

REPORT FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLACE

TO: CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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PENDLE CLIMATE FORUM TASK GROUP ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members of the Climate Emergency Working Group with an update on engagement projects and activities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information within the report be noted.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

Members are aware of options for engagement around climate change issues and proposed or planned activities.

ISSUE

1. Following the declaration of climate emergency in July 2019 with the intention of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, Pendle Borough Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is being updated and plans for engagement put in place for 2024/25 financial year.
2. It is likely that climate engagement activity will be jointly delivered across the Economic Growth (EG) and Policy teams, with input from other teams where relevant. Business engagement will be led by EG, with Policy leading on engagement with schools, communities and internally with staff and members.
3. As highlighted in previous reports to the Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG), effective engagement on climate issues remains crucial for the Council to decarbonise and meet targets and to support residents, communities and businesses. Proposals for engagement on key issues and with priority groups continue to be researched and explored as part of PBC's ongoing delivery of the CEAP.
4. Since the last report on climate engagement to CEWG in January which provided an overview of key activity for segmented groups, a summary of progress and updates since the last CEWG meeting, incorporating the recommendations of the group of options to explore, is listed below.

5. Target groups for engagement on climate issues

Internal

- PBC staff
- Councillors

External

- Schools and young people
- Businesses
- Communities – residents, families
- Landowners

Update on internal engagement - PBC staff and elected members

6. Carbon literacy training

Options for carbon literacy training were researched and explored, including how other authorities have implemented training. Recognising best practice, and the aims and outcomes for the training, and the resource requirements of different options, the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) agreed to develop bite-sized, non-mandatory training for all staff, with more tailored training for senior staff and elected members.

7. Staff (with approval from managers and subject to resource/impact on services) and Councillors will be encouraged to participate in any additional relevant training available to them, including The Carbon Literacy Project (TCLP) training, however at this stage, PBC will not be seeking to deliver TCLP training or seek accreditation and instead will be adopted an evidence-led approach to engaging staff at different levels.

8. Additional engagement activity

Options for engagement on climate issues have been explored, including partners to work with to deliver activity. In Situ will be supporting PBC's climate engagement in 2024/25 through a series of activities including the delivery of 'Climate Fresks' and 'Talkoaks' sessions. This programme is currently being confirmed with In Situ, and additional activity will be planned subject to due resources and the outcome of funding bids. Further information on the format of Climate Fresk events is available at <https://climatefresk.org/>. The first Climate Fresk event delivered in Pendle will be aimed at PBC staff, stakeholders and community leaders.

Table A. Carbon literacy training - update and approach

Internal audience group	Progress update and agreed approach	Timescale
All PBC staff	Bespoke, accessible, bite-sized training for all staff to be developed around key environmental themes and issues and promoted throughout the year. This training will be optional but tied to internal activity and wider promotional opportunities – for example, training around the impact of travel choices promoted in June during UK Bike Week, with info on Cycle Schemes, health benefits and other key behaviour change messages.	From Apr 2024

Senior PBC staff	In addition to the themed training aimed at all staff, a short and tailored training session will be developed for senior staff in PBC, including decision makers and staff in roles impacting and central to the Council's performance and progress towards its 2030 targets and CEAP. The session will include an overview of current and upcoming legislation and policy, and ensure an awareness of PBC's role and commitment to reducing environmental impact and addressing the climate emergency.	From Apr 2024
Councillors	<p>The themed, bite-sized training will also be promoted to and available for Councillors.</p> <p>The higher level training session for senior PBC staff will be adapted for elected members to include an overview of legislative issues, PBC's commitments and the CEAP, as well as a focus on the impacts of environmental issues on the communities in Pendle. In addition to providing further insight into key issues and legislation, the training will equip elected members with information on how to support their communities.</p>	From May 2024

Update on external engagement

9. As outlined in previous reports, for external engagement activity has segmented audiences into the following groups:
 - Schools and young people
 - Businesses
 - Communities – residents, families
 - Landowners
10. Until further details of the Climate Officer post and budget were confirmed, the focus of engagement activity undertaken since the last CEWG meeting has primarily focused on schools and communities, and an update on this activity is provided in Table 2 below.
11. The implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain requirements under the Environment Act 2021 for new developments was delayed again by the UK government, coming into effect on 12 February 2024. Engagement on BNG and other issues relevant to landowners and developers will be required and an update provided to CEWG at a future meeting.
12. Progress on engaging with businesses on climate issues is underway and further detail and clarification on the approach and focus of this activity will be confirmed once details of the Climate Officer post are finalized. Activity with businesses, led by the Economic Growth team, will align with other economic development project delivery and funding, including UKSPF, Town Deal and Long Term Plan for Nelson.

Table 2: External climate engagement - updates and approach

External audience group	Progress updates	Timescale or key dates
Schools and young people	<p>The decision was made to understanding more detail what support schools in Pendle would want to have from PBC on climate issues. A survey was drafted and dialogue with schools has started to understand needs.</p> <p>Several suggestions by CEWG around support for schools, including Climate Action Plans and walking buses, prompted further research and discussion with partners working with schools already.</p> <p>The Department for Education's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, published in April 2022, included a range of actions, further detail of which can be found here. One key action includes the requirement for all education settings to have a climate action plan in place by 2025.</p> <p>In line with CEWG's suggestions to support active travel and the need for schools to produce climate action plans, options for what support could be provided have been explored.</p> <p>A free, online tool is available for schools in the UK to develop, record and monitor actions to support active travel and other sustainability issues through Modeshift. This tool is being considered as a mechanism to support schools in Pendle to develop climate action plans. Modeshift is currently working with the DfE already on this and other sustainability issues, so this approach seems likely to be aligned DfE's.</p> <p>Additionally, the DfE conducted a survey with schools in early 2024 on climate and sustainability issues, and the results of this may prove useful rather than conducting a separate survey. However, discussions have started with schools in Pendle to establish what climate support would be beneficial and effective, given the pressures schools currently face.</p> <p>Subject to feedback from schools in Pendle, a programme of support for schools will be confirmed and commence from the end of</p>	<p>Launch range of support from Apr 2024</p>

	<p>April 2024. This will include support on issues including active travel, air quality, climate action and the natural environment. Support will also include activities such as Talkeokes delivered by providers such as In Situ to highlight climate issues affecting students in Pendle schools.</p>	
Schools and young people	<p>Re-convene a schools network building on the previous Pendle Schools Climate Movement to support school on environmental issues and foster collaboration. This is likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network meetings for school staff • Developing and/or signposting to resources and funding opportunities for schools • Organising events and competitions of schools 	Launch summer term 2024
Schools and young people	<p>Enabling the participation of young people in the borough on climate and other related issues such as health.</p> <p>Working with partners to deliver climate-focused activities, for example arts and culture projects working with young people.</p>	<p>Delivered with In Situ from May 2024</p> <p>Other options continue to be explored</p>
Communities, residents, families	<p>Engagement with communities and residents will be undertaken largely on an based around different topics or issues, for example focusing on energy saving and warm homes, or managing health through active travel.</p> <p>Consultation and engagement exercises have been conducted with residents and communities in recent years through work such as This is Nelson.</p> <p>Until the Climate Change Officer is recruited and additional funding is secured from external sources, the scale of engagement will be managed so as not to raise expectations on issues where funding has not yet been secured.</p> <p>However, the voice and participation of residents and communities in shaping how the Council responds to the climate crisis is important. The programme of work being confirmed with In Situ will provide opportunities to further gather insight and enable people to have a say on climate issues, including through the Climate Fresks</p>	From Apr 2024

	and Talkeokes planned to commence in Spring 2024.	
Communities, residents, families	Supporting households on energy issues, promoting services and funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs. Working with partners to signpost and cross-refer to help meet the needs of residents, particularly those most vulnerable.	Ongoing
Communities, residents, families	Developing and maintaining projects which encourage and support communities to take action around health, food and physical activity, recognising the holistic benefits realised which include making lower carbon choices.	Ongoing
Businesses	<p>Discussions have been had with a number of businesses in Pendle, and initial ideas have been developed based around the current limited resource available.</p> <p>A more detailed programme of support for businesses will be developed following the recruitment of the Climate Change Officer and in association with other roles within the Economic Growth team. The engagement and support provided for businesses will be high quality and complement activity being delivered through other funding programmes. Given the timings, the delivery of this is likely to commence from autumn 2024. In the meantime, any opportunities to support businesses that arise will be taken up.</p>	TBC – from September 2024
Landowners and developers	<p>Engagement and support of landowners on climate and biodiversity issues, including opportunities for funding will be developed through the CEAP.</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain requirements will require more dialogue with developers. As the requirements under the Environment Act 2021 are implemented, further information and details on this area will be available. The delivery of BNG will involve local communities, landowners and farmers.</p>	Ongoing

NEXT STEPS

13. Climate Change Officer post to be recruited.

14. Updated Climate Emergency Action Plan to be agreed, with any further updates to follow once CCO in place.

15. PBC climate targets and performance indicators to be updated.

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, including working with stakeholders and engaging communities, will help to safeguard our most vulnerable communities and benefit local residents.

APPENDICES

None

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None