

**MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP -
DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S GREEN AGENDA**

MEETING DATE Thursday, 7 November 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Steve Holgate (Chair), Councillor Paul Sloan (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Val Counce, Mark Clifford, Alex Hilton, Laura Lennox and June Molyneaux

OFFICERS: Victoria Willett (Service Lead - Transformation and Partnerships) and Nina Neisser (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Julia Berry and Gordon France

OTHER MEMBERS: Councillor Yvonne Hargreaves (Observer), Rachelle Bell (Green Living Chorley) and Emma Kilburn (Green Living Chorley)

19.OS7 Minutes of meeting Thursday, 12 September 2019 of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Developing the Council's Green Agenda

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2019 we approved as a correct record.

19.OS8 Declarations of any Interests

Councillors Mark Clifford and Paul Sloan declared an interest in the Wildlife Trust.

19.OS9 Discussion with Green Living Chorley Community Group Representatives

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Rachelle Bell and Emma Kilburn, representatives from the Green Living Chorley Community Group.

Members of the Task Group were provided with background information on the Green Living Chorley Community Group. The group met once a month to discuss different ways in which residents can make greener lifestyle choices. 30-40 people from various age groups and backgrounds attended these meetings each month. The group also had an online Membership of over 800 people on their Facebook Group. Representatives recognised how council endorsement could help expand the group further.

In preparation for the Task Group meeting, Green Living Chorley went out on social media to find out what the top 3 climate change concerns were for residents locally. Over 150 responses were received which highlighted the following main concerns:

1. Reducing landfill

2. Lack of education on recycling
3. Need for responsible housing

With regards to reducing landfill, Rachelle Bell informed the Task Group of the Surfers Against Sewage campaign to help certify plastic free towns. In order to achieve this, Green Living Chorley would need to get the local council involved, get 3 schools on board and 12 businesses to make 3 single-use swaps. Plastic free posters would be displayed in business premises/windows, and an award would be given to the business that made the most changes.

Further suggestions to reduce landfill from Green Living Chorley included:

- Recycling/compost bins around the town centre; Members advised that this had been trialed previously but was unsuccessful due to cross contamination. It was proposed by Members that the Council consider re-introducing them. Advertising space could also be provided on bins to help income generation.
- Food waste collection; officers advised that the council used to collect food waste from residents until 2015. It was agreed that the Task Group write to LCC to confirm why there were no longer food collections and to encourage that this be reconsidered.
- Cloth nappy incentive e.g. some councils were providing vouchers to buy to encourage greener nappy alternatives.
- Greater choice to buy green; Green Living Chorley had looked into opening a community plastic free shop selling unpackaged, locally sourced food however, advised on barriers such as rents and business rates. It was agreed that the council could look to progressing this.
- Use of allotments; including those at Primrose Gardens and link with Chorley in Bloom.

The second main concern was the lack of education on recycling. Following discussion both Green Living Chorley representatives and Members of the Task Group agreed on the importance of more education on recycling, especially following the changes to recycling implemented on 1 October. It was agreed that the current recycling guidance was not clear enough, and therefore the Task Group would write to the Executive Member responsible and to LCC to ensure that greater clarity be provided on recycling, advising further on what can be recycled and how.

The final main concern was responsible housing and the need for a strict green build criteria, such as electric charging points to be included in each new build development. Community housing incentives such as shared gardens were also suggested. Members advised of government guidelines that provided some restrictions to Chorley Council, however, climate change would be considered in the new Central Lancashire Local Plan which was currently out for public consultation.

Green Living Chorley members also raised concerns with regards to Transport, however recognised the restrictions Chorley Council faced in regards to this. It was agreed that further work would be undertaken to look at improving transport.

The Chair thanked Rachelle Bell, Emma Kilburn and Chorley Green Living for their contribution to the inquiry.

19.OS10 Developing the Green Agenda for Chorley - Position Statement

Vicky Willett, Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships presented the Council's draft Position Statement on Developing the Green Agenda for Chorley.

The report considered Chorley's current position, existing and planned activity to support the green agenda, research into activity in other areas, budget and resourcing, and the next steps for the Council. It was hoped that the position statement would form the basis of the interim report in the new year.

Following Member concerns in regards to a blanket introduction of reduced bin sizes, the Task Group were reassured that if this was to be implemented there would be a phased cultural change with the relevant education to accompany this.

Members commended the document and were satisfied with the work being undertaken at the council. The Task Group agreed to adopt the position statement as a working document.

Decision: That the position statement be noted and adopted as a working document.

19.OS11 Feedback on Findings

The Chair advised Members that a Task Group sub-group had met with the Chorley and District Natural History Society.

The main suggestions from the meeting were:

- The creation of a forum to meet approximately 4 times per year to bring all local environmental groups together
- Ecology experts to undertake environmental assessments at sites across the borough before monitoring and reviewing these areas.
- Development of a strategy

The Chair had also attended a Town Centre Team meeting to speak with town centre/market traders. A subsequent meeting with Conrad Heald, Interim Service Lead for Commercial and Assets was set up to discuss how to make the town centre greener.

All suggestions and evidence would be referred to when considering the final recommendations of the Task Group.

Decision: the report was noted.

19.OS12 Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday, 7 December 2019 at 6pm.

Chair

Date