growth primarily taking place in the M65 Corridor where facilities and services were in their greatest number.
  - Promoting good design to enhance quality of life, improve health and well-being and provide a net gain for biodiversity.
- Part O of the Building Regulations which had set standards for overheating in new residential buildings.
- Building Adaptations that could be promoted through the Planning System which included:
  - Greening outdoor areas.
  - Sustainable Drainage Systems.
  - Oversized gutters.
  - Blinds and shutters integrated into designs.
  - Window treatments being varied across building facades.
  - The incorporation of overhangs, reveals and inset balconies.
  - Building placement/orientation.
- Relevant Policy requirements which included:
  - Promoting sustainable development through the settlement hierarchy (Policy SP02).
  - Reducing the need to make short journeys by car (Policies SP11 and DM32).
  - Encouraging climate change resilience (Policy DM01).
  - Addressing water management and flood risk (Policies SP07 and DM02).
  - Supporting renewable heat and energy (Policy DM03).
  - Promoting good design (Policies DM16 (Placemaking) and DM21 (Housing)).

Comments from the Group on the Consultation were then invited and responded to and included:

- Would local or national off-site biodiversity units be used? The use of local units would be encouraged where possible. Local options included Gibb Hill and Alkincoats Woodlands Nature Reserve.
- What provisions were in place for older buildings? Owners/occupiers could be encouraged to make provision for the cooling or heating of buildings in their proposals or to incorporate sustainable drainage systems which use grey water.
- Was there scope to target brownfield sites only for development? The development of brownfield ahead of greenfield sites was encouraged, but could not be required.
- Would the potential of solar energy be realised? Solar energy could be deployed and would be supported, but only where it was financially viable to do so and also where visual amenity would not be affected.
- Could north/south orientations for buildings be encouraged? Where feasible, yes, but would not be possible on all sites in Pendle owing to its topography.
- Could Living Streets' mission to achieve a better walking environment to inspire people to walk more be promoted? Although there was no direct reference to Living Streets, the greening of streets and inner urban areas was encouraged.
- Could provision for the secure charging of electric bikes be made? There was already provision for the charging of hybrid cars and this could be extended to electric bikes.

The Consultation on Pendle's Local Plan would close on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That a draft list of the Group's comments on Pendle's Local Plan be informally shared by the Chair with the Principal Planning Officer (Policy) for his feedback.
- (2) That a formal response to the Local Plan Consultation be made by the Group following the receipt of that feedback and not later than Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.

## **5. EXPLORING POTENTIAL RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES FOR PENDLE**

The Working Group received a presentation from the Head of Economic Growth. Some areas of discussion included:

- The renewable technology options available, including Solar Energy (Solar Photo Voltaic and Solar Thermal), Wind Energy (Commercial and Domestic) and Air/Ground Source Heat Pumps and their advantages and challenges. It was, however, unlikely that Air/Ground Source Heat Pumps would be so effective in Pendle.
- Retro Repair/Fitting. Pendle already had a good legacy of retro repair/fitting, the Every Street, Nelson Refurbishment Scheme was an example of this where the properties had been made more energy efficient through the installation of:
  - Solar Thermal Roof Panels.
  - Integrated Condensing Boiler Systems.
  - Sun/Light Pipes.
  - Aerated Taps.
  - Wall and Roof Insulation.
- Wider commercial applications such as Biomass, Energy from Waste and Anaerobic Digesters.
- The move away from the use of batteries toward the use of supercapacitors.
- Whilst Hydroelectric schemes were very efficient, they were not suited to the topography of Pendle.
- Hydrogen energy which had some potential, but was difficult to store and required electricity for its generation.
- Liquid air energy which was being used in Bury could be an option to consider.
- District Network Operators not having the required infrastructure and technical expertise was delaying solar and wind farms being connected to the National Grid.
- The use of renewable technologies should only be seen as part of a tool kit and some mixing and matching would be required.

## **6. ENGAGEMENT MECHANISMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN PENDLE**

The Director of Place submitted a report which outlined a proposal to widen engagement beyond this Working Group on Climate Change in Pendle to enable a public Climate Change Engagement Platform for Pendle to facilitate ongoing discussion, networking and community-based action.

The report proposed the establishment of a Pendle version of the Lancashire Community Climate Action Network (LCCAN) which would align itself with the emerging Lancashire structures and would help to identify long-term solutions for Pendle. Any suggestions they made that would support the delivery of Pendle's climate priorities could be cascaded to this Working Group for action and anything requiring a wider strategic response could be cascaded to LCCAN to influence the Lancashire 2050 Strategy. The report also proposed that a Task Group consisting of Members of this Working Group be established to explore and develop this public forum with the Council's Summer Interns with a view to it being launched in September 2023. It was suggested that the

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launch event be held face-to-face with future meetings to be held virtually in the interests of long-term maintenance and sustainability.

Members welcomed the establishment of such a public forum, as it was something they had requested previously.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the proposed engagement model for Climate Change in Pendle be approved.
- (3) That a Task Group be established to explore and develop a public Climate Change Engagement forum for Pendle with the Council's Summer Interns with a view to it being launched in September, 2023.
- (4) That Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price, Councillor Yvonne Tennant, Sylvia Godfrey and David Penney be appointed as Members of the Task Group referred to in (3).
- (5) That a meeting between the Members of the Task Group and the Council's Summer Interns be convened as soon as practicable.

### **7. REVIEW OF THE CLIMATE ACTION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

A project review of the Climate Action Small Grants Scheme 2021/22 was submitted and a verbal update was given at the meeting. It was suggested that some of the Organisations might benefit from further advice and/or being put in touch with the other Organisations who had benefitted from the Scheme.

There was no funding available for successor Scheme.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That letters be sent from the Programme Manager to the Organisations who might benefit from further advice and/or being put in touch with the other Organisations who had benefitted from the Climate Action Small Grants Scheme 2021/22 so they could share tips and best practice.
- (2) That it be noted that there was currently no funding available for another Scheme.

### **8. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

It was asked if future meetings could be held face-to-face. It was suggested that virtual meetings continue, given that they help to reduce the carbon footprint and energy use. Attendance had also improved since meetings had been held virtually. It was further suggested that holding an annual face-to-face meeting could be considered and that the next meeting could coincide with the launch of the public Climate Change Engagement Forum.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That future meetings of this Working Group be held on the following dates:

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Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

- (2) That holding an annual face-to-face meeting be considered.
- (3) That the possibility of the next meeting of this Working Group coinciding with the launch of the public Climate Change Engagement forum be considered.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_