

REPORT FROM: ACTING HEAD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

TO: EXECUTIVE

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Report Author: Victor Equere
Tel. No: 01282 661075
E-mail: victor.equere@pendle.gov.uk

Climate Change Strategy for Pendle

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For the Executive to review and approve recommendations of the Climate Change Strategy for Pendle Borough Council. The strategy sets out Pendle Borough Council's comprehensive plan to work towards its carbon neutral ambition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the executive recommends to Council the approval and adoption of the strategy and its actions.
- (2) That the executive considers recommendation to the Council for approval of an amended carbon neutrality target, from within the strategy, from aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 to achieve significant levels of carbon saving across all sectors by 2030.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) In order that the Council will have a clear action plan to achieve carbon reduction across key priority areas, as a means of mitigating the negative impacts of climate change in Pendle.

ISSUE

1. Pendle Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 to react to the challenge of climate change, and since 2020 has been implementing its own Climate Emergency Action Plan, approved in March 2020.
2. This will be the Council's first formal Climate Change Strategy and intends to build on the progress made to date.

3. The Climate Change Strategy seeks to guide activities and developments in the Borough for the next 5 years (2025 – 2030) and will align with strategic policies for Pendle and Lancashire.
4. Whilst available statistics show that progress is being made towards carbon reduction in Pendle and significant levels of carbon reduction will have been made by 2030, meeting an ambition for carbon neutrality by 2030 will be a challenge. In the 18 years from 2005 for which statistics are available. Co2 emissions in Pendle have reduced by 46%; from 643 kilotonnes in 2005 to 346 in 2022. This is a good achievement but suggests that it could be another 20 years before Pendle is close to net zero, should the trend continue at the same pace.
5. As such a revised target of 2050 is recommended as more realistic, and this would be in tandem with UK Government policy on reaching Net Zero.

Development of the Climate Change Strategy

6. The development of this Strategy was undertaken in partnership with GC Insight and be found as an appendix to this report. The process for developing the strategy included 3 key stages.
 - Review of local and national policies and benchmarking in order to align with these and with which to benchmark against.
 - A carbon footprint analysis was then undertaken; including sources of public data on climate and emissions as well as a review of the councils heat decarbonisation plan and transport decarbonisation plans and an analysis of the councils own emissions.
 - Consultation and engagement, which involved consultation with the Council's Climate Emergency Working Group and the integration of community research with the public on climate change in Pendle, as undertaken by In-Situ.
7. The strategy was supervised by an officer-led steering group with oversight and input from the Climate Emergency Working Group (CEWG). Furthermore, there has been consultation with heads of service across the council to determine the realistic delivery timeline for the actions identified within the strategy.

Vision and Mission Statement

8. The vision for Pendle's response to the challenge of climate change is to focus on priorities and actions which result in an immediate change to reduce carbon, but it is also guided by a longer-term vision that sets out local ambition to transform the way we live and work.

Strategic Framework

9. The strategy itself is framed around five thematic priorities to realise its vision, which are in turn supported by two cross cutting themes, to be led by Pendle Borough Council. These are:

Thematic themes	Cross cutting themes
Energy efficiency and consumption	Leading the way
Renewable energy generation	Influencing businesses and communities
Low carbon transport	
Climate adaptation and mitigation	

10. Through an evidence-based approach, involving the review of policies, initiatives, and benchmarking with neighbouring councils the following challenges and opportunities have been identified.

Challenges

Challenges	Opportunities
Pendle's buildings particularly the housing stock, is less energy efficient than elsewhere in the country.	Addressing the energy efficiency of Pendle's building stock will improve the energy performance of the borough and reduce its carbon emissions profile.
Perceptions around new renewable energy developments Pendle has faced challenges in this area, such as perceptions of wind farms on the landscape.	There is significant potential for solar PV systems being installed on domestic, commercial and public sector building roof areas.
Ongoing reliance on private vehicles presents a range of challenges in Pendle including greenhouse gas and particulate emissions, traffic congestion and increased road maintenance requirements.	Encouraging a greater shift towards electric vehicle use, and particularly for local journeys, will contribute to significantly reducing the carbon emissions that arise from transport in Pendle, as well as positively impacting air quality in the borough.
Changing weather patterns and extreme weather events of increasing frequency are compounding existing climate risks in Pendle.	Differing degrees of understanding of and interest in climate change means that a more proactive approach to delivering and showcasing climate action is required.
Infrastructure upgrades require significant investment and coordination in response to climate change	Embedding and mainstreaming climate change in all Council policies, plans and ways of working is critical to setting the required climate-focused standards and demonstrating community leadership.

More information on the actions the strategy is proposing in short/medium/longer term and how they will be delivered and monitored is described in the Appendix section of the Climate Change Strategy titled Action plan and monitoring framework.

Measuring Success

11. Success in tackling climate change in Pendle over the next five years will be judged through key environmental and sustainability indicators including:

Key environmental and sustainability	Performance Index	Delivery Timeline
Reduction in Carbon emissions	No. of energy efficiency measures implemented	18 – 36 months

Key environmental and sustainability	Performance Index	Delivery Timeline
Renewable energy developments	Greenhouse gas emissions saved (tCO ₂ e) by renewable energy generated.	18 – 36 months
Installation of low carbon/renewable commercial and domestic heating and energy systems	No. of commercial renewable energy schemes installed	18 – 36 months
Increase in commercial, community and domestic energy generation from renewables	No. of community groups supported to deliver community energy schemes	18 – 36 months
Increase in installed renewable energy generation capacity	Amount of renewable energy generated (kWh)	18 – 36 months
Reduction in private car use	Development and delivery of road and rail infrastructure plans	>36 months
Increase in number and proportion of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV) vehicles registered in Pendle	No. of EV charging points per registered ULEV vehicle	18 – 36 months
Modal shift to public and active travel	Development of public transport infrastructure and active travel plans	>36 months
Increased resilience to the effects of climate change	Local Development Plan and associated policies reviewed	<18 months
Area of land managed under natural capital/nature-based solution programme for climate change adaptation/mitigation	No. of potential nature-based flood defense schemes identified	>36 months

12. These indicators are a build up from the priorities within the existing Climate Action Plan. The framework to track our progress on the highlighted areas are described within the strategy document.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: Adoption of this strategy will provide a clear policy basis for improving climate resilience and progress towards a further reduction of climate emissions by 2030.

Financial: There would be financial implications associated with achieving carbon neutrality in the council's key operations. The current estimate for decarbonising all the council owned building stock and implementing the fleet decarbonisation plan is in excess of £10 million. Grant funding or alternative measures for funding all of this sum would likely be necessary. This figure includes the Public Sector Decarbonisation grant funding already won and investments committed to; such as at the Council's Leisure Centres.

Legal: None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management: This strategy will serve as the Council's response to managing the risks that climate change poses to our natural and built environment in Pendle.

Health and Safety: The adoption of this strategy will help to mitigate the negative impacts climate change in Pendle. Some of these impacts include rising temperatures, drought, intense weather events and rising sea levels which can affect wildlife, habitats and people's livelihoods.

Sustainability: The strategy aims to deliver on our climate and sustainability priorities in line with the climate emergency declared by the council in 2019.

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: The strategy will be delivered in an approach that is accessible and promotes equality for all of Pendle's communities.

APPENDICES

Pendle Climate Change Strategy

Graphs – carbon savings in Pendle 2005 to 2022

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None