

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – Develop the Council’s Green Agenda	Overview and Scrutiny Task Group - Developing the Council’s Green Agenda	09/01/20

## INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To set out the interim recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group on Developing the Council’s Green Agenda.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To approve the interim recommendations contained within the report

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. In September 2019 a task group was convened to explore the role of the council in supporting the green agenda. The task group will present its final recommendations in March 2020 however there are some early actions that can be progressed more quickly. Therefore, the task group has produced a number of interim recommendations:

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

### BACKGROUND

5. In recent years the environment has moved up the public agenda following the realisation that the threat of climate change can no longer be ignored and must be responded to as a matter of urgency. Chorley Council is committed to enabling and supporting residents to live in a more environmentally friendly way and leading the way as an organisation.
6. The council is already working hard to strengthen its green credentials: the digital office park has been designed to the highest green standards with a BREEAM ‘excellent’ rating, enforcement officers use electric vehicles, and staff are encouraged to be environmentally friendly with cycle to work schemes and travel passes.

7. The council intends to do even more to ensure that the environmental agenda cuts across everything that it does. In September 2019 a task group was convened to explore the role of the council in supporting the green agenda and make recommendations back to Overview and Scrutiny.
8. Since then the council has incorporated the green agenda as a key overarching theme of its Corporate Strategy 2019/20-2021/22 and has also declared a Climate Change Emergency with an ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP ON THE GREEN AGENDA

9. The task group has two key objectives:
  - To investigate how Chorley Council can influence Chorley’s green agenda
  - To engage with different stakeholder groups and residents to understand what steps they are taking to address climate change and to identify how the council can help them.
10. To date the task group has established the current position for Chorley and developed a Position Statement (attached at Appendix 1). It has also undertaken site visits and meetings with key stakeholders including young people, traders and businesses, staff, and community groups.

## INTERIM RECOMMENDATIONS

11. The task group will make final recommendations in March 2020 however there are some early actions that can be progressed more quickly. There may also be a requirement for resourcing which will need to be considered through the budget setting process for the next financial year. Therefore, the task group has produced a number of interim recommendations:

<p><b>1. Establish a baseline</b></p> <p>a) Undertake work to map and calculate the councils current carbon footprint</p> <p>b) Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions and measures</p>
<p><b>2. Raise awareness</b></p> <p>a) Develop a campaign and action plan to raise awareness of the council’s current climate change activity and educate residents on what they can do, as well as sources of support</p> <p>b) Set up a sustainability forum to bring environmental groups together and deliver a launch event in Spring 2020</p>
<p><b>3. Set up appropriate governance</b></p> <p>a) Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction</p> <p>b) Embed green considerations in all decision making by including a space for an environmental impact comment on all committee reports. Also review the sustainability element of the existing Integrated Impact Assessment.</p>

#### **4. Allocate appropriate resources**

- a) Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral
- b) Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise or specific projects.

#### **5. Implement quick wins identified by the task group to date**

- a) Write to the Executive Member responsible and to LCC to request that greater clarity be provided on recycling, advising further on what can be recycled and how.
- b) Improve information on recycling available via the council website
- c) Support local community groups to promote the green agenda, for example, the Chorley Green Living proposal for a pop-up shop in the town centre.

### **FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

12. The task group will draw together a final report and recommendations at a strategic, community and individual level in line with the notice of motion. There will be a number of broad themes:
- The operational programme – what the council can influence and change e.g. internal policy and strategy, service delivery and council owned land or estate
  - Community leader and partnerships – what the council can do through facilitation and community leadership e.g. setting up a sustainability accreditation scheme for local businesses
  - National policy and strategy – lobbying for change to Central Government policy and the provision or devolution of powers and resources towards the 2030 target

### **IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT**

13. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

### **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

14. The task group's final report will include financial implications that will be considered as part of the final budget setting process.

### **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

15. No comments.

**COUNCILLOR STEVE HOLGATE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK GROUP – DEVELOPING THE COUNCILS GREEN AGENDA**

---

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>
Vicky Willett	5248	18/12/2019