



**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 12 January 2023**

CABINET: 24 January 2023

Report of: Corporate Director of Place and Community

Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Wilkie

Contact for Further Information:

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**SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2030: PROGRESS
UPDATE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2023/24 PRIORITIES**

Areas affected: Borough Wide

1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The report provides an update on the council's progress towards delivering the actions set out in the Climate Change Strategy (Strategy) and Action Plan 2030, and to approve the council's priorities for 2023/24.

2.0 Recommendations to Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee

2.1 To note the contents of the report and pass any agreed comments to the Cabinet for consideration.

3.0 Recommendations to Cabinet

3.1 To note the content of the report.

3.2 To approve the priority actions for 2023/24 and to authorise a public consultation for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. This is set out in section 6. Following consideration of the agreed comments of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 Background

4.1 The UK Government's target is to reach net zero by 2050, with an interim target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035, compared to 1990 levels.

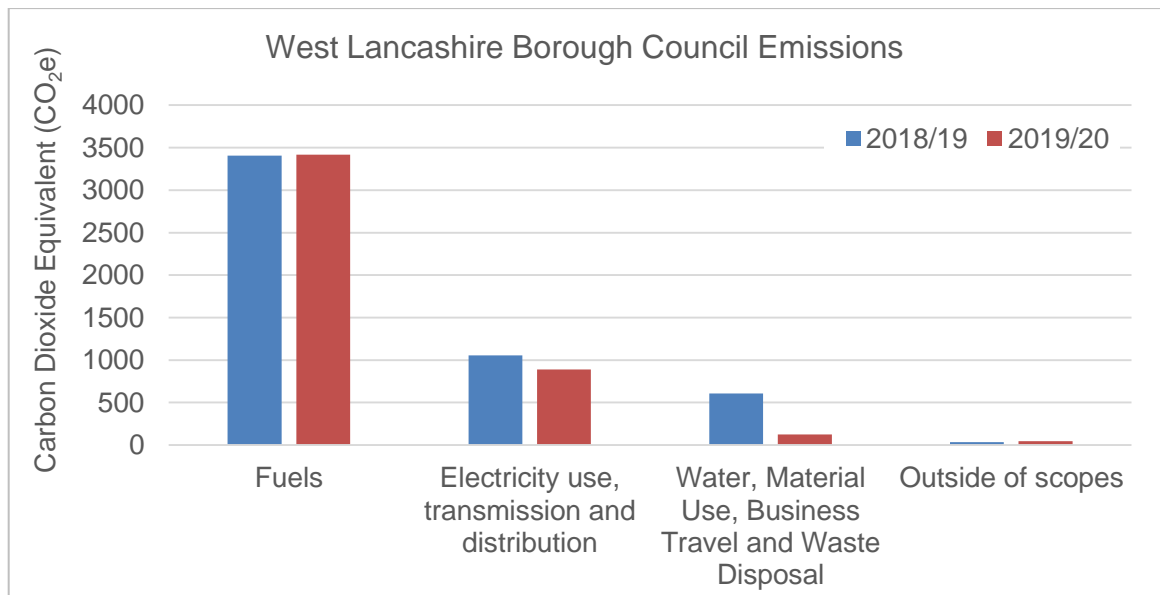
4.2 In November 2020, West Lancashire Borough Council (the Council) adopted a new 'Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2030' (Strategy) to assist in the

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.

- 4.3 The Strategy identified seven key priority areas for action, they are:
1. Delivering a carbon neutral Council,
 2. Sustainable procurement,
 3. Transport and travel,
 4. Residential buildings,
 5. Commercial activity,
 6. Community action and the
 7. Natural environment.

5.0 Current position - Progress to January 2023

- 5.1 The last progress on the strategy was reported to Cabinet in June 2021 by the Environmental Strategy Officer. Council approved the new Environmental Sustainability Manager (ESM) post, who started to work for the council in August 2022, and the new Climate Change Officer post, to work alongside the ESM, who started in January 2023.
- 5.2 For 2018/19 and 2019/20 data, One Carbon World calculated the council's carbon footprint. Overall, the data showed the council's emissions had reduced by 12% pre-pandemic. There is a gap in the data for 2020/21, therefore it is highly unlikely all the data will be available. The 2022/23 data will be calculated and will be known in Summer 2023.



- 5.3 The adoption of the 2021-23 climate change action plan identified a wide range of projects aimed at reducing the council's carbon footprint. There has been good progress against the delivery of the action plan with the following achievements:

5.3.1 Council Action

1. The proposed designs for the new leisure centres include low carbon energy. Feasibility investigations for air source heat pumps have been completed with the view to install this technology within new facilities. This will be confirmed after RIBA stage 4 (around June 2023).
2. Internal funding was sourced to develop a de-carbonisation plan for Burscough Leisure Centre and a bid was submitted to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme in October 2022. The council is expected to be notified of the outcome of this bid by the end of January 2023. If successful works are expected to be completed by the end of April 2024.
3. Installation of Solar Crown lighting at both 52 Derby St and the Robert Hodge Centre as part of the refurbishment works. Updating to LED lighting as and when old lights require replacing.
4. Commuting:
 - An electric vehicle (EV) charge point was installed at Robert Hodge for staff use.
 - The EV lease scheme was introduced in September 2021. It continues to be promoted amongst staff and to mid-November 2022 14 staff have EV lease agreements in place, of these 11 are fully electric and 3 are hybrid vehicles. The scheme has petrol and diesel vehicle options, but none were leased by staff.
 - The staff Cycle to Work Scheme is advertised in recruitment packs. So far in 2022/23, 5 members of staff used the scheme to purchase bikes and cycling accessories. Between April 2020 and March 2022 18 members of staff also utilised the scheme. The Cycle to Work Scheme is enhanced with partnership from the 'Love to ride' programme.
 - The flexible working/family friendly policy allows staff to regularly utilise homeworking (helped by the introduction of Microsoft 365 software and laptops) and is regularly used by staff to work from home and to stagger their start and finish times.

All the schemes assist staff to reduce their emissions from commuting including by travelling out of peak hours and by reducing travel.
5. In 2021, the Ranger Service started to use an electric van and a charge point was installed in the garage at Beacon Country Park. The van is used for repeated short journeys around the borough and is working well.
6. In October 2022, Environmental Services trialled an electric refuse collection vehicle. The vehicle can travel up to 150 miles on a single charge. Feedback from the driver was positive. A task and finish group will investigate other vehicle options.
7. The Ranger Service published an annual events programme of well-attended walks and a series of guided walks which are available on the website.

5.3.2 Borough-Wide Action

1. The council successfully received funding for on-street electric vehicle charge points in residential areas. 31 charge points are being installed by BP Pulse in 16 locations in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk. The points are expected to be available for use by the end of March 2023.

2. The council launched the Green Tourism programme in June 2022 to assist businesses to reduce their environmental impact, save money and to achieve an internally recognised accreditation. By mid-October 2022, 8 local tourism companies had signed up to the programme and a further 6 are pending.
3. The Friends of Tawd Valley created community food growing areas in the community orchard section of the park, funds were contributed by Tesco.
4. Tawd Valley Park Community Classroom, to be completed by December 2022, has a living roof, rain garden and harvesting system. The roof will aide biodiversity and the water systems will help to slow the flow of water to alleviate flooding.
5. Community tree planting events were completed alongside the River Ribble Trust at Fairy Glen in winter 2021/22, Westend Park and at Banks in winter 2022/23.
6. A Community Climate Change Consultation was conducted in May 2021 and received 123 responses from a mixture of individuals and groups. Key findings included:
 - a. 57% were very concerned about climate change.
 - b. When asked to choose from a list of options about what they would most like to see delivered in their community, they said: rewilding and wildlife friendly planting, generating renewable energy, tree planting, and then encourage active travel (cycling/walking).
 - c. Their top priorities for reducing emissions were: generating renewable energy, followed by insulating buildings.
 - d. 77% supported reduced mowing in open spaces to encourage wildflower regeneration.

6.0 Priorities for 2023/24

6.1 While the council has made good progress to reduce its CO₂e emissions, further work is required, in particular to integrate good carbon management into the organisation. To achieve this, it is proposed that the council instigates a new multi-year Carbon Management Programme. In 2023/24, the priorities will be:

- i. Instigate an identification and mobilisation programme for:
 - 1) council operations
 - 2) the borough
- ii. Carbon pathways and footprint for 2021/2 and 2022/3
- iii. Carbon Management Embedding Matrix
- iv. Climate Risk and Adaptation

The focus will primarily be to develop (ii. 1) a project list of CO₂e saving opportunities for the council's operations, quantify where possible and start to implement the projects. Projects for the borough will also be identified, and opportunities should be taken to integrate carbon neutrality into new and existing projects.

In order to understand the scale of the action, running alongside the identification and mobilisation programme, the:

- carbon footprints and pathways (i) will be calculated to understand the achievements to date, develop interim targets to 2030 and to enable a gap analysis to be completed.
- council will assess itself against the (iii) Carbon Management Embedding Matrix (see appendix 2) and identify the maturity level it wishes to achieve.
- Climate risk and adaptation (iv) workshop will identify current and future risks to both the council and the borough.

Projects/actions will be prioritised. Action plans will be developed for i and iii and will start to be delivered. See appendix 1 for further information.

6.2 The council has been successful in receiving funding for EV charging infrastructure. The Environmental Sustainability Team (ES Team) wishes to consult the public to gain an insight into:

1. The number of people who will rely on public charging infrastructure,
2. If additional public charging infrastructure will help them to consider getting an EV,
3. When they hope to get an EV,
4. To identify potential locations for public charge points, and
5. If they think more charge points across the borough will be good or bad.

Should the council wish to bid for further EV funding, the team intends to conduct a separate consultation with households in the immediate vicinity of the proposed sites.

7.0 Issues

7.1 In order to understand the challenge of reducing CO₂e emissions and to measure progress, the council needs to use a consultant to calculate carbon pathways for the:

- council's carbon footprint to 2030, and
- borough carbon footprint to national targets.

For both, pathway scenarios need to be calculated to show:

- business as usual, and a
- realistic carbon neutral pathway that calculates annual decreasing targets.

All pathways need to be comparable to other councils. The scenarios must be evidence-based by considering national policy drivers and local interventions. Due to the complexity of this work, the Environmental Sustainability Team are unable to complete it.

8.0 Review process

8.1 The outcomes of the new priorities in 6.1 will be reported quarterly to an internal strategic group and annually to Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

8.2 The EV charging infrastructure consultation (6.2) results will be reported Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.

9.0 Sustainability implications

- 9.1 This report introduces a new programme to identify current and potential new projects to mitigate and adapt to climate change. As a result, a new Climate Change Action Plan will be developed in August 2023, and will include projects from the 2021-22 climate change action plan. The projects will assist the council to meet its carbon neutral aim in 2030.

10.0 Financial and Resource implications

- 10.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report, however implementing the Climate Change Strategy and the actions from the Carbon Management Programme will require extra financial resources that will be considered at budget in February 2023.
- 10.2 The actions and projects needed to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change cannot be made only by the Environmental Sustainability Team. The work needs to be integrated into the work of all staff, commitment is needed from all council departments, and will be steered through the cross-organisational Carbon Management Team and the strategic group.

11.0 Risk Assessment / Pentana

- 11.1 There are numerous risks relating to climate change that could stop the council from achieving its climate change goals, including:
- The buy-in of staff, understanding how their role relates to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change, understanding how to take action and their capacity to complete the work,
 - Financing the numerous projects required, and the
 - Public disagreeing with the action taken.
- 11.2 Climate change risks will be identified in November 2022 at a workshop co-designed with the council's Risk Management Officer, and will involve key officers from across the council. The risks will be managed using the existing risk system on Pentana and monitored quarterly as per the council's Risk Management Policy.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 12.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications from this report, the projects identified will co-benefit health and wellbeing.
- 12.2 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, cold spells, storms, flooding and access to food and services. Such events can threaten our health (especially for the most vulnerable), the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe.
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Background Documents

Appendix 1: Priorities for 2023/24

Appendix 2: Carbon Management Embedding Matrix

Appendix 1: Priorities for 2023/24

Action	Milestone Progress and End Dates	Allocated To	Anticipated Outcome	Strategy Priority (P) and Anticipated Greener West Lancashire Links ¹
Carbon pathways and footprint for 2021/2 and 2022/3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the carbon footprint based on the data available. April 2023. Calculate the council's carbon footprint for 2021/2 and 2022/3. Summer 2023 Develop carbon pathway scenarios with interim targets to 2030 for the council's and borough's footprint. Autumn 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES Team ES Team Consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand Business as Usual and pathway reduction scenarios. Understand the challenge to meet the targets. Measure progress. 	P1: Carbon Neutral Council G1
Instigate a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly operational meetings. On- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational Carbon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New action plan. 	P1: Carbon Neutral Council

¹ Become a Greener West Lancashire, We Will...

G1: Be a role model and lead good practice; develop a Climate Change Strategy and action plan.

G2: Ensure all council buildings are operating to highest efficiency standards - insulation, design, and technology.

G3: Encourage local businesses and service providers to set their own targets for becoming carbon neutral and promote their achievements.

G4: Commit to maximising Council energy requirements from renewable sources.

G5: Maximise the use of solar panels on Council owned buildings and housing stock.

G6: Increase the use of environmentally friendly products.

G7: Optimise the development of solar/wind farm investment.

G8: Use the supply chain to maximise energy efficiency, design out waste and reduce our carbon footprint

G9: Optimise the Council fleet; increase route efficiency and maximise low emissions.

G10: Enhance green spaces promoting diverse leisure uses and explore the option of developing an Eco park.

G11: Support the development of green transport.

G12: Use green credentials to form part of our procurement selection criteria.

G13: Reduce waste and improve recycling, implement a Waste strategy with a focus on sustainable solutions.

G14: Develop a local plan policy encouraging green developments, green space, energy efficiency, sustainable supply chains.

Action	Milestone Progress and End Dates	Allocated To	Anticipated Outcome	Strategy Priority (P) and Anticipated Greener West Lancashire Links ¹
Carbon Management Programme for: 1. council operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> going. • Identify current and potential projects and simple prioritisation. Jan 2023 and on-going. • Quantify the potential CO₂e savings of projects. Spring 2023 and on-going. • Prioritise projects. Spring 2023 and on-going. • Gap analysis. Summer 2023 and on-going. • Start to action. 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Team • As above • As above • As above • ES Team • Operational Carbon Management Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver projects. • Funding bids. 	P2: Sustainable Procurement P3: Travel and Transport P4: Domestic Sector P5: Commercial Sector P7: Natural Environment G1, G2, G4, G5, G7, G8, G9, G11
2. the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the monthly operational meetings (above), identify current and potential projects. Jan 2023 • Where possible prioritise and quantify the potential CO₂e savings of projects. Jan 2023 and on-going. • Prioritise projects. Spring 2023 and on-going. • Gap analysis. Summer 2023 and on-going. • Start to action. 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Management Team • As above • As above • ES Team • Operational Carbon Management Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New action plan. • Deliver projects. • Funding bids. 	P2: Sustainable Procurement P3: Travel and Transport P4: Domestic Sector P5: Commercial Sector P6: Community Action P7: Natural Environment G1, G3, G11, G14
Embedding carbon management into	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review council activity against the Carbon Management Embedding Matrix: Identify the current status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Management Team (embedding) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New action plan. • Embedding carbon 	P1: Delivering a Carbon Neutral Council P2: Sustainable

Action	Milestone Progress and End Dates	Allocated To	Anticipated Outcome	Strategy Priority (P) and Anticipated Greener West Lancashire Links ¹
the council	and targets against the 7 action areas. Jan 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan. Jan 2023. • Start to action. Feb 2023 and on-going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • As above. 	management into the organisation.	Procurement G1, G2, G3, G6, G8, G12, G13, G14
Climate Risk and Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the risks to the council and borough from climate change. Nov 2022 • Risks and controls to mitigate risks added to Pentana. Jan 2023 • Monitored quarterly. On-going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Team, Risk Management Officer and key officers across the council • Risk owner • Risk owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding climate risk into the organisation. 	P1: Carbon Neutral Council P2: Sustainable Procurement P3: Travel and Transport P4: Domestic Sector P5: Commercial Sector P6: Community Action P7: Natural Environment G1, G2, G10, G14

Appendix 2: Carbon Management Embedding Matrix

	CORPORATE STRATEGY	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	DATA MANAGEMENT	COMMUNICATION & TRAINING	FINANCE & INVESTMENT	POLICY ALIGNMENT *
Mature 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top level target allocated across organisation CO₂ reduction targets in Directorate Business Plans Action plans in place to embed strategy. Progress routinely reviewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet / SMT review progress against targets on quarterly basis Regular diagnostic reports provided to Directorates Progress against target published externally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM integrated in responsibilities of senior managers CM part of all contracts / Ts & Cs Central CO₂ reduction advice available Green Champions leading local action groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular collation of CO₂ emissions for all sources Data externally verified Monitoring & Targeting in place for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> buildings street lighting transport/travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff given formalised CO₂: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> induction and training communications Joint CM communications with key partners Staff awareness tested through surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance committed for 2+yrs of Programme External funding being routinely obtained Ring-fenced fund for carbon reduction initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ friendly operating procedure in place Central team provide advice and review, when requested Barriers to CO₂ reduction routinely considered and removed
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ reduction commitment in Corporate Strategy Top level targets set for CO₂ reduction Climate Change Strategy reviewed annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor reviews progress and removes blockages through regular Programme Boards Progress against targets routinely reported to Senior Mgt Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM integrated in to responsibilities of department heads Cabinet / SMT regularly updated Staff engaged though Green Champion network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual collation of CO₂ emissions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> buildings street lighting transport/travel Data internally reviewed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff given CO₂ reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> induction communications CM matters – communicated to external community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordinated financing for CO₂ reduction projects via Programme Board Funding principles and processes agreed Finances committed 1year ahead Some external financing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive review of policies complete Lower level policies reviewed locally Unpopular changes being considered
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vision for CO₂ reduction clearly stated and published Climate Change Strategy endorsed by Cabinet and publicised with staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core team regularly review CM progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> actions profile & targets new opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual provides full time focus for CO₂ reduction Key individuals have accountability for carbon reduction Senior Sponsor actively engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collation of CO₂ emissions for limited scope i.e. buildings only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental / energy group(s) given ad hoc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> training communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A view of the cost of CO₂ reduction is developing, but finance remains ad-hoc Some centralised resource allocated Finance representation on CM Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All high level and some mid level policies reviewed, irregularly Substantial changes made, showing CO₂ savings
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Climate Change Policy Climate Change references in other strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc reviews of CM actions progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CO₂ reduction a part-time responsibility of a few department champions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CO₂ emissions data compiled Energy data compiled on a regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular awareness campaigns Staff given CM information on ad-hoc basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad hoc financing for CO₂ reduction projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial review of key, high level policies Some financial quick wins made
1 Start	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No policy No Climate Change reference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CM monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No recognised CO₂ reduction responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No CO₂ emissions data compiled Estimated billing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No communication or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific funding for CO₂ reduction projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No alignment of policies for CO₂ reduction