

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
PROJECT PLAN**

Title: **ACTION ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

MEMBERSHIP:

Chairman: Councillor D West Vice-Chairman: Councillor J Finch

Councillors: M Blake, C Dereli, D Hirrell, A Fennell, J Gordon, S Gregson,
K Mitchell, P Turpin, J Upjohn

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To undertake a review entitled 'Action on Climate Emergency'.
2. To encourage and actively promote 'Climate Action' involving the Communities, Businesses, Individuals and Stakeholders across all sectors of the Borough.
3. To participate and engage in a 'Community Action Plan' to encourage engagement from our Communities, Businesses, Individuals and Stakeholders in order to identify targets and key areas of interest for action.
4. To present a report of the Committee's findings to Cabinet and Council, as appropriate.

OBJECTIVES

To engage with our Communities, Businesses, Individuals and Stakeholders across all sectors of the Borough in support of WLBC in developing Action on the Climate Emergency.

The Present –

The 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030' assists in the delivery of the Council's aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 at the latest, to be committed to climate action in other areas and to progress towards a low carbon West Lancashire.

The Future –

To ensure that any outcomes achieve the aspirations of the Council and its Vision and Priority to "become a Greener West Lancashire".

The Review will focus on the following four themes:-

1. **To move towards the production and increase of Renewable Energy Generation** - There are already plans for this to be extended, with proposals being developed for solar farms at white moss, the solar installation at the investment centre, a project looking at the opportunities to retrofit some of our housing areas with hybrid charging stations, and planning conditions to include charging station on new builds, but we should be able to go further, working with other businesses and local residents to promote schemes that support people to move to more energy efficient solutions and green energy production.

2. **Public Engagement with a Waste Reduction Strategy** – via ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ hierarchy, this should include working with businesses to reduce the product packaging and focusing on education and promoting informed choice, similar to the food hygiene scores where retailers are able to be awarded a green score and supported to develop an action plan to help them achieve further efficiencies, and work through schools and communication campaigns to help residents of West Lancashire to implement changes at home.
3. **Developing / Supporting Biodiversity Projects** - This should see our tree planting projects and wildflower habitats being rolled out and should help to develop strategies for our green spaces that help support sustainable wildlife habitats to thrive and flourish.
4. **Development of Water Management Strategies** - that leave no-one vulnerable and without help - This should mean that we work with lead Flood Authorities and the Highways Services to reintroduce a programme of preventative maintenance to help address the issues of localised flooding and also have an action plan to address the wider scale issues of flooding across West Lancashire.

(It is anticipated that through the active engagement with Communities, Businesses, Individuals and Stakeholders across all sectors of the Borough, that further priorities will also be identified).

Comparison

Other Local Authorities.

Resources -

- The Council's Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources will provide technical support and guidance, together with Officers from across the Authority, including Legal Services and Environmental Services to be consulted as appropriate.
- External contribution, as appropriate.
- Any funding requirements will be included in the final recommendations of the Committee.

INFORMATION

<https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-and-green-living.aspx>

The Council has a Vision and Priority To 'Become a Greener West Lancashire'

We want

- To become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030
- Local business and citizens to embrace the green agenda
- Council housing stock to meet high standards of efficiency - insulation, design, technology
- To minimise waste disposal and improve recycling services to meet national targets
- To embed green infrastructure into our thinking and planning for West Lancashire's future development and regeneration
- To safeguard the natural landscape and maintain our green environment

We will

- Lead good practice; develop a Climate Change strategy and action plan
- All council buildings are operating to highest efficiency standards
- Encourage local businesses and service providers to set their own green targets
- Commit to maximising Council energy requirements from renewable sources
- Maximise the use of solar panels on Council owned buildings and housing stock
- Increase the use of environmentally friendly products
- Optimise the development of solar/wind farm investment
- Use the supply chain to maximise energy efficiency, design out waste and reduce our carbon footprint
- Optimise the Council fleet; increase route efficiency and maximise low emissions
- Enhance green spaces and explore Eco park
- Support the development of green transport
- Use green credentials to form part of our procurement selection criteria.
- Reduce waste and improve recycling,
- Develop a Local Plan policy encouraging green developments

Witnesses

Who?	Why?	How?
Representative/s from Environmental Services	To gain an insight into their experience of delivering an 'Action on Climate Emergency' Action Plan	<u>Attendance at a meeting and presentation of information.</u>
Others stakeholders that may be identified during the course of the review.	To provide further information.	<u>Attendance at a meeting, if appropriate or presentation of information.</u>

Site Visits

Where?	Why?

ESTABLISH WAYS OF WORKING

Officer Support

Lead Officer - Chris Twomey, Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources

Scrutiny Support Officer – Julia Brown, Member Services Officer

Legal Officer – Adam Spicer, Assistant Solicitor

Environmental Services - Tina Iball – Environmental Strategy Officer

Dan Massey – Head Ranger

Anne Faulkner – Park Ranger

Sam Mooney – Waste & Recycling Promotions Officer

Dave Owens – Principal (Drainage & Flood Risk) Engineer

Reporting Arrangements

The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit its final report and recommendations to Cabinet and Council January/February 2022 (if applicable).

TIME SCALES

Meeting 1 – 11 March 2021

- Introduction of the topic from the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources
- To consider a presentation, on behalf of the Corporate Director of Place and Community to present the current position.
- Review confirmed to commence.
- To agree the Project Plan.

Meeting 2 – 10 June 2021

- To consider the findings of a Climate Change 'On-Line' Consultation
- To agree and review the Project Plan.

Meeting 3 – 16 September 2021

- To agree and review the Project Plan.

Meeting 4 – 9 December 2021

- To consider any final aspects of the review.
- To agree the draft final review report together with recommendations for submission to Cabinet and Council, if applicable in January/February 2022.

Cabinet – January 2022

- Submission of final report.

Council – February 2022

- To receive the final report (if required).

INFORMATION GATHERED

11 March 2021	Tina Iball (Environmental Strategy Officer) and Dan Massey (Head Ranger) – Climate Emergency Action Review Presentation
10 June 2021	Tina Iball (Environmental Strategy Officer) and Dan Massey (Head Ranger) – Present findings of the Climate Action 'On-Line' Consultation.

OTHER**RECOMMENDATIONS**

REVIEW DATE – If completed in the timescales indicated, March / June 2022.