



CABINET: 25 JANUARY 2022

Report of: Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillors Gaynar Owen, Kevin Wilkie & Jenny Wilkie)

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW - ACTION ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY /CREATE/DESIGNATE
HEDGEHOG AND WILDLIFE AREAS IN PUBLIC PARKS/GARDENS
ACROSS THE BOROUGH**

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee's final report, attached at Appendix A, and the recommendations contained therein.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the final report of the Committee on the review undertaken on the Action on Climate Emergency' combined with 'Create/Designate Hedgehog and Wildlife areas in public parks/gardens across the Borough', attached as Appendix A to the report, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 10th December 2020 the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to review 'Action on Climate Emergency' combined with 'Create/Designate Hedgehog and Wildlife areas in public parks/gardens across the Borough'.
- 3.2 The key objective of the review was to encourage and actively promote 'climate action' and to participate and engage in a 'Community Action Plan' involving the communities, businesses, individuals', and stakeholders across all sectors of the Borough.

3.3 At the start of the review, the Council responded to the Coronavirus pandemic and had adapted to hold its committee meetings virtually.

3.4 A survey was developed to establish how we could aid community action to reduce carbon emissions in West Lancashire. The 'Action on Climate Emergency' Consultation was included on the Council website and also promoted by Comms during May 2021. The results of the survey were presented to the June meeting of the Committee.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030' drives 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.

5.0 KEY AIM AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 The key aims and objectives of the Council's vision and priority 'To Become a Greener West Lancashire'.

5.2 The 4 key objectives of the 'Action on Climate Emergency' combined with 'Create/Designate Hedgehog and Wildlife areas in public parks/gardens across the Borough' review, focused on the following themes:

The 4 key objectives:

- To move towards the production and increase in renewable energy
- Public engagement with a Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy
- Developing/Supporting Biodiversity Projects
- Development of Water Management Strategies

5.3 The 4 themes will:

- Promote schemes that support the move to more energy efficient solutions and green energy production
- Focus on promotion/ education / communication with Schools and to Campaign to help Citizens of West Lancashire to implement changes at home
- Roll out tree planting / wildflower habitats and develop strategies for our green spaces to support sustainable wildlife habitats to thrive and flourish
- Work with lead Flood Authorities and Highways to address issues of localised flooding and to have an Action Plan to address issues of flooding across West Lancashire

5.4 To meet the key objectives linked to the 4 themes, the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 2030 will focus on progressing these through community engagement and Citizens Assembly. The actions from the plan feed into the 'Council Vision and Priorities'.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 By its very nature, the sustainability benefits of delivering the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 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 and resource implications arising from this report, however implementing the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan as a whole, will require financial resources in addition to those included within current business plans.

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.

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

Appendices

Corporate & Environmental Overview & Scrutiny Committee draft final report "Action on Climate Emergency' combined with 'Create/Designate Hedgehog and Wildlife areas in public parks/gardens across the Borough' Review".