

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS
ON 15TH JUNE 2026**

*PRESENT –
Councillor Yvonne Tennant (Chair)*

Councillors

*Sarah Cockburn-Price
David Cockburn-Price
Michael Waddington*

Co-optees

*Sue Fairweather
Angela Moran
David Penney
Stephen Sykes
Jane Wood*

Officers in attendance:

*Rebecca Ferguson Committee Administrator, Pendle Borough Council (PBC)
Karen Spencer Director of Resources, PBC
John Halton Principal Development Plans & Policy Officer, PBC*

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Church and Sylvia Godfrey.)



1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair advised that, following recent changes, the Working Group now operates as a formal subcommittee of the Executive.

Members discussed the appointment of Vice-Chair, noting a preference that this role should not be held by an Executive member to ensure independence of oversight.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Chris Church be appointed Vice-Chair of the Working Group.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES

The Group noted that there were currently six co-optees, with two further expressions of interest received.

Concerns were raised regarding co-optees potentially outnumbering elected Members, though it was confirmed that there were no constitutional limits on co-optee numbers. Members agreed that maintaining access to a broad range of expertise remained important.

Two applicants were considered:

- Michael Powell - In-Situ Climate Fresk Programme Lead
- Clare Brightly - Sustainability Manager, Co-op

Discussion took place regarding Clare Brightly's background and expertise. It was noted that she would contribute in a professional capacity rather than representing any political affiliation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the two applicants be appointed as co-optees.
- (2) That a formal review of co-optee's be considered annually following Council elections.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2026 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2026 be approved as a correct record.

4. PROGRESS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The Group received an update on progress against the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan. It was reported that recruitment for the Climate Emergency Officer post was underway, with applications due to close on 28th June 2026. Interim support had been sought from neighbouring authorities; however, no suitable arrangements had been secured.

Members acknowledged the significant contribution made by the former Climate Emergency Officer and expressed concern that progress against a number of actions within the Strategy would inevitably be limited until a replacement was appointed. Discussion also took place regarding the forthcoming Local Government Re-organisation and the potential value of considering approaches and resources being adopted by neighbouring authorities. Members requested that the completed Local Area Energy Plan be circulated for information and future consideration.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the update be noted.
- (2) That the Local Area Energy Plan be circulated to Members.
- (3) That progress against the Action Plan continue to be reviewed following appointment of a Climate Emergency Officer.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Group considered opportunities to strengthen community engagement and raise

awareness of climate change issues across Pendle.

Members noted the continued success of the Climate Fresk programme delivered by In-Situ, including a forthcoming session at Nelson Library on 23rd June 2026. It was recognised that the programme was successfully engaging communities and encouraging discussion around climate-related issues. Members emphasised the importance of promoting Climate Fresk events more widely and reaching audiences who may not ordinarily engage with climate-related activities.

Discussion took place regarding the value of improving links between local environmental groups, enabling greater information sharing, promotion of good practice and collaboration across projects. Reference was made to the work of Eco Barnoldswick, the Lancashire Climate Action Network and a range of emerging community-led initiatives throughout Pendle.

Members supported exploring opportunities to host a screening of the National Climate Emergency Briefing, followed by a facilitated discussion session. It was considered that this could provide an accessible way of engaging members of the public, elected Members and Executive Members in climate-related discussions.

The Group also highlighted the importance of engagement through schools and colleges, recognising that children and young people could play a significant role in influencing household behaviors and raising awareness within communities. Members discussed opportunities to build stronger links with local schools, sustainability conferences and organisations supporting climate action plans within educational settings.

Further discussion took place regarding the promotion of positive local environmental initiatives through the Council's communication channels. Members suggested that greater use of social media, short-form video content and case studies showcasing local projects could help engage wider audiences and encourage participation.

RESOLVED

- (1) That opportunities to host a National Climate Emergency Briefing event be explored.
- (2) That communication and promotion of local climate initiatives be enhanced.
- (3) That links with schools, colleges, community organisations and voluntary networks continue to be strengthened.

6. FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

The Group considered current funding opportunities and barriers to accessing external funding.

It was acknowledged that a range of climate-related funding streams remained available; however, Members noted that bid preparation was often complex, resource-intensive and frequently required significant match funding contributions. The Director of Resources advised that, in the absence of a Climate Emergency

Officer, the Council currently lacked the capacity required to pursue funding applications.

Members also discussed funding opportunities available within the agricultural sector and the importance of supporting local farmers in adapting to the impacts of climate change. The potential for partnership working with landowners and farming communities was highlighted, together with opportunities to promote successful local examples of climate-related projects.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the current position be noted.
- (2) That funding opportunities be revisited following the appointment of a Climate Emergency Manager.

7. OTHER GUEST SPEAKERS TO BE SCHEDULED

The Group discussed future guest speakers and agreed that meetings should ideally include no more than one or two speakers to allow sufficient discussion.

Potential speakers included:

- Lancashire Peat Partnership
- LCC Active Travel Team
- Recycle IT
- LCC Street Trees Officer
- Phil Riley (green spaces, glyphosate, and operational issues)
- Rossendale Net Zero Streets
- Local reusable nappy manufacturer

RESOLVED

That the above speakers be pursued and scheduled as appropriate.

8. ITEMS FOR NOTING

The Group noted that the consultation period relating to the Calderdale Wind Farm proposals had been extended until 8th July 2026 following issues identified with consultation contact details. Members considered this to be an opportunity to encourage greater public participation and suggested that exemplar responses submitted by local councils and parish councils be shared to assist residents in preparing informed submissions.

Members discussed two outstanding items previously agreed by the Working Group:

- The National Climate Emergency Briefing
- The Plant-Based Treaty

It was noted that these had yet to be formally progressed through the Executive.

RESOLVED

- (1) That efforts be made to progress the National Climate Emergency Briefing and Plant-Based Treaty to the Executive for consideration.
- (2) That supporting information be circulated to the Chair to assist with escalation.
- (3) That information relating to the Calderdale Wind Farm consultation be circulated where appropriate to encourage public participation.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 17th August 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 19th October 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday, 14th December 2026 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday 15th February 2027 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday 12th April 2027 at 6.00 p.m.

Monday 21st June 2027 at 6.00 p.m.

Chair _____

