



REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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UPDATE ON CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT IN PENDLE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline a proposed engagement approach for climate change.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Working Group agree to the engagement approach outlined in the report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To enable effective, long term engagement opportunities on climate change within Pendle schools, businesses, and the wider community.

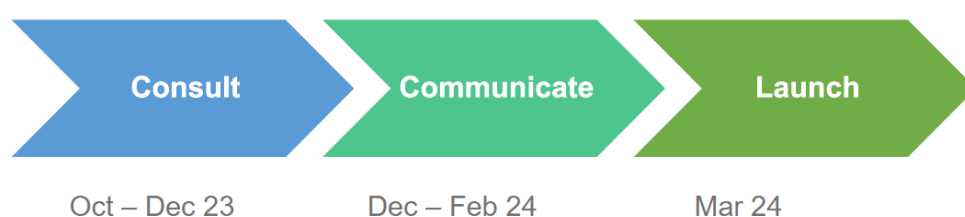
ISSUE

1. As previously discussed by the Working Group, our aim is to engage with key groups across Pendle to increase and support climate action. Discussions have been held with the Pendle Forum Climate Task Group which resulted in three audience groups being identified: schools, businesses and communities. The Policy Team considered how best to deliver the outputs put forward by the Task Group, which now forms the basis of this report. The approach, focus and support required for each group is different, so will be tailored to their specific needs and priorities, summarised below.

Audience	Schools	Businesses	Communities
Aims	Encourage peer to peer support. Share best practice. Celebrate	Encourage networking and peer learning. Highlight and promote local	Provide support and advice, signposting to relevant services. Encourage and

	success. Provide support where possible.	examples of best practice. Provide support through signposting and guidance.	support community-led action.
Focus areas	Energy efficiency Active travel Nature Curriculum links Health Grant opportunities	Energy efficiency and cost savings Funding opportunities Recruitment Green skills	Energy efficiency Nature and biodiversity Waste and recycling TBC

2. In order to build on the success of previous activity, avoid repetition, and ensure that any measures developed are the most appropriate for each group, we are currently undertaking some research for each audience. We anticipate that activities will commence from February 2024, including a series of events, details of which will be developed and communicated In January/February.



3. The specific format will be confirmed following consultation, but is like to include competitions and workshops with schools, peer to peer networking opportunities for schools and businesses, linking with partners to develop a programme of business events or learning sessions dedicated to priority issues, community engagement events and celebrations.

Further information on the approach for each group is summarised below.

Environmental engagement with schools

4. Following the declaration of a climate emergency by Pendle Council in 2019, the Pendle Schools Climate Movement was formed. As part of this, an event was held with schools in December 2019 to explore the issues and find out how schools would like to work together to address the issues.
5. A small grants scheme was made available for schools to implement measures to reduce environmental impact and carbon emissions, which saw a range of successful projects delivered across the borough.

6. Building on this previous work and the insight provided by schools and young people about their concerns and areas they want to see addressed, we are seeking to reestablish the schools forum and support schools across the borough.
7. Addressing climate change, reducing our impact and protecting our environment are more important than ever. Taking climate action is no longer something radical - it is all of our responsibility and should be part of business as usual for all organisations, and something everyone considers in the choices we make everyday. As a result, we would like to amend the name of the forum, and engage schools in this process.
8. We aim to enable schools to share resources, ideas and collaborate with stakeholders to support all of our journeys to a more environmentally friendly and carbon neutral future. We intend to support our schools as much as we can, celebrating achievements and working together to find solutions.

Next steps

9. A survey will be launched in November 2023 until Dec 23 to gain insight into needs and aspirations. We are also seeking to gather information about what schools have achieved either with the small grants or since then, so as to celebrate and raise awareness of examples of great practice in Pendle.
10. The results of the survey will be collated in December, and disseminated back to schools in January with details of the next steps for the schools network. We will also seek to promote a series of celebration stories about what schools have and are doing in the local press
11. We anticipate a series of meetings and the start of an events programme for schools to commence in Spring 2024, with further details to be agreed following the results of the consultation.

Business engagement and support in Pendle

12. Some further research is required to explore what support would be best for businesses in Pendle. Industry reports suggest that many firms are keen to work towards reducing their environmental impact but don't know where to start.
13. In order to ensure that we meet the needs of local businesses, a similar structure of consultation and research is proposed initially. This will also include finding out what support is available to Pendle businesses either online or through local or national frameworks. PBC officers will meet with a range of local businesses and industry groups to find out what they are doing, and what more can be done to support their efforts to reduce carbon emissions and wider environmental impacts.
14. Based on this, we would seek to outline a plan for business engagement and support by the start of January at the latest, with a view to supporting or establishing a network for businesses in Pendle.

Engaging with the wider public

15. We suggest that wider consultation and engagement with the public starts in early 2024, at which point we will have a clearer idea of any potential resources and how this engagement can fit into other programmes. While we want to do as much to encourage and support the public on climate issues, we don't want to raise expectations and not be able to deliver. In the meantime, we will be exploring how we can best support communities in Pendle, including the work that is currently underway at a local and county level, and what gaps there are. It is suggested that we start to engage on issues around energy bills, heating and saving money in January 2024.
16. From the start of 2024 we will then be in a position to know how best to engage schools, businesses and communities, and what their particular needs are. This could help shape the development of a website, or web pages linked to the PBC site, or take another form if the consultation and research suggests so.
17. PBC's climate action plan is currently being updated. Following review by the Executive of the emissions report and targets and a decision surrounding the resourcing of PBC climate action, we will be in a position to develop a more detailed outline and provide a report on this.
18. Opportunities are being explored to link with ongoing work and potential funding opportunities to undertake some engagement in 2024.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: PBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. Wider engagement on climate change will help galvanise local action across Pendle.

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: Engaging the wider community on climate change will support delivery of PBC's climate action plan.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.