



**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
24 September 2020**

CABINET: 10 November 2020

Report of: Corporate Director of Place & Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J. Wilkie

**Contact for further information: Tina Iball (Extn.5197)
(E-mail: christina.iball@westlancs.gov.uk)**

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2030

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present and seek comments on the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCS&AP) 2030, intended to assist in the delivery of the Councils aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 and progress towards a low carbon West Lancashire.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.1 That the CCS&AP 2030 be approved for presentation to Cabinet.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

3.1 That the CCS&AP 2030, attached at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and formally adopted.

3.2 That it is recognised that this is intended to be a continually evolving document and delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of Place and Community, in consultation with relevant Portfolio Holders, to update as required.

3.3 The delegated authority shall be limited to changes that do not have any direct impact on allocated budgets approved to deliver any part of the CCS&AP 2030.

3.4 That the comments of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee, attached at Appendix 3 to the report be noted.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The CCS&AP 2030 is intended to supersede the existing Climate Change Strategy 2020 which the Council adopted back in 2008. The 25% carbon reduction target set out within this Strategy was achieved in 2014.
- 4.2 The Council, along with a large number of other UK local authorities, declared a climate emergency in 2019. The declaration pledged to take urgent action to reduce carbon emissions at a local level. This included a pledge to 'have a vision of, and aspire to carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest' and committed to climate action in other areas to work towards a low carbon West Lancashire. The full details of the motion can be found in paragraph 1.2 of the CCS&AP 2030.
- 4.3 Whilst the current focus of the CCS&AP 2030 is inward looking, to get our own house in order prior to adopting a leadership role, the document also aims to start developing outward looking actions to aid and encourage delivery of a low carbon borough.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The CCS&AP 2030 includes two new carbon baselines and associated carbon reduction targets, which all future annual carbon footprints and progress will be measured against:
- A 2018/19 baseline carbon footprint for Council operations has been developed following participation in a Lancashire wide initiative, working in partnership with One Carbon World. This has resulted in an increased carbon footprint as additional sources of emissions have been included i.e. emissions from communal areas of housing (e.g. in sheltered schemes), waste and water use. The Council carbon reduction target is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, as pledged in the climate emergency declaration.
 - A 2017 baseline carbon footprint for the West Lancashire borough has been included. This originates from emissions data produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and is considered the most accurate and current data available. A West Lancashire carbon reduction target for the Borough has been included, based on a report produced for West Lancashire by The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.
- 5.2 The primary sources of emissions identified within the two new carbon footprint baselines have been utilised to identify seven key priority areas for action on emissions reduction:
1. Delivering a Carbon Neutral Council
 2. Sustainable Procurement
 3. Transport and Travel
 4. Residential Buildings
 5. Commercial Activity

- 6. Community Action
- 7. Natural Environment

5.3 Each priority area has specific objectives and a 2020-21 action plan within the CCS&AP 2030. The action plans are intended to be a live documents that will continually evolve on our journey to achieving carbon neutrality. They will be updated annually, or more frequently if required, as new projects are identified and investigated.

5.4 Actions highlighting the importance of a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic have also been included, to ensure that we couple coronavirus recovery plans with climate action.

6.0 ACTION TO DATE

6.1 Progress has been made on some projects detailed within the action plans whilst this document has been in the development stages. These include:

- An initial feasibility study into the suitability of Council-owned land for development of a Solar Farm has been undertaken.
- LED lighting is being installed at Derby Street as part of on-going works currently on site.
- Participation in the Energy Saving Trusts Fleet Review Programme to gain recommendations on how best to start decarbonising our fleet.
- Investigations into a new Government fund for electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Completion of an 80KW solar PV installation at West Lancashire Investment Centre.
- The Council has committed £15k to the Ribble Rivers Trust's Lancashire Woodland Connect project to increase tree planting across the Borough.
- Discussions with the Councils energy provider to procure 100% renewable electricity for all Council sites from April 2021.
- Formation of a Climate Change Officer Working Group, which will meet bi-monthly to progress and report on actions across the different areas of the Council.
- Ongoing negotiations to ensure the new build developments on redundant garage sites achieve low carbon status.

7.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 By its very nature, the sustainability benefits of delivering the CCS&AP 2030 are numerous. Reduction in the use of dirty energy derived from fossil fuels and finite resources and an increased use of energy from renewable sources will reduce carbon emissions, reduce our impact on climate change and help to improve air quality. Energy efficiency measures undertaken on the Councils housing stock will improve the quality of housing provided, helping to deliver affordable warmth, reduce fuel poverty and cold related illnesses and improve health and well-being, inadvertently reducing demand to local health services in the long term.

- 7.2 Sustainable procurement of our goods and services and sustainable development in the construction industry will improve the economic prosperity of environmentally conscious businesses and help to enhance a green economy.

8.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report, however implementing the action plans as a whole will require extra financial resources in addition to those included within current business plans. This will specifically relate to the capital purchase of equipment, for example electric vehicles, upgrading of the Councils property portfolio (corporate, domestic and commercial) with energy efficiency measures and installing district heating systems / renewable energy plant. In some cases the Council may be able to access central Government funding streams to partially or fully fund some aspects of the CCS&AP 2030 and this will always be investigated.
- 8.2 As such it is proposed that the action plans are to be analysed and costed on an individual point by point item, working in partnership with relevant service managers and budget holders. This exercise will identify where existing business plan/ budget provision can be used to facilitate delivery of a project, and where this is not the case and external funding streams cannot fund, either partially or wholly, then capital bids should be submitted as part of the annual budget setting process. This will allow for a more co-ordinated approach to delivering the CCS&AP2030.
- 8.3 Delivery of the action plans within the document will require resources and partnership working across many areas of the Council i.e. Property Services, Fleet Management and Housing and Commercial Estates teams to name a few. Consultation with key officers within these teams has already been undertaken and they are aware of the actions included.

9.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The actions referred to in this report are covered by the scheme of delegation to officers and any necessary changes have been made in the relevant risk registers.
- 9.2 There is currently no formal or legal requirement for Councils to adopt carbon reduction targets, publish carbon footprint reports or take action on carbon reduction, however there are significant risks attached to taking no action at all. The changing climate will have impacts on our borough, country and beyond i.e. flooding and weather related events, fossil fuel derived energy costs will continue to escalate and fuel poverty implications could see tenants having to make financial choices between heating their homes and paying their rent.
- 9.3 Local Authorities have a responsibility to act as community leaders and show the way to a cleaner, greener future. An aspiration to achieve a carbon neutral status for the Council is an exciting opportunity to investigate new technologies and processes to reduce the impact our operations have on the local environment.

10.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Tackling climate change and enabling a low carbon future has many links to health and wellbeing:

- The impacts of climate change include warming temperatures and increases in the frequency or intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves and flooding. Such events can threaten our health (especially for the most vulnerable), the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe.
- Improving the energy efficiency of homes not only saves energy and carbon but will reduce fuel poverty, deliver affordable warmth and reduce ill health/ deaths resulting from living in a cold home.
- Warmer temperatures and shifting weather patterns can also worsen air quality, exacerbating respiratory related illnesses.
- Tackling climate change by utilising natural carbon stores from tree planting offers more local green spaces and encourages healthier lifestyles e.g. walking or cycling.
- Investing in local renewable energy not only reduces fossil fuel consumption but also provides energy security and independence.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.


Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

1. Equality Impact Assessment
2. Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (Revised on 30 October 2020)
3. Minute of Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee 24 September 2020 (Cabinet Only)

Appendix 1

<h1 style="color: red;">Equality Impact Assessment Form</h1> 	
Directorate: Place and Community	Service: Property Services
Completed by: Tina Iball	Date: 14th September 2020
Subject Title: Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030	
1. DESCRIPTION	
Is a policy or strategy being produced or revised:	Yes
Is a service being designed, redesigned or cutback:	No
Is a commissioning plan or contract specification being developed:	No
Is a budget being set or funding allocated:	No
Is a programme or project being planned:	Yes
Are recommendations being presented to senior managers and/or Councillors:	Yes
Does the activity contribute to meeting our duties under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (Eliminating unlawful discrimination/harassment, advancing equality of opportunity, fostering good relations):	No
Details of the matter under consideration:	Adoption of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, to achieve a carbon neutral Council by 2030.
<i>If you answered Yes to any of the above go straight to Section 3</i> <i>If you answered No to all the above please complete Section 2</i>	
2. RELEVANCE	
Does the work being carried out impact on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	Yes
If Yes , provide details of how this impacts on service users, staff or Councillors (stakeholders):	Achievement of the carbon neutrality target will require support and engagement from

If you answered Yes go to Section 3	all staff and Councillors.
If you answered No to both Sections 1 and 2 provide details of why there is no impact on these three groups: <i>You do not need to complete the rest of this form.</i>	
3. EVIDENCE COLLECTION	
Who does the work being carried out impact on, i.e. who is/are the stakeholder(s)?	Council staff Tenants (domestic and commercial) Contractors and supply chain providers Builders and Developers
If the work being carried out relates to a universal service, who needs or uses it most? (Is there any particular group affected more than others)?	Actions will have positive affects for staff and Council tenants.
Which of the protected characteristics are most relevant to the work being carried out? Age Gender Disability Race and Culture Sexual Orientation Religion or Belief Gender Reassignment Marriage and Civil Partnership Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes No Yes No No No No No No No
4. DATA ANALYSIS	
In relation to the work being carried out, and the service/function in question, who is actually or currently using the service and why?	Council staff working in energy inefficient buildings, tenants living in/ working in less efficient homes/ buildings. Contractors delivering Council services
What will the impact of the work being carried out be on usage/the stakeholders?	Energy efficient homes and buildings for domestic and commercial tenants. More stringent environmental requirements for contractors and suppliers.
What are people's views about the services? Are some customers more satisfied than others, and if so what are the reasons? Can these be affected by the proposals?	Climate change awareness is growing and considered to be an area people want to see action taken.
What sources of data including consultation results have you used to analyse the impact of the work being carried out on users/stakeholders with protected characteristics?	Work undertaken to date, energy and carbon emissions consumption data, savings on fuel bills etc.
If any further data/consultation is needed and is to be gathered, please specify:	The feasibility of individual energy projects needs to be investigated.
5. IMPACT OF DECISIONS	

In what way will the changes impact on people with particular protected characteristics (either positively or negatively or in terms of disproportionate impact)?	Affordable warmth in homes, especially for those with limited mobility.
6. CONSIDERING THE IMPACT	
If there is a negative impact what action can be taken to mitigate it? (If it is not possible or desirable to take actions to reduce the impact, explain why this is the case (e.g. legislative or financial drivers etc.).	There will be an element of risk attached to any investment in renewable energy projects. Research and specialist consultation will be used to minimise this risk.
What actions do you plan to take to address any other issues above?	Negative impacts are minimal, no action required.
7. MONITORING AND REVIEWING	
When will this assessment be reviewed and who will review it?	The action plans within the Plan will be continually reviewed and revised. A progress report will also be produced annually.