

Progress Against Climate Change Strategy Action Plan

Clare Rainsford summary update

20th May 2026

Strategic Objective 1: Energy Efficiency & Consumption

1.1 Identify opportunities for low carbon heat systems

(e.g. heat pumps, district heat networks)

Progress:

Substantial progress has been made through the Salix PSDS Phase 4 programme, with heat pump and fabric improvement schemes currently at design stage for Pendle Wavelengths and West Craven Sports Centre.

Draft Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) has been prepared. This sets out how PBC can transition to a low-carbon, secure and affordable energy system. Providing a long-term roadmap showing how energy can be generated, distributed and used locally addressing transition to an electrical economy, renewable energy generation, heat networks, BEV vehicles and infrastructure.

1.2 Implement energy efficiency improvements across the Council estate

Progress:

Initial interventions and priority sites have been identified through estate reviews APSE assessments and PSDS4 design work is underway for installation of air source heat pumps and fabric thermal efficiency upgrades at 2 leisure centres West Craven and Pendle Wavelengths. Delivery is progressing towards implementation in January 2027 with completion due March 2028.

1.3 Support households and businesses to improve energy efficiency and access funding

Progress:

This action is being supported through grant funded audits by AMRC for business and industry. Householder energy support services overseen by community engagement support. Further support provided through Cosy Homes for retrofit services for eligible householders.

1.4 Develop and submit funding applications for retrofit measures

Progress:

PSDS4 secured £1.7m in 2025 for retrofit of Council leisure centres. Additional funding opportunities will be explored using the LAEP and wider partnership working.

Strategic Objective 2: Renewable Energy Generation

2.1 Assess Council estate for solar PV and renewable generation

Progress:

Assessment work has been incorporated into LAEP evidence base and for Council estate APSE assessment, identifying opportunities for solar PV and integrated technologies. Implementation not currently underway.

2.2 Support community energy and decentralised energy systems

Progress:

Community energy opportunities have been identified in the LAEP, early engagement with GB Energy. Delivery programmes are yet to be established.

2.3 Promote renewable energy uptake (domestic and commercial)

Progress:

This is being supported through strategic planning (LAEP). Communications development at early stages implementation as dependent on funding and committee approval.

Strategic Objective 3: Low Carbon Transport

3.1 Increase EV charging infrastructure across the borough

Progress:

A comprehensive EV Strategy (2026–2030) has been completed, setting out infrastructure requirements, delivery models and priority locations.

LCC procurement for delivery partner underway and LEVI allocation to be made, once procurement partner secured by LCC planned December 2026. Proactive engagement and collaboration ongoing.

3.2 Work with LCC to deliver EV infrastructure (LEVI programme)

Progress:

Active engagement ongoing with Lancashire County Council who are the representative body for EV infrastructure across Lancashire using LEVI funding. Pendle positioning itself through the EV roll out strategy for delivery within the Borough based on funding allocation.

3.3 Promote EV uptake among residents and businesses

Progress:

The EV Strategy establishes the framework for uptake, which needs committee approval. This will then enable a communication and engagement plan to be implemented.

3.4 Decarbonise Council fleet and supporting infrastructure

Progress:

Strategic direction is established through carbon emission assessments and fleet reviews and EV planning; however, implementation is dependent on Council funding, and EV infrastructure delivery.

Strategic Objective 4: Climate Adaptation & Mitigation

4.1 Undertake climate risk assessments for key assets and services

Progress:

Completed through a borough wide climate risk assessment and a detailed Environment Agency compliant assessment for a waste transfer station.

4.2 Embed climate resilience into planning and infrastructure decisions

Progress:

Climate risk added to PBC strategic risk register to ensure resilience considerations are embedded in infrastructure planning.

4.3 Develop sustainable procurement policy with net zero criteria

Progress:

A sustainable procurement policy has been developed, alongside a social value framework, to encourage sustainability, carbon reporting, social value, circular economy and climate requirements into PBC procurement processes.

4.4 Establish net zero procurement and supply chain requirements

Progress:

Proposed to be delivered through the social value framework and procurement policy, including engagement with EDF on social value delivery and local economic growth collaboration.

4.5 Monitor and report emissions (Scope 1–3)

Progress:

Carbon emissions baseline has been updated, improving monitoring and reporting capabilities and supporting ongoing performance tracking.

4.6 Develop external funding pipeline for climate delivery

Progress:

Progress demonstrated through PSDS funding secured, ongoing LEVI engagement, and wider funding exploration through LAEP-linked opportunities. Heat network collaboration LLC Expression of Interest.

Strategic Objective 5: Natural Capital & Green Solutions

5.1 Support water efficiency and resource management

Progress:

United Utilities water audits have undertaken across key Council assets providing evidence to support future efficiency and resilience measures.

5.2 Develop and implement nature-based solutions for climate resilience

Progress:

Early stage opportunities through climate risk assessment should be integrated with Local nature Recovery Strategy and Pendle Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) objectives limited delivery to date.

5.3 Support climate adaptation in land use and infrastructure

Progress:

Embedded within climate risk assessments should be aligned with Local nature recovery strategy and biodiversity net gain implementation phase yet to commence.

Cross-Cutting Objective: Leadership & Influence

6.1 Develop Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)

Progress:

Completed, providing a strategic, spatial framework for energy, heat and infrastructure decarbonisation.

6.2 Establish governance and partnership working

Progress:

Strong partnership working in place with LCC, EDF, United Utilities and In-Situ, supporting delivery across multiple workstreams.

6.3 Integrate climate into corporate policies, plans and decision-making

Progress:

Achieved through Council strategic risk assessment and production and progressive integration of procurement policy and supply chain standards, EV strategy, Climate risk, LAEP, and corporate planning activities.

Cross-Cutting Objective: Community Engagement

7.1 Develop community engagement and communications plan

Progress:

Draft Communication plan issued providing a framework to support behaviour change and stakeholder engagement.

7.2 Improve climate literacy and awareness

Progress:

Partnership working with In-Situ to deliver Climate Fresk training, supporting internal and external awareness.

7.3 Engage stakeholders and communities in climate action delivery

Progress:

Require committee approval for specific proposed plans and programmes developed over the 5 past months EV Roll out, LAEP, Climate Risk, Sustainable procurement.

Conclusion and recommendations

The focus to deliver the actions cited in the strategy has been to develop specific enabling plans to allow transition to delivery phase for low to zero carbon retrofit and infrastructure programmes. Success is hugely reliant on committee approval, public/private funding and strategic partnerships to enable delivery.

Appendix 1

Climate Change Strategy Progress Dashboard (2025–2026)

Theme	Action Area	RAG Status	Progress Commentary
Energy Efficiency & Consumption	PSDS energy efficiency & heat decarbonisation projects	Amber	PSDS Phase 4 projects progressing (design stage) for Wavelengths and West Craven; delivery phase pending Dec 2026.
	Council estate decarbonisation programme	Amber	Pipeline established through ASPSE assessments, PSDS grant secured and LAEP but full implementation reliant on match funding.
	External funding for retrofit	Green	PSDS funding, further funding pathways being explored.
Renewable Energy	Renewable generation assessment (estate & borough-wide)	Amber	Opportunities identified through LAEP; implementation reliant on scheme approval.
	Community energy / decentralised systems	Amber	Embedded in LAEP; early-stage feasibility.
Low Carbon Transport	EV Strategy development	Green	Comprehensive EV Strategy (2026–2030) completed.
	EV infrastructure rollout planning	Amber	Strategy complete; delivery dependent on LCC LEVI procurement LCC and funding allocation from LCC.
	LEVI funding engagement with LCC	Amber	Active engagement ongoing; funding allocation not yet confirmed.
	Fleet decarbonisation pathway	Amber	Strategic direction identified; infrastructure and transition planning ongoing.
Climate Adaptation & Mitigation	Borough-wide climate risk assessment	Green	Completed, providing baseline for resilience and adaptation planning.
	Site-specific EA-aligned climate risk (PBC fleet street waste transfer station)	Green	Completed and aligned with Environment Agency requirements.
Council Governance	Sustainable procurement policy & net zero integration	Green	Policy and social value framework developed and issued.
	Social value delivery (EDF support)	Amber	Engagement in place; delivery outcomes still emerging working with economic growth team.
	Carbon emissions monitoring (Scope 1–3)	Green	Carbon baseline updated.

Theme	Action Area	RAG Status	Progress Commentary
Energy Planning & Infrastructure	Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)	Green	LAEP completed providing strategic energy pathway for the borough and Council operations.
	Grid, infrastructure & systems planning integration	Amber	Incorporated in LAEP; delivery dependent on PBC priorities, partners and funding.
Community Engagement & Behaviour Change	Communications & engagement plan	Green	Plan developed to support strategy delivery and behaviour change.
	Climate literacy (Climate Fresk / In-Situ engagement)	Amber	Collaborative working underway
Natural Capital & Resources	Water efficiency and resilience (UU audits)	Green	Water audits completed across key Council assets by United Utilities.
	Nature-based solutions and adaptation measures	Amber	Identified through climate risk assessments and LAEP; implementation stage next.

Overall Programme Status

Area	Status Summary
Strategy & Evidence Base	Strong – largely complete (LAEP, EV strategy, risk assessments, carbon baseline)
Policy & Governance	Strong – procurement, social value and risk assessment and reporting frameworks in place
Project Delivery	Developing – PSDS, EV infrastructure and adaptation projects progressing but not yet delivered
Funding & Investment	In progress – PSDS secured; LEVI and further funding pipelines to be prepared for
Engagement & Behaviour Change	Growing – frameworks in place