



<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF PLACE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>

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## **COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION SCORECARD 2023**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform CEWG of the Pendle Council Climate Action Scorecard assessment 2023.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That CEWG note the findings to help PBC identify strengths and areas for improvement for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

To support the development of PBC's Climate Action Plan.

### **ISSUE**

1. Members will recall that PBC declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, with an aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they've taken towards net zero. The Scorecard assessment consists of 91 questions or less, depending on council type, across 7 different sections, created in consultation with over 90 different organisations and individuals. Each council was marked against these criteria and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. This work was completed between January and August 2023.
3. The results for Pendle Borough Council are as follows:

Questions	Pendle Borough Council	Councils with full marks per question
Buildings & Heating	21%	▼
Transport ⚠️ <b>Penalty marks</b> Pendle Borough Council incurred a penalty of 4% in this section	-4% 0 = Total score (0.32) – Penalty points (-0.32)	▼
Planning & Land Use	20%	▼
Governance & Finance	25%	▼
Biodiversity	20%	▼
Collaboration & Engagement	41%	▼
Waste Reduction & Food	8%	▼
<b>Total score</b>	<b>21%</b>	

- While the scorecard highlights various areas for development, the assessment of each measure and related score for Pendle, and other authorities, are not entirely accurate. For example, PBC scores 0/1 for the question *Does the council have a target to increase tree cover and is a tree management plan agreed as they grow?*. However PBC does have commitments to increase tree cover and tree management plan. In other criteria there are similar oversights and inaccuracies, this could be due to the extent of the exercise carried out by the organisation.
- Despite the scorecard results for Pendle not providing a totally accurate picture of our current position, the scorecard does provide a useful tool to identify areas for improvement, and showcases examples of best practice by other authorities which will be useful to learn from.
- Additionally, the scrutiny provided by Climate Emergency UK through its scorecards offers an opportunity to ensure that momentum is maintained to meet the challenge of addressing the climate emergency and commitments made in 2019, and that actions and progress are communicated effectively on the range of areas highlighted by the scorecard.

## Next steps

- PBC's climate action plan is currently being refreshed. The Council Climate Scorecard methodology provides a useful tool to review the updated action plan for any gaps, and to benchmark plans against similar authorities and those that are identified as doing well in particular areas. For example, neighbouring authorities Lancaster and South Ribble have scored well in certain areas, and where possible, PBC will seek to learn from other authorities and examples of best practice.
- One area highlighted by the scorecard for PBC is air quality, under the transport summary, due to exceedances of permissible levels as identified in the [Air Quality Annual Status Report](#). PBC will continue to work with Lancashire County Council on transport issues and

deliver actions to improve air quality and other associated targets. The need for a focus on improving air quality will be reflected in PBC's updated climate action plan.

9. Should there be an opportunity to update Climate Emergency on areas relating to PBC's performance for the scorecard, we will seek to share information and provide an accurate and up to date representation of climate action in Pendle.
10. It has been noted that scores for PBC and other authorities have changed during October 23 since the scorecard was first access, so it may be that the scorecards are being updated on an ongoing basis.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Policy:** PBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. The scorecard assessment will help PBC monitor progress and identify areas for improvement for inclusion in the PBC 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:** 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.

## Further information

Full details of the Council Climate Action Scorecards project is available at

[www.councilclimatescorecards.uk/](http://www.councilclimatescorecards.uk/)

Climate Emergency UK is a not-for-profit community interest company which has been working with councils and residents since 2019 to share best practice about what councils can do to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and to encourage effective action. More information about the organisation and its work is available at [www.climateemergency.uk/](http://www.climateemergency.uk/)