

**REPORT FROM:** Head of Economic Growth

**TO:** EXECUTIVE

**DATE:** 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

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## PENDLE COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE REPORT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- (1) To inform Members of the Annual Emission Report 2023/24, for information, prior to being published online.
- (2) To seek approval for the revised Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) Terms of Reference

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Executive approve the revised CEWG Terms of Reference.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To keep members updated on the role of the climate emergency working group and its contribution to Pendle Council.

## ISSUE

### Background

1. Since 2011, Pendle Council Officers have produced an annual emissions report to monitor emissions from its operations, using the latest DEFRA published emission factors and calculation spreadsheet.
2. In July 2019, Pendle Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency, committing itself to carbon neutral status by 2030. The Annual Emissions Report provides a mechanism for monitoring progress towards our carbon reduction ambition.
3. The emissions data is captured within one of 3 categories (defined as Scope 1, Scope 2 or Scope 3 in the DEFRA Guidance). The data for each category varies greatly hence the importance of defining the Scopes within the report:

**Scope 1** – Fuels used in boilers, furnaces or turbines.

In the Council's case, this is natural gas used in Council owned and managed properties (where the Council is responsible for the boiler) and Council controlled transport (mainly waste and cleansing services, ground maintenance vehicles and two light commercial vans). This includes Council owned Pendle Leisure Trust sites.

**Scope 2** - Consumption of purchased electricity.

For the Council this is electricity consumed within Council owned and managed buildings, including Pendle Leisure Trust.

**Scope 3** –This includes business travel for staff where they are using their own vehicles and outsourced activities.

4. Both Scopes 1 and 2 relate directly to PBC generated emissions from its building stock and transport fleet. The building stock includes all council buildings, including sites managed by Property Services such as markets.
5. Scope 3 relates to indirect emissions; those generated from staff business travel
6. It should also be noted that the UK Government carbon conversion factors, used to report on greenhouse gas emissions, released annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for each category within the three scopes differ year on year. Hence a reduction in energy usage doesn't necessarily equate to the same reduction once the carbon conversion factors have been applied.
7. The overall trend based on the current forecast is that there is carbon reduction to approximately 1700 tonnes/pa by 2030 and approximately 1300 tonnes/pa by 2050 (Appendix 1). At the moment the forecast would suggest we are unlikely to meet our net zero carbon target by 2030. A greater level of activity and investment is needed to meet this target.
8. To help support meeting our climate change targets, officers have undertaken several rounds of recruitment for a Climate Programme Manager. Following the most recent interviews officers are speaking to a candidate with a view to making an offer of appointment. Officers are also seeking to develop a new Climate Change Strategy, and are developing a brief for external support on this.

**Table 1 – Comparison of emissions across Scopes 1, 2 and 3**

	<i>Emissions in tonnes</i>
<b>SCOPE 1</b>	
Gas Consumption	967
Owned Transport	526
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1493</b>
<b>SCOPE 2</b>	
Electricity Consumption	340
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>SCOPE 3</b>	
Business Travel	12
Staff Commuting	-
Waste Disposal	-
Product in Use	-
Outsourced Services	
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1846</b>

**Table 2 – Comparison of Carbon Emissions 2019 -2024 (in tonnes)**

<b>Updated carbon emissions data (in tonnes) for period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>					
	<b>19/20</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>21/22</b>	<b>22/23</b>	<b>23/24</b>
<b>SCOPE 1</b>					
Gas Consumption	1,337	941	1,233	1,079	967
Owned Transport	605	612	594	561	526
<b>Total Scope 1</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>1,493</b>
<b>SCOPE 2</b>					
Purchased Electricity	537	354	381	350	340
<b>Total Scope 2</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>SCOPE 3</b>					
Business Travel	25	12	13	28	12
Outsourced Services	-	-	-	0	0
<b>Total Significant Scope 3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Gross Emissions - tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>1,846</b>

9. Table 2 shows that there is a general overall downwards trend in the various measures being used to track carbon emissions at Pendle.
10. Within Scope 1, there has been a consistent downward trend for both Gas consumption and owned transport between 2019/20 and 2023/24. 2020/21 is an anomaly within this trend owing

to the Covid 19 pandemic when buildings and staff activity were less owing to government restrictions on work and movement. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 the table shows a 16% reduction in Scope 1.

11. The reductions in Scope 2 are greater. There is an anomalous pandemic related result from 2020/21 but the increase following this was slight, when compared with significant reduction from the post pandemic period, and the trend has since continued. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 the table shows a 37% reduction in Scope 2.
12. Results for Scope 3, business travel, have been more mixed and difficult to determine a pattern in them. Significant reductions were artificially achieved as a result of the two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, in which personal and business travel were impacted by legislation on personal movement of the population. 2022/23 then saw an increase from pre-pandemic, followed by a fall back to pre-pandemic levels. Between 2019/20 and 2023/24 the table shows a 52% reduction in Scope 3.
13. Overall, table 2 shows a whole reduction in tonnes of CO2 gross emissions, in Pendle to be 26% lower between 2019/20 and 2023/24.

### **Climate Emergency Working Group – Terms of Reference**

14. The Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG) was established in 2019, in response to the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration adopted in July 2029.
15. The purpose of the Group is to respond to the Climate Emergency. It includes representatives from all party groups and drives action for PBC to become carbon neutral, influencing and engaging partners and key stakeholders to also commit to action. The focus of the Working Group is on key issues to deliver the Climate Emergency Motion.
16. The CEWG Terms of Reference haven't been reviewed since its inception in 2019. The original Terms of Reference now need updating to ensure the group is fit for purpose and reflects recent changes in the Council. The revised Terms of Reference can be found in Appendix 2.
17. The main changes are around membership, for the wider inclusion of community interest groups, to be determined by the climate emergency working group.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** Pendle Council has declared a Climate emergency and has pledged to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030. The rate of change in carbon emissions in Pendle, and progress towards the carbon neutral target is of relevance to this policy.

**Financial:** None directly arising from this report

**Legal:** The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but there is no legal requirement for Local Authorities to do the same. Only Pendle Council's own Climate Emergency pledge, which is not legally binding.

**Risk Management:** as per point 8 of this report, officers are undertaking measures to support the council in its carbon reduction agenda.

**Health and Safety:** None directly arising from this report

**Sustainability:** Pendle Council is committed to sustainable, green and inclusive growth as a priority within the Corporate Plan 2023-2027. The rate of change in carbon emissions in Pendle, and progress towards the carbon neutral target is of relevance to this policy.

**Community Safety:** None directly arising from this report

**Equality and Diversity:** None directly arising from this report

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Annual Emissions Report 2023/24

Appendix 2 – Climate Emergency Working Group terms of reference