

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Council	25.02.20

CHORLEY COUNCIL CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION – UPDATE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide an update on the actions that the council has and will take to address the Climate Change Emergency.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the update is noted.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- On the 19th November 2019, Chorley Council supported a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. The motion requested that the Chief Executive be requested to update the council before the end of February 2020 with the actions the council has and will take to address the emergency.
- 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, neighbourhood officers use electric vehicles, and staff are encouraged to be environmentally friendly with cycle to work schemes and travel passes.
- Since the declaration of the emergency, the council has signed up to the UN Climate Change Neutral Now pledge with specific commitments to calculate, measure and work to reduce emissions. The council has also taken action to promote the green agenda with residents including tree planting, improving recycling information and exploring renewable energy initiatives.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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	x	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

7. On the 19th November 2019, Chorley Council supported a motion to declare a Climate Emergency. The motion requested that the Chief Executive be requested to update the council before the end of February 2020 with the actions the council has and will take to address the emergency.
8. An Overview and Scrutiny Task Group to consider the development of the council's green agenda is due to report back in March 2020. The Position Statement produced by the task group provides an overview of the range of activity being undertaken and action planned for the future.

UPDATE

9. The council is already working hard to strengthen its green credentials. Examples include:
 - Extensive work in recent years to improve the efficiency of council buildings with LED lighting, motion sensors and window replacement programme for the Town Hall.
 - Installation of electric vehicle charging points in the town centre
 - Home energy efficiency service supporting residents with tariff switching and working with partners to provide boiler and insulation improvements
 - Planting of trees and wildflower meadows
 - Neighbourhood officers using electric vehicles
 - Support for staff including sustainable travel incentives and recycling facilities in council offices
10. Since the declaration of the climate emergency, work has been commissioned to calculate the council's carbon footprint. This report is expected over the coming weeks and will provide an indication of where the council should start to focus its activity in terms of reducing operational emissions.
11. The council has also joined other Lancashire Councils in signing up to the UN Climate Change Neutral Now pledge. By signing the pledge the council commits to effectively help implement the Paris Agreement to accelerate the transformative change needed to reach greenhouse gas (GHG) emission neutrality (i.e. climate neutrality) in the second half of the twenty-first century, while also supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
12. It also commits Chorley Council to:
 - a. Measure (quantify) our greenhouse gas emissions;
 - b. Reduce those emissions through own action;
 - c. Compensate any remaining emissions by offsetting, including through use of Certified Emission Reductions (CERs).
13. The council continues to proactively take action to promote the green agenda and encourage sustainable behaviour. Activity since November includes working in partnership to plant 100 trees on Yarrow Meadows, improving information about what can be recycled with visual tags for wheelie bins and working with partners to develop action to reduce single use plastics in the town centre.
14. The organisation will respond accordingly to the outcomes and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group into the green agenda.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. 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

16. The council will set aside resources to support the actions of the task group including £50k of revenue reserves

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

17. In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported on the state of global warming. It warned that there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. It also outlined that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. There has been an increased focus from governments and interest groups on climate change and on carbon reduction.
18. In May 2019 a motion was passed by Central Government declaring a climate change emergency and since then many local authorities have followed suit. The Climate Change Act 2008 required the UK to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050. In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change recommended a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050. This was made a statutory target in June through the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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