



CABINET:

8th June 2021

Report of: Corporate Director of Place & Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor J. Wilkie

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**SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2030 –
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This reports aims to provide an update on recent progress made towards delivering the action plans set out within the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030 (CCS&AP 2030) and the associated carbon savings made, to progress towards our carbon neutral Council target by 2030.
- 1.2 To seek delegated authority for the Corporate Director of Place and Community to submit bids to the forthcoming funding opportunities listed in Appendix C and enter into the required contracts to deliver the associated projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

- 2.1 That the progress report and funding secured to date be noted.
- 2.2 That delegated authority be given to the Corporate Director of Place and Community to submit bids to the forthcoming funding opportunities listed in Appendix C and enter into the required contracts to deliver the associated projects.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 which included an aspiration to be a carbon neutral Council by 2030 at the latest. Following this, a new CCS&AP 2030 was developed and formally adopted in November 2020.

3.2 The Strategy identifies seven key priority areas for action. These include delivering a carbon neutral Council, sustainable procurement, transport and travel, residential buildings, commercial activity, community action and the natural environment. Since this time, work has been ongoing to investigate and deliver carbon saving projects across these areas.

4.0 A CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL

4.1 A new carbon footprint baseline for 2018/19 was adopted as part of the CCS&AP 2030. This identified the total carbon footprint of Councils operations to be 5,103 tonnes/CO₂e. Data collection for annual carbon footprint monitoring for 2019/20 and 20/21 is underway and will be reported when available.

4.2 Projects that have been completed since this time, that are expected to deliver quantifiable carbon savings and contribute towards our carbon neutrality target, have been documented in Appendix A. These projects primarily consist of LED lighting upgrades to offices and sheltered housing schemes and an 80KW solar PV installation at the Investment Centre.

4.3 From 1st April the Council moved to a 100% renewable electricity tariff with our energy provider. This means that every KWh of electricity used at any of our sites is matched with the equivalent volume of renewable power supplied to the grid. The Scheme meets stringent carbon reporting requirements and is independently verified by the EcoAct assurance stamp and as such we can be confident in reporting zero carbon emissions from our supply. This is estimated to save around 1,056 tonnes CO₂e/year, which have been included in this progress update for the forthcoming year. It should be noted however, that this does not remove the need to further improve the efficiency of our buildings and reduce energy demand.

4.4 These projects combined are estimated to save around 1,227 tonnes of CO₂e per year. This equates to a 24% reduction on our carbon baseline. However, it should be noted that these are estimated savings taken from feasibility proposals. Actual savings from these projects will only be seen over the coming 12 months and monitoring is ongoing.

4.5 A new vehicle fleet with electric bin lifts also became operational in early April which is anticipated to provide 10% saving on fuel consumption from refuse vehicles. An electric van has also replaced a diesel vehicle with the Ranger Service and is so far proving to be a success. Unfortunately data is unavailable to include predicted savings from these actions at the current time.

4.6 The Covid-19 pandemic also saw a vast change in working patterns, seeing the majority of staff working from home for most of 20/21. Available data shows gas consumption has remained fairly static over this period, however electricity consumption has dropped significantly at Derby Street (37%) and the Investment Centre (53%). Significant reductions in staff undertaking business mileage have also been recorded. Mileage undertaken on Council business reduced by 58% in 2020-21, compared to the previous year. This equates to over 149,000 miles and carbon savings of approximately 42 tonnes/CO₂e. Savings are also expected from paper and ink consumption. It is anticipated that the new flexible

home working policy will help to maintain some of these savings as staff return to the offices.

- 4.7 Going forward, further reductions from housing will need to play a crucial part if we are to progress towards our carbon neutrality targets. Further roll out of our LED lighting programme will contribute to this but tackling the gas consumption from communal heating and hot water provisions will be key. Earlier in the year a feasibility study was undertaken to investigate the suitability of shared loop ground source heat pumps replacing communal boilers on the Eskdale estate. This was found to be viable but unfortunately couldn't be delivered within identified funding timescales. Alternative funding opportunities are being explored.

5.0 BOROUGH-WIDE ACTION

- 5.1 Projects to deliver carbon savings across the borough are also underway. Carbon savings from such projects are much harder to quantify, and in some cases impossible, but will contribute to a low carbon future for West Lancashire. A brief update for each action within the seven priority action plans can be found in Appendix B.
- 5.2 Grant funding from Government has been secured where possible. A breakdown of the funding secured to date and the forthcoming opportunities we expect to bid for later in the year has been provided in Appendix C.
- 5.3 Working with the Cosy Homes in Lancashire partnership, over £14m of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding has been secured for Lancashire. Work is underway, with the CHiL delivery partner Rhea Ltd, to deliver a suite of energy efficiency measures to housing across the County by December 2021. This will include a mix of Council owned, owner-occupier and privately rented properties. Digital Communications and media releases are being undertaken to promote uptake of this Scheme in West Lancashire. We are also working to be ready for further rounds of funding from this source, including the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Green Homes Grant LAD phase 3 which is expected later in the year.
- 5.4 32 new electric vehicle charge points will be installed in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale in June, at nil cost to the Council. This project is being delivered working in partnership with BP Pulse Ltd and will provide easily accessible and convenient charge points for residential properties without access to off-road parking. Works are also underway to identify sites for an application to another round of this funding which opened in April 2021.
- 5.5 A Climate Change Review is underway with the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which aims to open communication links with our local communities and identify areas they would most like to see, and most likely be involved with, community carbon reduction projects. An online Climate Change questionnaire is under development to gain views and identify interested parties.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 By its very nature, the sustainability benefits of delivering the CCS&AP 2030 are numerous. Reduction in the use of 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.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report, however implementing the Climate Change Strategy action plans as a whole will require extra financial resources in addition to those included within current business plans.
- 7.2 Significant grant funding has been secured for carbon reduction projects across the Borough and further funding rounds are expected. The Government has committed to spending an additional £300 million on green home upgrades. This extension will be through an increase in funding to Local Authorities via the Green Homes Grant (LAD) scheme and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, with anticipated delivery continuing until March 2023.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 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. There are Service Action Plans in place to reduce risks, which are monitored and updated on a regular basis.
- 8.2 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.

9.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Tackling climate change and enabling a low carbon future has many links to health and well-being. 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.
- 9.2 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.

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 no direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders, therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Appendices

Appendix A – Carbon Reduction Progress Update

Appendix B – Progress Update on the Climate Change Strategy Action Plans 2030

Appendix C - Grant Funding Update

Appendix A – Carbon Reduction Progress Update

Action	Location	Date Completed	Estimated Savings in:		
			Energy (KWh/Yr)*	Cost (£/Yr)	Carbon (tCO2e/Yr)
Installation of LED lighting in communal areas	Marlborough Court	Dec-19	65,050	7,845	22.9
Installation of LED lighting in communal areas	Beechwood Court		60,677	8,833	21.3
Installation of LED lighting in communal areas	Oakgate Close		64,038	8,325	22.5
Installation of LED Lighting in office areas	Derby Street	Jul-20	50,149	£6,018	17.7
Installation of LED Lighting in office areas and waste transfer station	Robert Hodge Centre		36,069	£432,828	12.7
Installation of replacement gas boiler	Derby Street	Aug-20	25,000	£500	4.6
Installation of LED lighting in communal stairwells	Firbeck, Uppingham and Whitburn	2020/21	114,479	£13,737	40.6
Installation of an 80KWp solar PV system	Investment Centre	Apr-20	62,811	£8,402	28.8
100% renewable energy tariff to nPower	All sites	Apr-21	N/A	N/A	1,056
					1,227

*Estimated savings have been taken from feasibility investigations undertaken prior to installation. Actual savings from these projects are being monitored.

Appendix B – Progress Update on the Climate Change Strategy Action Plans 2030

Key:

Action is progressing well
Some action made
No progress to date

ACTION	MILESTONE PROGRESS	OVERALL ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS UPDATE – MAY 2021
PRIORITY 1: DELIVERING A CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL				
Energy Monitoring and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular analysis of energy consumption patterns. Regularly investigate spikes and unusual consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced energy consumption Reduced energy bills 	Biannually (April and October)	Actioned and ongoing Carbon footprint data for 20/21 is currently being collated and will be reported in due course.
Energy Communications Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop template Communications Plan Deliver regular communications to budget holders and building managers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved knowledge and awareness of energy usage by budget holders and building managers. 	Biannually (April and October)	Reporting template is in development. Any unusual or excessive energy consumption is reported to relevant Managers for investigation.
Corporate Buildings Operational Energy Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the Corporate Buildings Operational Energy Policy (Appendix C) Actions implemented Behaviour change campaign delivered to Council staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings running more efficiently through implementation of good practise. Increased staff awareness of energy efficiency in buildings 	March 2022	Corporate Buildings Operational Energy Policy adopted with the Climate Change Strategy. Some measures have been implemented. Staff awareness campaign will be undertaken when staff return to office, prior to the winter heating season.
Building Energy Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake energy audits in corporate buildings. Investigate installation of energy efficiency measures Audit all heating systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy reduction across corporate estate. Decarbonisation of heating and reduced gas consumption 	March 2022	Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and accompanying Recommendation Reports were undertaken in November 2020.

	with a view to decarbonising heating to all buildings.			
Planned Maintenance Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure energy and carbon reduction are considered a priority when undertaking planned maintenance and refurbishment works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All works deliver the most sustainable option from procurement to installation. 	March 2022 - ongoing	<p>New energy efficient gas boiler installed at Derby Street in Summer 2020.</p> <p>LED lighting being installed at Derby Street and Robert Hodge Centre offices.</p> <p>LED lighting installed at the Waste Transfer Station at the Robert Hodge Centre.</p>
Renewable energy opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider/ review the feasibility of renewable energy alternatives (both electricity and heat) and investigate battery storage opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon renewable technologies utilised where viable. 	March 2022	<p>Installation of an 80KW PV system at West Lancashire Investment Centre, which has been performing well.</p> <p>Feasibility investigations for the installation of solar PV with battery storage have been undertaken for the Robert Hodge Centre, Oakgate Close and general needs flats. The use of battery storage technology was found to be unviable at all sites.</p> <p>A proposal for solar PV technology to be installed at the Robert Hodge Centre is in development.</p>
Water Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the use of water efficiency measures, including feasibility of rainwater harvesting and leak detection analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures implemented to save water and associated costs. 	March 2022	No progress to date.
Renewable energy tariffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate sourcing the Councils electricity supply from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council energy contract supplied from 100% renewable energy 	April 2021	The Councils electricity supply moved to a 100% renewable energy tariff on 1 st April 2021. This means that every KWh of electricity consumed at any of our sites is matched with an equivalent volume of renewable power supplied to the grid from UK renewable energy generation.
Homeworking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider increased home working and technology use i.e. Skype to reduce travel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased home working and use of E-meetings. • Reduced business 	December 2020	The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated progress in this area, with the vast majority of staff being set up to work from home during 20-21. Subsequent action to evaluate job roles and the ability to

		travel and commuting.		continue home working is also underway. The carbon savings from this significant reduction in travel will be vast but are currently unmonitored. We will endeavour to calculate this going forward.
Single-use Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the procurement and use of Single-use plastics across the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve single-use plastic free status. 	December 2020	Single use plastics from all Committee and meeting rooms have been removed. More action is required in this area.
Solar Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study into Council solar farm installation with battery storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council investment in solar farm installation 	December 2020	A feasibility study has been undertaken by APSE Ltd in April 2020 and found the White Moss Road South site to be a viable site and good investment opportunity. Communication with Homes England is underway to discuss the claw back position, actioned upon change of use of the land.
PRIORITY 2: SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT				
A Guide to Sustainable Procurement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Guide to Sustainable Procurement in Appendix D. Circulate and raise awareness to staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff become more aware and consider environmental sustainability of good and services being procured. 	December 2021	The Guide to Sustainable Procurement was adopted with the Climate Change Strategy and promoted to staff at a 'lunch and learn' session. Sustainable procurement to be embedded within the forthcoming Procurement Strategy.
Sustainable Procurement Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed sustainability considerations throughout the procurement cycle, including specifications, PQQ's and award processes etc. Monitor delivery through contract management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon savings from all procurement exercises undertaken. Sustainability is embedded in procurement across the organisation. 	December 2021- ongoing	A sustainability question has been included in some recent tenders but further work is required to embed sustainability and low carbon issues into our tender documents and contracts.
Member Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Member training to educate on environmental sustainability considerations when deliberating Cabinet reports for project approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members give significant weight to environmental considerations of projects prior to approval. 	December 2021	No progress to date.
PRIORITY 3: TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL				

Council Fleet Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Energy Saving Trusts Fleet Review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt of professional advice on the decarbonisation of Council fleet 	December 2021	Officers met with the Energy Saving Trust in July 2020 to investigate services available. A fleet review will be undertaken well in advance of our next fleet procurement exercise to establish our requirements. In the meantime, work on the grey fleet (staff business mileage) will be undertaken.
Corporate Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install EV charging infrastructure at all Council offices, including the Robert Hodge Centre for fleet use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric vehicle charging infrastructure encourages staff to explore the electric vehicle market. 	March 2021	Electric vehicle charge points have been procured for installation at the Robert Hodge Centre and the Investment Centre for staff use. Installation is expected in mid-June.
Electric Vehicle Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trial various electric vehicles within the Council fleet to gain confidence in their abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative low carbon vehicles and fuels introduced into Council fleet 	March 2021-ongoing	<p>The Rangers Service now have an electric van and initial feedback has been positive. It's good to drive, suitable for use and performing well.</p> <p>An electric vehicle charge point is being installed at the Rangers Office at Beacon Country Park in Mid-June.</p>
Alternative Fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate alternative low carbon vehicles/ fuels e.g. hydrogen vehicles and hydro-treated vegetable oil fuel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decarbonisation of Council fleet 	March 2021	Following advice from the Energy Saving Trust Fleet Team, no further investigations into hydro-treated vegetable oil fuels have been or are likely to be undertaken.
Fleet fuel consumption and Route Optimisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review outcomes from the 2019 route optimisation works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in fleet mileage and associated fuel consumption 	December 2021	Fleet fuel consumption is reported annually. More substantial monitoring needs to be in place to better inform savings and performance.
Cycle to Work Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver the Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme for Council staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased take up of the scheme and reduced car journeys. 	Ongoing	The Cycle to Work scheme continues to offer staff a tax-free incentive to purchase a bicycle. During the last year, we have seen an increase in the number of staff utilising the scheme.
Electric Vehicle (EV) Lease Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate implementation of a Council salary sacrifice lease scheme for electric and hybrid vehicles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff encouraged and supported in transition to electric vehicles. 	March 2021	A car lease scheme for staff is in the final stages of development and is expected to launch in June 2021. This includes electric vehicles.
Borough Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider further roll out of electric vehicle charging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the movement towards 	December 2021	There are 32 new electric vehicle charge points being installed in Council car parks in Ormskirk

	infrastructure at Council car parks and other locations.	decarbonised travel.		and Skelmersdale in June. These are funded by a £103,350 grant secured from Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). A second round of this funding is available for 2021/22 and sites are currently being investigated, with an intention to submit a further bid as soon as possible.
Local Planning Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable sustainable travel choices with accessible cycle and walk ways. • Support EVCPs infrastructure. • Use car park standards to encourage sustainable transport choices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced car travel in the Borough. • Facilitate electric vehicle usage. 	March 2021 - ongoing	Work on the Local Plan was suspended during COVID. Work is only just re-starting and as a result there is no progress to date
PRIORITY 4: THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR				
Energy efficiency improvements on Council housing stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued delivery of energy efficiency improvements through Programmed Works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve year-on-year improvements on the average SAP rating for Council housing stock. 	March 2021 - ongoing	<p>Programmed works delivered the following energy efficiency improvements in 20/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 129 lofts insulated (as part of re-roofing works) • Circa 400 boiler upgrades, to A-rated energy efficient appliances. • 130 window replacements* • 36 properties receiving external wall insulation* <p>(*Works still ongoing in to 21/22.)</p>
Communal Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the installation of energy efficiency measures in sheltered housing schemes and communal stairwells. • Continued roll-out of LED lighting programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced energy consumption in communal areas of housing. 	March 2021 - ongoing	LED lighting programme has been rolled out across three estates (Uppingham, Firbeck and Whitburn) and three sheltered housing schemes.
Heat Network Decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the phase out of gas heating in communal boilers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation of heating on communal heat 	December 2021	A feasibility study was undertaken in XX to investigate the cost comparisons of installing shared loop ground source heat pumps against

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate renewable heating options and undertake feasibility investigations. 	networks.		further investment in communal gas boilers in flats. SLGSHP was found to be favourable and a procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint a contractor, with a view to utilising the Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme to subsidise installation. Unfortunately, Government closed this scheme a year early on 31 st March 2021. We are currently seeking alternative funding to support this project.
Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of renewable energy opportunities for all suitable housing projects. Pilot Solar PV with battery storage project on communal blocks delivered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased renewable energy capacity installed on Council housing stock. 	December 2021	Investigations have been undertaken into solar PV with battery storage to power communal stairwells, however the current costs of battery storage technology found this wasn't suitable at the current time, especially with the LED lighting rollout anticipated to significantly reduce consumption.
Council New Build Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of twelve new homes that achieve operational zero carbon status. On-going monitoring to validate performance. Inclusion of electric vehicle charge points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new build housing delivered by the Council to aspire to achieve operational zero carbon status and be climate resilient. 	March 2021 - ongoing	Eight low energy homes are in the design phase, working in partnership with OSCO homes. The homes will benefit from energy efficient design, low carbon heating and renewable energy generation.
Tawd Valley Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a communication link with Tawd Valley Developments Ltd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of zero carbon build targets, in line with those adopted by the Council. 	December 2021	Initial discussions with Tawd Valley Developments have commenced and plans to discuss net zero carbon build and how we can progress towards it are being planned.
Local Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver low carbon policy for new build housing developments. Require new residential developments to adopt low carbon and renewable technologies, and energy and resource efficient design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future housing developments will be low carbon in build and operation. 	December 2021 - ongoing	Work on the Local Plan was suspended during COVID. Work is only just re-starting and as a result there is no progress to date.

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to participate, contribute and promote the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved energy efficiency of privately owned homes in West Lancashire. 	Ongoing	<p>The CHiL partnership has successfully secured £2m funding from Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Phase 1b (social housing focused) and £12m from Phase 2 (private sector focused) to deliver energy efficiency measures of up to £10k per home that is EPC rated 'D' or below and occupied by a low income household.</p> <p>Further funding rounds have also recently been announced until 2023.</p>
Energy Tariff Switching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate delivery of a campaign/ scheme to encourage residents to switch energy providers and consider a renewable energy tariff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents make savings on energy bills and support renewable energy schemes. 	December 2021	No progress to date. Energy supplier/ tariff switching advice is provided on an ad-hoc basis to tenants but a switching scheme is yet to be investigated.
External Wall Insulation (EWI) Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate available funding streams to help homeowners invest in external wall insulation (EWI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale delivery of EWI project across Skelmersdale. 	March 2021-ongoing	External wall insulation measures can be delivered under the CHiL scheme, providing they meet the LAD eligibility criteria. Direct marketing is planned to encourage uptake in system built properties in Skelmersdale.
Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enforce the Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) Regulations 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All privately rented properties meet a minimum standard of EPC Band E or above. 	Ongoing	Complaints from private rented tenants are investigated. Where appropriate the MEES regulations will be used, if this is considered the best enforcement option.
PRIORITY 5: COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY				
Energy efficiency improvements on Councils Commercial stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued delivery of energy efficiency improvements. Replace all inefficient lighting with LED upgrades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All vacant stock to have an EPC rating E or better. 	December 2021- ongoing	EPC certificates are undertaken for commercial properties as they are vacated and, if they do not meet the minimum standard of at least an E rating, works are carried out to ensure that they are compliant.
Refurbishment Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives are investigated and, where possible integrated, into all suitable refurbishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved energy efficiency of Councils commercial portfolio. 	Ongoing	<p>LED lighting upgrades are installed where required.</p> <p>Investigations are planned to consider PV installations on commercial properties but no real progress to date.</p>

	projects.			
Local Planning Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver low carbon policy for new build commercial developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future developments will be low carbon in build and operation. 	December 2021- ongoing	Work on the Local Plan was suspended during COVID. Work is only just re-starting and as a result there is no progress to date.
New Build Leisure Centre Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the design, construction and operation of new leisure centre developments are as sustainable and low carbon as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new build developments to be low carbon buildings. 	December 2021	The Council continues to develop plans to replace its current Leisure Centres in Ormskirk and Skelmersdale with new Wellbeing and Leisure Hubs. The new buildings would incorporate contemporary design features and would seek to achieve, as a minimum, a rating of BREAM very good.
Low Carbon Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership and encourage businesses to measure and actively work to reduce their carbon footprint and improve resilience to climate hazards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness and action from the commercial sector to reduce emissions from their operations. 	December 2021 - ongoing	No progress to date.
Signposting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and signpost businesses to available climate action support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased take up of support and action across the Borough. 	March 2021 - ongoing	No progress to date.
Strengthened Partnership Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation and active contribution to the new Edge Hill Sustainability Network. • Communication with Skelmersdale Ambassadors Forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective partnership working to share knowledge and successful projects 	March 2021	The Council are a member of SustainNET, a new sustainability group initiative delivered by Edge Hill University and are keen to investigate partnership working to deliver community action.
PRIORITY 6: COMMUNITY ACTION				
Climate Action Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen existing partnerships with local climate action groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong working relationships and sharing best practise. 	December 2021	A Climate Change Review is being undertaken by the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee. An initial phase of this work

Member Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage local Councillors to take action in their communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillors actively involved in promoting and delivering climate action. 	December 2021	includes an online climate change questionnaire to gauge people's opinions and areas of interest for community action to reduce their impact on the environment.
Citizens Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Citizens Assembly and hold an initial workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish low carbon targets and actions 	December 2021	A citizen's assembly or task group will be considered following the results of the survey, to focus on carbon reduction projects people are keen to see in their communities.
Establish a West Lancashire Climate Action Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a diverse range of new partners, stakeholders and interested parties across the Borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New climate action group is formed. 	December 2021	
PRIORITY 7: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT				
Access management to provide high quality walking and cycling routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing routes and investigate expansion/ creation of new routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable travel options encourage greener lifestyles. 	December 2021- ongoing	<p>Upgrade works to walking/ cycle path between Ormskirk bus and rail station completed.</p> <p>Access improvements at Hunters Hill, Platts Lane and Beacon Country Park.</p>
Protect and promote green infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community involvement Habitat and wildlife conservation Tree planting schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community parks are well maintained and appreciated/ supported locally. 	March 2021- ongoing	<p>Heathland restoration undertaken at Hunters Hill.</p> <p>Habitat management works at Tawd Valley Park.</p> <p>Vegetation management, conservation work with volunteers, woodland management, path installation, development of interpretation boards and tree planting undertaken at various sites.</p> <p>Education workshops with school groups have restarted.</p> <p>Composting at Tawd Valley Park and Beacon Country Park.</p>
Carbon Offsetting opportunities from Parks and Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the use of parks and open spaces to offset carbon for individuals and local businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a Carbon Offsetting Fund directly linked to local planting schemes. 	December 2021	No progress to date.

Lancashire Woodlands Connect Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council participation in the Woodland connect project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting schemes double the area of woodland across Lancashire. 	December 2021	West Lancashire are actively participating in the Woodland Connect Project. Unfortunately an identified site for planting has recently fallen through we are working with the Ribble Rivers Trust to identify other suitable planting locations.
Investigate the opportunities for an Eco-Park at Beacon Park.	Investigate creation of an Eco-park to various green initiatives: renewable energy, recycling, local food allotments, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of an Eco - Park providing education links with schools and communities. 	December 2021	No progress to date.
Local Planning Policies	<p>Protect, provide and enhance green and blue infrastructure. Protect trees and the natural environment.</p> <p>Protection and improvement of biodiversity and habitats.</p> <p>Protection of parks and natural open spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced environment • Improved air quality • Reduced GHG emissions • Sustainable travel. 	March 2021 - ongoing	Work on the Local Plan was suspended during COVID. Work is only just re-starting and as a result there is no progress to date.

Appendix C - Grant Funding Update

Fund	Aim of the Fund	Application Type	Funding Awarded	Delivery Date
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Secured Funding				
Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 1b (with delivery focused on Council owned housing stock).	To improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping reduce fuel poverty, phasing out high carbon fossil fuel heating, and delivering progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.	A consortium bid for Lancashire, delivered by the Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) partnership.	£2m for Lancashire, (£250,000 for West Lancashire)	Sep-21
Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 2 (with delivery focused on privately owned/ rented sector).			£12m for Lancashire County	Dec-21
On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) 20/21	To install on-street electric vehicle chargepoints in areas located near residential properties that lack off-street parking	West Lancashire Borough Council bid	£103,350	Jun-21
Forthcoming Funding Opportunities				
Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Phase 3	Continued provision of funding for Green Homes Grant projects till 2023	Early communications indicate there will be one application to secure both these funds simultaneously, expected in the Summer. It is proposed that delivery through the CHiL partnership will be continued.	Applications open in Autumn	Mar-23
Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)	To support low income households by upgrading the energy efficiency of properties located off the gas network.			
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	To provide funding for social landlords to apply deeper retrofit solutions to their social housing stock, with a higher cost cap than the LAD scheme.	TBC		

On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) 2021/22	To install on-street electric vehicle chargepoints in areas located near residential properties that lack off-street parking	West Lancashire Borough Council bid	Application will be submitted asap	Apr-22
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