

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS  
ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

*PRESENT –*

*Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*Zafar Ali  
David Cockburn-Price  
Chris Church  
Ash Sutcliffe  
Yvonne Tennant*

**Co-optees**

*Sylvia Godfrey  
Angela Moran  
David Penney  
Stephen Sykes  
David Webber  
Jane Wood*

**Officers in attendance:**

<i>Phillip Spurr</i>	<i>Director of Place</i>
<i>Iftikhar Bokhari</i>	<i>Head of Economic Growth</i>
<i>Victor Equere</i>	<i>Climate Programme Manager</i>
<i>Phil Riley</i>	<i>Greenspaces Manager</i>
<i>Jessica Robinson</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

**Also in Attendance:**

<i>Richard Weaver</i>	<i>ekosgen</i>
<i>Tom Deacon</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>Anna Taylor</i>	<i>In-Situ</i>
<i>Kate Wood</i>	<i>Lancashire County Council</i>

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**1. MINUTES**

**AGREED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

## **2. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

The Working Group received a presentation from Richard Weaver of ekosgen on the development of Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) Climate Change Strategy to meet its targets of being carbon neutral by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

An overview of the work was provided. A six-stage study approach was being taken and a number of strands were already underway including a desk review, carbon footprint analysis and community engagement. The emphasis was on developing a strategy that would be deliverable and achievable in the Pendle and also the wider East Lancashire context, ensuring it could be owned by all involved partners and not just PBC.

Currently, the carbon emissions within Pendle were on a downward trend and this was comparable with neighbouring areas, including Burnley. Commercial and industry emissions in Pendle were lower than the Lancashire average. Transport emissions were the highest, but this was the case nationally. Renewable energy generation and battery storage would have roles to play in achieving a lower carbon Pendle.

Stakeholder engagement would be key to the strategy's development. Richard's attendance at this meeting was the first phase of engagement with this Working Group and, in the future, there would be targeted one-to-one discussions with its Members and follow-up Focus Groups.

Timescales for completion of the work were enquired about. The aim was for the final outputs to be delivered by early March 2025 and a lot of work was running concurrently to speed the process up. Once work was completed, the strategy, as a working document, would be presented to PBC's Executive for consideration and sign-off.

### **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That an update be provided at the next meeting of this Working Group following the expected delivery of the Climate Change Strategy's final outputs in early March 2025.
- (3) That thanks be given to Richard Weaver for attending this meeting.

## **3. LOCAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE (LEVI) FUNDING SCHEME**

The Working Group received a presentation from Kate Wood of Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Scheme.

LCC had received £10.1million of LEVI funding to support the deployment of public electric vehicle (cars) charging in Lancashire, predominantly for residents without off-street parking. It was anticipated that 6,655 additional charging facilities would be required in Lancashire by 2030, currently there were 7,500 and the majority were private sector.

LEVI funding was split into two separate funds, a Capital Fund and Capability Fund. The Capital Fund would be used to develop low powered (<8kW) on-street charging infrastructure and deploy approximately 4,888 chargepoints (2,444 dual socket units) across Lancashire. Destination and rapid charging would not be included. It was anticipated that the Capital Funds would be released

in early 2025. The Capability (Revenue) Fund had been used to create an EV Charging Team consisting of one manager and two officers and also to engage a consultant.

Public need was being prioritised. A demand heatmap for each district was currently being created for the purposes of site selection. Once a shortlist was available, LCC would ask its district colleagues to review it to ensure the correct sites had been selected. It was expected that delivery could take place from September 2025 onwards, subject to funds being released and procurement.

LCC had also received £400,000 to trial a lamppost charger pilot and £100,000 to trial a cable tray pilot. Half of the cable tray installations were now completed and some residents from Nelson had benefitted from this pilot.

Next steps included communications and engagement to raise public awareness and bust myths, completing the delivery of the cable tray pilot and developing a plan for long-term delivery. Providing different solutions would also be considered including encouraging behaviour/mindset changes.

It was asked if the installation of chargepoints would become a chargeable LCC service, like dropped kerbs. It was expected that that would be the case in all likelihood.

The possibility of weaving the LEVI scheme into Pendle Borough Council's Car Parking Strategy was also being discussed. It was hoped that residents might be able to use chargepoints on local car parks out of hours to charge their EVs as an interim measure. LCC was committed to providing charging opportunities no more than a five-minute walk from residents' properties.

It was asked if any of chargepoints being considered could also accommodate e-bike charging. LCC wasn't currently considering this, as e-bike charging was not a LEVI requirement, but innovative solutions would be sought through procurement.

The scheme would work in tandem with LCC's Active Travel scheme and would not seek to increase the number of cars on the road. Overnight charging would be promoted to ensure as much renewable energy as possible was used.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That a further update on the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Scheme be provided at a future meeting of this Working Group.
- (3) That thanks be given to Kate Wood for attending this meeting.

## **4. CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2025**

In Spring 2024, In-Situ was invited by Pendle Borough Council (PBC) to develop and deliver a community engagement programme around climate change with a focus on schools, young people and residents of the Bradley Ward of Nelson and also a climate film project. It was asked why the Bradley Ward had been singled out. This had been specifically requested but the reasoning was not known at the time. The report submitted to this meeting focussed on the engagement programme, as the film project was still underway.

The report detailed the engagement activity undertaken. The report further detailed the numbers of people engaged between July and December 2024. The programme had trained ten individuals to be Climate Fresk facilitators, one of which was a Member of this Working Group, and this was something to celebrate. There was now a mailing list for future events and there were already further events planned in February and March 2025. PBC would send out some communications celebrating the programme's successes.

Given the non-recurrent nature of the funding available, the programme was limited to a short period. The report made ten recommendations for the programme's continuation. The recommendations, however, could only be implemented should PBC be open to dialogue, providing funding and taking visible leadership.

In a verbal update, it was reported that a partnership with Let's Go Zero (LGZ) had since been established, this had not been envisioned at the outset. LGZ would provide funded support for schools around climate resilience. This was very positive because young people were disproportionately affected by climate issues. With this in mind, it was suggested that this Working Group could benefit from co-opting a young person.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the reasons for the focus on engagement with residents of the Bradley Ward of Nelson be ascertained.
- (3) That Pendle Borough Council send out some communications to celebrate the successes of the Climate Engagement Programme.
- (4) That co-opting a young person onto this Working Group be considered.
- (5) That a further update on the Climate Engagement Programme be provided at the January 2026 meeting of this Working Group.
- (6) That thanks be given to Tom Deacon and Anna Taylor for attending this meeting.

## **5. UPDATE FROM THE CLIMATE PROGRAMME MANAGER**

The Working Group received a presentation from the Climate Programme Manager on his current work programme. The presentation covered; Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) Climate Action Score Card; COP29 take aways; Salix Phase 4 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; North-West Net Zero Hub (NWNZH) Spark Grant Programme; and a forthcoming Chamber Low Carbon event, Destination Net Zero, for Pendle businesses.

With regards to PBC's Climate Action Score Card, the current overall score was 21% but was expected to increase to in the region of 25%. For a better score to be achieved, PBC's Leadership would need to do more to demonstrate commitment to the climate target. Furthermore, efforts towards achieving climate targets would need to be documented and published annually and PBC's website would need to be up to date with climate action progress. More needed to be done, but it needed to be pushed at Committee level. It was suggested that a 'wishlist' of required actions be drafted by the Climate Programme Manager to form the basis of a future recommendation to PBC's Executive from this Working Group. David Penney asked if PBC's net zero target date

could be revised to 2030, this could be considered, but would also need to be a recommendation to its Executive from this Working Group.

With regards to the Salix Phase 4 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, a bid had been submitted for £2,235,727 to replace the oil-fired boilers operating in West Craven and Wavelengths leisure centres with air source heat pumps and to replace the single glazing in sections of Wavelengths. The total project value was £2,540,600 and if the bid was successful a contribution of £304,873 (12%) would be required from PBC. Potential benefits included an expected CO2 saving of 415.8t and annual revenue savings in the region of £6,000. The outcome of the bid was expected by the end of May 2025.

With regards to the NWNZH Spark Grant Programme, funding was available to Local and Combined Authorities in North-West England to help them bring forward net zero projects which would be suitable for capital investment owing to their significant net zero benefits. PBC had received technical advice from the funders and was partnering with Hyndburn Borough Council to bid for £50,000 for strategic development based on that advice. If successful, the funding would be used to fund training places for approximately 70 people from across the two Councils.

The upcoming Destination Net Zero event for Pendle businesses would be held at Fence Gate Lodge from 9 a.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.

(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/destination-net-zero-mach-ii-pendle-tickets-1096172384109?aff=oddttdtcreator>)

If PBC was to achieve its carbon targets, businesses would need to play their part by decarbonising their processes.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the content of the presentation be noted.
- (2) That a 'wishlist' of required climate actions be drafted by the Climate Programme Manager to form the basis of a future recommendation to Pendle Borough Council's Executive from this Working Group.
- (3) That a copy of the presentation be circulated to all Members of this Working Group following the meeting.

## **6. HERBICIDE / PESTICIDE USE**

The Working Group received a verbal update from the Green Spaces Manager on Pendle Borough Council's (PBC's) position on herbicide / pesticide use.

The Green Spaces Manager began by explaining the difference between herbicides and pesticides. Herbicides were used for killing plants and pesticides were used for killing pests. The only pesticides used by PBC were by its Pest Control Department. PBC did use the herbicide glyphosate, but was always actively seeking to reduce its usage and find alternatives to it and would continue to do so.

In Pendle, the biggest user of glyphosate was Lancashire County Council (LCC) for its highways. LCC didn't have an active policy on glyphosate use and had no plans to stop using it.

In East Lancashire, councils like PBC were trying to reduce glyphosate usage and investigate alternatives. PBC was not lagging behind other councils on this issue.

At the September 2024 meeting of this Working Group, it was reported that 50 Councils across the UK were entirely glyphosate free. Since that meeting, research had been undertaken. A number of the councils had reverted back to glyphosate use, owing to hazards and complaints. Also, the majority of the councils were either town and parish councils and, therefore, could not compare with PBC in terms of responsibilities.

The difference between town centres and suburban areas was highlighted. The expectation was that PBC was responsible for weed control in town centres but not in suburban areas. It was felt that the use of glyphosate could cease altogether in suburban areas if residents were to hand-pull their own weeds.

There were issues with weeds growing through gaps in pavements in town centres. It was felt these issues could be tackled mechanically in the first instance and then by the gaps being filled in. It was accepted that it would initially be a labour-intensive project, but it was felt this would be far outweighed by the long-term benefits. This suggestion had already been made to Colne BID but perhaps PBC could also consider it.

It was suggested that a letter be sent from this Working Group to LCC to request that it considers reducing its use of glyphosate in the vicinity of parks and schools, in particular, in the interests of public health.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the update be noted.
- (2) That Pendle Borough Council (PBC) remains committed to actively reducing the use of glyphosate and finding alternatives to it.
- (3) That a move towards suburban areas in Pendle becoming glyphosate free be considered by LCC.
- (4) That ways to prevent further weed growth in town centres be investigated by PBC.
- (5) That a letter be sent from this Working Group to Lancashire County Council to request that it considers reducing its use of glyphosate in the vicinity of parks and schools, in particular, in the interests of public health.

## **7. OFGEM ENERGY REDRESS SCHEME**

The Members of the Climate Emergency Working Group had been asked to nominate Groups(s) and/or constituted Organisation(s) to be recipients of Ofgem Energy Redress Scheme funding.

£40 million of funding was available through the Scheme and charities and community energy groups across England, Scotland and Wales could apply for a grant through one of four funding streams. Funding could be used, for example, to support vulnerable people with their energy bills, develop innovative energy related products and/or services or empower individuals to reduce their carbon emissions. The deadline for applications to the current funding round was 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 but there would be further rounds during this year. The advice was that Groups/Organisations register themselves only at this stage so that their data was already on the system when the next round of funding became available. Pendle Borough Council Officers would then provide technical support to the Groups/Organisations to help them submit bids that were

likely to be successful and further build capacity.

Groups/Organisations already nominated included:

- Alkincoats Woodland and Nature Reserve
- Building Bridges
- Citizens Advice in Pendle at Citizens Advice East Lancashire (CAEL)
- Colne and Trawden Men's Shed
- Curry on the Street
- CYAG
- Eco Barnoldswick
- Elisha House
- Friends Groups
- Friends of Ball Grove
- Hillside Heroes
- In Bloom Groups
- Lidgett and Beyond
- Open Door
- Pendle Heritage Centre
- The Citadel
- Waterside Warriors

## **AGREED**

That the advice and the Group/Organisation nominations be noted.

## **8. WRITING TO OUR M.P / THE GOVERNMENT**

The Chair reported that she had been lobbying Jonathan Hinder MP on various climate issues since his election to little avail. Lobbying was a means by which Climate Action Score Card scores could be improved. The Chair said she was intending to write to the MP following this meeting about the new NPPF / Local Plan and the development of Brownfield land which is stymied in Pendle by such land failing to be deemed viable under the definition of both land value uplift and a 15%-20% profit guarantee for developers and a Guardian article on North Sea oil drilling licences (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/dec/20/north-sea-oil-gas-fields-co2-emissions-uk-licence>) previously circulated by Dave Penney and invited Members to put forward further topics. She also suggested that this item become a standing item on all future agendas.

The following topics were put forward:

- Bringing empty homes back into use and having this count against Pendle's annual housing target
- Lack of affordable housing and homes for the elderly in Pendle - Developers are building the wrong type of housing in Pendle (3-4 bedroom detached houses) and there needs to be a greater variety to fulfil market needs
- Supporting the forthcoming Climate and Nature Bill
- Looking at a diversity of energy sources to enable an entire move away from gas
- Banning the use of neonicotinoids

It was reported that neonicotinoid use was essential in sugar beet farming for effectively dealing with a particular kind of pest. The topic was removed from the list, in view of this.

It was suggested that Jonathan Hinder MP be invited to a future meeting of this Working Group to advise on his stance on climate matters.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That a letter be sent from the Chair of this Working Group to Jonathan Hinder MP regarding the following topics:
  - The new NPPF / Local Plan / Developing Brownfield land
  - The Guardian article on North Sea oil drilling licences and how for this to happen there should be a diversity of energy sources to enable an entire move away from gas
  - Bringing empty homes back into use and for them to be counted against Pendle's annual housing target
  - Government to allow the Local Planning Authority to intervene on housing types when there is clear evidence that one part of the demographic has a demonstrable shortage of supply
  - Supporting the forthcoming Climate and Nature Bill
- (2) That Writing to Our M.P / The Government be a standing item on agendas for all future meetings of this Working Group.
- (3) That Jonathan Hinder MP be invited to a future meeting of this Working Group.

## **9. ITEMS FOR NOTING**

- **Getting Pendle Climate Ready event held at The Muni, Colne on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.** Several former and current Members of the Climate Emergency Working Group attended this lively event organised by In-Situ to look at climate science and the impact of current findings on emotions. Nelson and Colne College was represented, as well as groups from several secondary schools. The morning took the form of a Climate FRESK and the afternoon looked at climate stories in the headlines, both local and international. This sparked up some interesting discussions and highlighted the complexity of these issues where people could legitimately hold opposing views.

It was hard to evangelise green issues and this Working Group was often met with indifference, but the hope was that each of the 100 people who attended would spark up these conversations with others to inform and demonstrate the importance of this topic.

- **Gib Hill.** The management team had been working hard to move the Group forward, so it could achieve positive change quickly. There was a public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January at 4 p.m. in Colne Town Hall's Council Chamber – all those interested in the development of this Local Nature Reserve were welcome to attend. At the meeting, it was hoped that Hillside Heroes, a charity formed partly to secure Gib Hill, would change its name and constitution to one focussed solely on Gib Hill. If this was passed, the bank account of Hillside Heroes would also change. Nelson Town Council had pledged to pay £5,000 to the new entity and £1,500 to Pendle Borough Council for immediate tree works. Once the new body was formally in existence, a bid for an agreed sum would be put into Colne Town Council. Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price was the Group's schools' liaison and had been making contact with the nearby schools, so they could be part of the development of the Gib Hill Local Nature Reserve.



• **Peat Usage by Pendle's Town and Parish Councils.**

<b>Name of Parish/Town Council</b>	<b>Currently use Peat-Based Compost</b>	<b>Have Policy on Use of Peat-Based Compost?</b>	<b>Would Consider Implementing Policy on Use of Peat-Based Compost?</b>
Barley-with-Wheatley Booth	Yes, only small amounts	No	Yes, if offered one
Barnoldswick	Use some peat reduced products	No	Not at the moment
Barrowford	-	-	-
Blacko	-	-	-
Brierfield	Yes	No	No
Colne	No	No	Yes
Earby	Don't know – possibly yes	No	Yes
Foulridge	-	-	-
Goldshaw Booth	No	No	Don't feel one is required
Higham-with-West Close Booth	No	No	No
Kelbrook and Sough	-	-	-
Laneshaw Bridge	-	-	-
Nelson	No	Not a policy as such but a Committee resolution	N/A
Old Laund Booth	No	No	Considered at last Parish meeting but no decision was made
Reedley Hallows	-	-	-
Roughlee Booth	No	No	No
Salterforth	No	No	Yes
Trawden Forest	No	No	Yes

It was suggested that policy on the use of peat-based compost now be drafted to be shared with the Town and Parish Councils that had indicated they would consider implementing such a policy.

It was also suggested that the Town and Parish Councils that did use peat-based compost be asked to provide an explanation.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the items be noted.
- (2) That a policy on the use of peat-based compost be drafted to be shared with the Town and Parish Councils that had indicated they would consider implementing such a policy.
- (3) That the Town and Parish Councils that did use peat-based compost be asked to provide an explanation.

## **9. ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

The following were suggested for inclusion on agendas for future meetings:

- Building Stock Decarbonisation Programme
- Climate Change Strategy Update
- Climate Engagement Programme Update (January 2026 agenda)
- Community Energy
- Community Heat Networks / Geothermal Energy
- Guest Speaker(s) from Environment Agency and/or Ribble Rivers Trust
- Guest Speaker from Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) new Active Travel Team
- Guest Speaker from LCC's Transport Team
- Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Update
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Funding Scheme Update
- Pendle Borough Council's Parking Strategy and EV Charging Points in Car Parks
- Presentation on 2030hub
- RecycleIT
- Reuse 360 HUB Burnley Visit and Guest Speaker from LCC on the potential for introducing a re-use shop or repair café at the Household Recycling Centre in Barnoldswick
- Rossendale Visit

The Chair said Pendle Borough Council (PBC) was currently consulting on the cancellation of the Colne Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) as it felt air quality had improved and was likely to remain below harmful levels for the foreseeable future. The Chair did not agree that this was necessarily the case and felt that manual monitoring at times when congestion wasn't a particular issue might have been producing misleading data, given that when the monitoring was carried out automatically, 24 hours a day, air pollution at the AQMA often exceeded safe limits. The Chair would be writing to PBC to request the reinstatement of automatic monitoring and urged Members to respond to the consultation. She asked whether she had their support to write on their behalf and received this in the form of thumbs up from Members. A link to the consultation, which would close on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025, would be circulated to Members following this meeting.

## **AGREED**

- (1) That the listed items of business be included on agendas for future meetings of this Working Group.
- (2) That a link to the Colne Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) cancellation consultation be circulated to the Members of this Working Group following this meeting.

(3) That the Chair write a response to the consultation on behalf of Members.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_