

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members of the Climate Emergency Working Group with an update on the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP).

RECOMMENDATION

That the information within the report be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Members are aware of updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and have the opportunity to input and provide feedback.

ISSUE

1. Pendle Borough Council (PBC) declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019, with the aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Following the declaration, a Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was developed to work towards the Council's ambitions and target for 2030.
3. The Council currently assess its annual carbon emissions footprint through two reporting mechanisms:
 - The Annual Emissions Report
 - The annual Performance Indicators
4. A report to the Executive in November 2023 showed current progress towards targets and the need to make targets more ambitious. A recommendation was made to invest in a dedicated Climate Change Officer post to support the delivery of the CEAP and secure external funding for decarbonisation works. Approval was granted by the Executive for the

proposed role, and the budget setting in meeting in February 2024 has confirmed funding for the position and attached budget.

5. Following work undertaken by the Officer Climate Working Group, the CEAP is being updated to reflect progress and areas where further action is required.
6. The confirmation of the resource commitment to the Climate Officer role and activity enables more detailed and accurate updates to the CEAP and Council's climate targets to be undertaken.
7. Once the Climate Officer has been recruited, analysis will be conducted around the work needed to meet 2030 targets, and more detailed annual targets for the CEAP will be developed in line with the level of work and investment required, which to date, has not been fully quantified or understood due to limited resource.
8. PBC continues to take a matrix management approach to delivering its climate commitments, led by the Economic Development team. The dedicated Climate Officer will provide important coordination and management of PBC's climate action and delivery of the CEAP, and the role will include a focus on securing external investment to support decarbonisation of PBC activity and estate.
9. The seven themes of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) in its current form are:
 - supporting and enabling sustainable travel
 - reducing carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment
 - reducing the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption
 - supporting our communities to take action
 - supporting our future generations to find solutions
 - making sure we consider climate change in everything we do
 - supporting biodiversity and the natural environment to help local carbon off setting opportunities
10. Until the Climate Officer is in post and further analysis has been undertaken to inform the CEAP and climate targets, the action plan will be updated as an interim draft for 2024. Input from relevant stakeholders, including CEWG, is sought to develop this draft, see Appendix A.

NEXT STEPS

11. Climate Change Officer (CCO) post to be recruited.
12. Updated interim 2024 Climate Emergency Action Plan to be agreed, with any further updates to follow once CCO in place and climate budget finalised.
13. PBC climate targets and performance indicators to be updated later in 2024.
14. The Executive to approve final CEAP and revised targets/ performance indicators.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising directly from the report.

Financial: None arising directly from the report. Delivery of work outlined in the report is currently budgeted for and agreed.

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Sustainability: This report refers to work to reduce our environmental impact and contribute to achieving our climate commitments.

Community Safety: None arising directly from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from the report. Delivering on our climate commitments will help to safeguard our most vulnerable communities and benefit local residents.

APPENDICES

Appendix A - PBC Climate Emergency Action Plan - 2024 interim version (draft v2)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix A

PBC Climate Emergency Action Plan - 2024 interim version (draft v2)

Next steps:

Review actions and ensure they are SMART with appropriate updated timescale.

Incorporate comments from CEWG, OCWG and in response to audit activity by new Climate Officer.

Themes and focus areas	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Reducing carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment 	
Focus area: decarbonisation and asset management	Ensure the Council's own estate's energy efficiency is maximised through improved energy management including switching to green energy tariffs
	Conduct a review of operational assets and options/costs associated with decarbonisation. Including infrastructure and technology, as well as management and systems.
	Ensure low cost technologies such as LED lighting are rolled out across the council estate, including parks and open spaces, as well as included in new developments, to reduce energy use
	Improve efficiency of work scheduling and route optimisation of PBC services (LM).
	Develop a decarbonisation capital programme – seeking external funding opportunities such as PSDS .
	Undertake a Fleet Review and prepare options for reduced carbon fleet renewal in Nov 2026 – alternative fuels, HVO, hydrogen, electric

	Energy improvement of pool facilities including reducing pool temperatures further and insulation covers upgrade.
Focus area: sustainable development	Review effectiveness of existing Policy ENV3 Renewable & Low Carbon Generation and Policy ENV20 in the Part 2 Local Plan (LP) to support delivery of renewable technologies on new developments
	(Policy ENV20 in the Part 2 Local Plan (LP2) will supplement and update Policy ENV3)
	Showcase PEARL Together Housing Scheme on Harrison Drive as good practice for future housing developments
	Consider scope for utilising open spaces such as parks for ground source heating system for local houses through the ENV20 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Policy
	Review effectiveness of planning policies that support the Green Belt and Local Green Spaces
	Actively promote brownfield sites for new developments
	Review and audit Council's Draft Local Development Plan and Policies to ensure that they comply with the Climate Emergency and the Council commitment to achieve zero carbon by 2030
Theme: Support biodiversity and the natural environment to maximise carbon capturing	
	Actions
Focus area: sustainable development and biodiversity	Maximise opportunities to increase biodiversity assets the planning and development, including Biodiversity Net Gain requirements

	Strengthen consideration of landscaping schemes in relation to planning applications
Focus area: PBC managed activity - tree planting and habitat provision	Explore the opportunities and feasibility for urban greening (e.g. street trees), tree planting and green roofs/walls and promote them through ENV1 Protecting and Enhancing Our Natural Environments
	Promote local scale offsetting through tree planting and retaining green spaces as a normal function of future planning processes
	Develop and implement the Tree & Woodland Management Strategy
	Set annual tree planting targets for PBC and RRT sites
	Develop annual tree planting plans in conjunction with RRT
	Deploy differential mowing techniques in suitable areas of our parks
	Continue to reduce the provision of annual bedding. Where there is a continued need for bedding seek to replace resource heavy annuals with perennial planting schemes
	Reduce the use of herbicides for greenspace management
	Reduce the use of pesticides for pest management
Other action to explore/develop	External funding for small tree copse/ orchards / standards
	Wildflower expansion on verges/gateways
	Move petrol tools to battery
	New & old cemetery sites for biodiversity
	Increase hedgerows
Focus area: working with partners	Support the Lancashire Woodland Connect initiative to increase woodland cover on private land

	Encourage Town Councils to continue the work of re-wilding areas in the parks
	Work with landowners to encourage and adopt re-wilding approaches and promote good practice
Theme: Grow a Green economy	
	Actions
	Support local businesses to develop their own low carbon action plans
	Influencing plans for NTD to ensure green designs embedded from start
	Work with education providers to promote low carbon skills training, development of skills centres
	Provide information and materials to educate and engage businesses with low carbon sources of heating
	Explore opportunities for decarbonised energy generation in Pendle, including academic support and funding bodies
Theme: Support warm and low carbon housing	
	Actions
	Utilize Pathway Parity platform to target HUG(shares EPC ratings of properties)
	Support households on energy efficiency including promoting ways to reduce bills and funding opportunities for improvements
	Explore opportunities for community energy schemes – Rossendale Low Carbon terrace

	Promote and target HUG scheme – look at promoting in community post offices
	Utilise external funding and third party organisations to help improve home energy and address fuel poverty
	Develop and implement a Pendle Home Energy programme via Chi, including mobile home energy handy person scheme
	Support private landlords to improve eco-standards and reduce domestic emissions
	Facilitate and promote community home energy initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: supporting and enabling sustainable travel 	
	Action
	Develop a bike library pilot (PIF funding project underway)
	Introduce LUF funding mobility hubs
	Increase levels of secure bike parking and e-bike charging points
	Increase EV charging infrastructure
	Work with partners on long term strategic improvements to transport connectivity, hubs and accessibility, including Infrastructure plans and WIPS, and devolution
	Introduce a staff electric car pool scheme
	Where applicable, reduce the need for staff travel i.e. through home working, better use of IT and flexi working
	Undertake annual staff travel survey to baseline and understand current commuting patterns and encourage lift sharing amongst PBC staff
	Promote electric vehicles through the staff salary sacrifice car scheme
	Promote cycling at work including e-bike pool for PBC staff business use

	Increase allowance on bike scheme to encourage staff to cycle more
	Introduce electric vehicles into PBC's transport fleet and explore options for biogas from recycled vegetable oil
	Introduce an electric Mayoral vehicle
	Incentivise public transport use for PBC events and activities
	Signpost and promote existing routes for cycling and walking, including the canal tow path
	Reduce staff travel for business. Implement eco driving training.
Theme: Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption	
	Actions
	Review Procurement Policy to minimise Single Use Plastics and enhance sustainable procurement
	Encourage Single Use Plastics minimisation amongst Town and Parish Councils
	Support the introduction of community drinking water schemes to minimise plastic bottle consumption
	Continue to reduce paper consumption and improve use of IT
Theme: Supporting our communities to take action	
	Actions
	Campaign to encourage residents to improve their environment
	Campaign to promote reduce, reuse and recycle messages
	Campaign to promote sustainable food

	Identify PBC land for potential community growing initiatives
	Support and encourage community climate initiatives
	Promote community switch schemes to transfer energy from fossil fuel to renewable suppliers
Theme: Supporting our future generations to find solutions	
	Actions
	Build on the Pendle Schools Climate Movement to encourage schools to take collective action
	Develop and implement plan Pendle Schools Climate Movement Communications Plan
	Seek opportunities to creatively engage young people in climate change activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Making sure we consider climate change in everything we do 	
	Actions
	Embed climate change into the Council's Strategic Plan
	Calculate and produce annual emissions reports,
	Revise annual carbon reduction targets in line with 2030 carbon neutral target
	Identify and agree a Climate Emergency budget
	Maintain the council's position opposing fracking Roll out carbon literacy training
	Lobby Government for policy change
	Work with other Lancashire districts and Town & Parish Councils to enable collective action on climate change

