

Terms of Reference for PBC's Climate Emergency Working Group

Vision

A Carbon neutral Pendle, with its environment and communities resilient to the effects of inevitable climate change.

Purpose

The purpose of the Group is to respond to the Climate Emergency with representation from all party groups. It will develop and drive an action plan and targets 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, not all detailed issues.

The Working Group has no decision-making powers: its purpose is to aid greater understanding of issues, options and policy development in relation to the Council's response to climate change

Objectives

- To review, revise and scrutinize PBC's carbon emissions reduction targets
- To propose new short (and long term) actions to achieve carbon neutral status, drawing out budgetary and other resource implications for the Council
- To collate and consider good practice from other local authorities across the UK and seek opportunities for collaborative working with Lancashire County Council, neighbouring districts and Pendle's Town and Parish Councils
- To audit and review the local development plan and to include a climate emergency audit and statement as part of all significant new Council policies and plans
- To seek to work with local schools, Nelson and Colne College and other education bodies, together with community groups of all kinds and local media to increase understanding of the climate emergency and to develop ways of tackling it in ways which promote freedom, fairness and equality and community strengths
- To develop, and then monitor, PBC's Climate Emergency action plan
- Consider the necessary adaptations to infrastructure and services to respond to a warming climate

3. Reporting

Minutes of the group will be reported to the Executive along with any recommendations.

4. Membership

Membership to include Elected Members and Officers. Cross party membership will consist of 7 Elected Members. Officer representation will be from the Place Directorate, with other officers invited to attend as and when necessary.

Representation from external partners, key stakeholders including third sector bodies and community voices will also be invited to attend. Up to 7 external partners will on the Working Group, with the Working Group determining these representatives annually.

5. Chairperson

The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Working Group will be an Elected Member and appointed by the Working Group annually.

6. Meetings

Meetings will be held at 6pm, every two months. Agenda and papers will be published 5 clear days in advance of the meeting and circulated to Members electronically. Meetings will accommodate tele-conferencing to avoid the need to travel.

7. Secretariat

Committee Services will provide the secretariat function for the group.

8. Quorate

The Group will be Quorate provided at least 3 Elected Members are present.