

Overview and Scrutiny Task Group

Developing the Council's Green Agenda

February 2020



Introduction

From the Chair of the Green Agenda Task Group, Councillor Steve Holgate

Climate Change has become a major issue to more and more of the residents we serve as a District Council. Many Councillors felt it was time to look at what we as a Council ought to be doing to minimise the impact of our activities on the phenomena known as Global Warming.

It was also recognised at an early stage that probably less than 1% of carbon emissions in the borough, (which is deemed to be the biggest driver of global warming) were as a consequence of Council activity. Therefore, any meaningful proposed actions by the Green Agenda task group would have to include proposed actions and involvement by partner organisations.

The recommendations proposed to cabinet by the task group must be treated as the beginning of a process of change rather than an end.

The task group recognised that the issue of the Green agenda would mean different things to different groups of people so we spent a lot of time asking disparate groups to meet and tell us what and how much the different environmental challenges we face meant to them.

If I were to pick out anything that made the biggest impression on me, it was the representation by the young people we met, they were very well informed and really quite angry.

As chair of the Green Agenda Task Group I think it is important that we publicly thank the many people who, through their attendance, comments, and concerns have contributed to the group's work.



From the Deputy Chair, Councillor Paul Sloan

Climate change will have an impact upon future generations, the magnitude of which is dictated by our actions today. Our challenge is to limit that impact. Whilst no one person or organisation can overcome this challenge alone, it is still vital to understand what part we can play. The recommendations lay the foundations for what Chorley Borough Council and allied organisations will do to reduce Chorley Borough's carbon footprint and to make our actions greener.

It has been my privilege to serve this task and finish group as deputy chair and I thank all members of the group, the external bodies who have contributed to this report and the council staff who have worked hard to put this report together



Summary Recommendations

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents is unprecedented, and the totality of the solution needed is unclear with national policy still very much emergent.

The recommendations in this report are informed by the views and ideas of the many and diverse groups of stakeholders engaged through the inquiry. The recommendations seek to drive forward our local commitment, grounded in the notion that where there is a cost to doing something it needs to be measured against the cost of doing nothing.

The aim of the task group was to move quickly and identify real, tangible action on the ground, but also acknowledge that a strategic approach is needed to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Therefore, alongside recommendations related to governance, community leadership and council operations, an overarching recommendation is proposed to develop a detailed roadmap to 2030 with technical input to define clear milestones, targets and measures.

Governance and resource

1. Establish a baseline

- a) Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint
- b) Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions and measures

2. Set up appropriate governance

- a) Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction
- 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
- c) Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures

3. Allocate appropriate resources and develop the Roadmap to 2030

- 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
- c) As part of developing the roadmap to 2030, key priorities should include investigation of renewable energy sources for the council as well as sustainable transport options and air quality monitoring

Community leadership

4. Communications and engagement

- a) Develop a communications and engagement campaign via social media and other outlets to educate residents about the green agenda and encourage small behaviour changes that will collectively add up to a more significant impact. Include information about sustainable living and sources of advice and support
- b) Immediately establish a networking group to consider environmental issues, meeting regularly to act as a group of community leaders for the green agenda, engaging wider stakeholders and utilising local expertise. Incorporate a youth element by working with local schools and the Youth Zone. Deliver a networking launch event in Spring 2020.

5. Support for local businesses

- a) Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and wider borough demonstrating commitment to a set of specific green principles

such as minimising waste and cutting out single use plastics by providing reusable or recyclable containers

- b) Support local businesses to be more environmentally friendly by promoting best practice and demonstrating the business benefits. For example, GA Pet Foods offered to act as an ambassador for the green agenda, advising other businesses and sharing their knowledge/experience

Council operations

6. Green operations

- a) Establish a staff working group as a sub-group of Staff Matters to consider how the council can support and encourage a more environmentally friendly workplace
- b) Develop a 10-year tree planting strategy for Chorley to coordinate the planting of trees and hedgerows across the borough, taking a partnership approach including workshops, species management and maintenance
- c) Develop a council Waste and Recycling Strategy to outline how the council will support residents to recycle more and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Action in the strategy should range from providing better quality information about what can be recycled through to working with partners to improve waste processing
- d) Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries
- e) Through the council's role as a Licensing Authority, investigate and develop an action plan for electric or hybrid Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

7. Housing, planning and development

- a) Adopt a clear set of principles for our approach to planning policy in relation to the green agenda and apply this throughout the development of the local plan including public transport, green spaces and sustainable development
- b) Promote sustainable developments and the council's contribution by developing a 'green plaque' scheme as a visible way to identify buildings that have strong green credentials
- c) Work with local housing providers to ensure that Chorley's housing stock is as efficient as possible and to ensure that opportunities aren't being missed to save energy e.g. boiler replacements, insulation and recycling facilities
- d) Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models

Legislation and policy

8. National action. The council should call on central government to:

- a) Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars
- b) Increase minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (to at least a minimum EPC band C rating in 2030) and empower local authorities to ensure compliance;
- c) Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus services

9. The Executive Cabinet should agree the recommendations set out in this report and approve the development of an action plan to expedite the green agenda as a corporate priority.

Task Group Achievements to date

Members of the task group were keen that action be taken as soon as possible rather than waiting until the recommendations had been published in the final report.

During the process of the inquiry, the task group:

- Declared a climate emergency
- Made interim recommendations to request resources in the council's budget for 2020-21
- Inclusion of the green agenda in the Council's Corporate Strategy

- Helped the Chorley Green Living Group towards opening a pop-up 'green' shop in Chorley Town Centre

Further information on some of these achievements is provided later in the report.

Membership of the Task Group

Councillor Steve Holgate (Chair)
Councillor Paul Sloan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Julia Berry
Councillor Val Caunce
Councillor Mark Clifford
Councillor Gordon France
Councillor Alex Hilton
Councillor Laura Lennox
Councillor June Molyneaux
Councillor Yvonne Hargreaves (Observer)

Officer Support

Victoria Willett, Shared Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships
Nina Neisser, Democratic and Member Services Officer

Approach of the task group

The task group acknowledged the scale of the challenge and the urgency of the response needed to combat climate change; the aim was to move quickly but recognise that a strategic approach is needed if any substantial impact is to be achieved. Therefore, the scope focused on establishing a baseline position as a starting point to develop a longer-term response. The task group also agreed to make interim recommendations to allow sufficient time to feed into the 2020/21 budget setting process.

Scoping of the review

The objectives were:

1. To use the period of the task group to investigate how Chorley Council can lead and influence Chorley's Green agenda.
2. To engage with different stakeholder groups/residents to understand what steps they are taking to address climate change and understand how the council can help them.

The desired outcomes were:

1. An understanding of our current position – what we're already doing and opportunities to be greener.
2. Understanding of what others are doing and recognised areas of best practice.
3. Identification of what the council can influence, how the council can set an example, and the resources we might need to achieve that.
4. Recommendations to Executive Cabinet on how the council can develop its green agenda.

Terms of Reference

1. To review existing green activity at the council and recognise the work that is already being done e.g. electric vehicles/single-use plastics/solar panels etc.
2. To investigate areas of best practice and examples from other councils and/if how these could be implemented at Chorley.
3. To identify what the council can influence and understand the resources that will be needed to address this.
4. To develop recommendations and priorities to Executive Cabinet on how the council can develop its green agenda to make a real and tangible difference.

Witnesses

The following witnesses met with the task group and shared information:

External Partners

Representatives from Chorley and District Natural History Society
Rachelle Bell and Emma Kilburn, Green Living Chorley Community Group
Mark Davies, Director for Communities and Climate Change, Lancaster City Council
Roger Bracewell, Chairman, GA Pet Food Partners
David Colgan, Environmental and Energy Manager, GA Pet Food Partners
Students from Parklands High School
Gary Heaton, Operations Director of Asset Management, Jigsaw Homes Group
RT Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons

Chorley Council Officers

Victoria Willett, Shared Service Lead for Transformation and Partnerships
James Hoskinson, Central Lancashire Local Plan Technical Officer
Mark Lester, Director for Commercial Services
Conrad Heald, Interim Service Lead for Commercial & Assets
Andrew Daniels, Shared Service Lead for Communications & Visitor Economy
Lindsey Blackstock, Open Space Strategy Officer
Doug Cridland, Waste Services Manager

A summary of discussion at the above meetings can be found [here](#).

Evidence submitted by

Green Living Chorley Community Group
Parklands High School
Astley and Euxton Branch - Labour Party
Euxton Parish Council
Members of the public

Background information is available on request.

Background

In July 2019, it was agreed that a Task Group be established to help develop the Council's Green Agenda commencing in September 2019 with Councillor Steve Holgate as the Chair and Councillor Paul Sloan as the Vice Chair.

Radical changes are needed to address climate change. We are facing two unprecedented challenges: we must dramatically reduce our carbon emissions and we also need to prepare for unavoidable environmental impacts by building climate resilience into our systems and services.

Local authorities themselves directly emit a small percentage of the UK's carbon emissions but they influence around 40% of emissions through their roles as planning, transport and waste authorities, as well as a major purchaser and commissioner of goods and services.

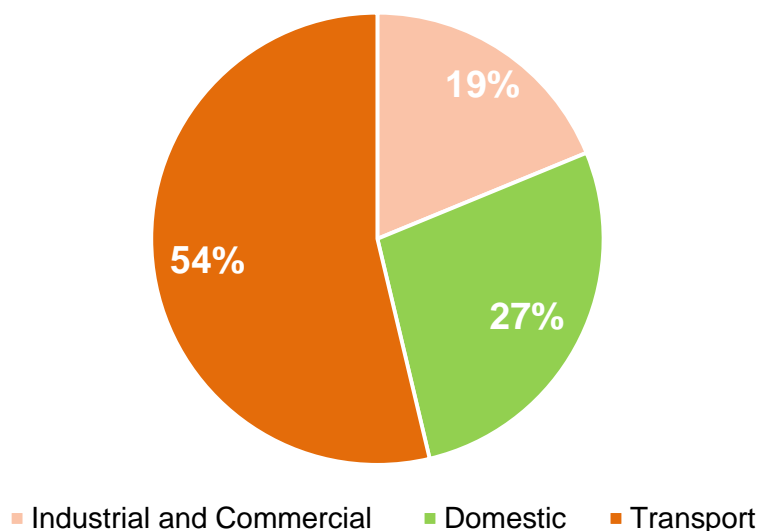
This power to influence makes councils uniquely placed to put the climate crisis at the heart of our place-shaping work, bringing people together and harnessing this desire of action, ensuring that everyone works together at all levels.

Chorley's Position ¹

In order to understand the extent of the issue in Chorley, Members of the Task Group considered the statistics from the [Friends of the Earth](#) group who scored Chorley's climate change performance as 64%. This performance is average compared to other local authorities.

Data available from Lancashire County Council provides Chorley's Carbon Dioxide Emissions as shown in the chart below:

Carbon Dioxide Emissions Chorley (2017)



This means that in Chorley, the total carbon emissions are higher than the national average when measured by tonnage per person which could be due to the proximity to the motorway network, however mortality attributed to poor air quality is better than the all England average when last recorded in 2016.

- A tool developed by Tyndall Manchester suggests that Chorley should aim to reduce overall emissions by 14% that year.
- Chorley's specific areas for improvement are increasing the use of public transport, promoting cycling and walking, increasing renewable energy and increasing waste recycling.

Area breakdown:

- Housing: only 43% of homes are well insulated. It is suggested that Chorley should aim to upgrade the insulation of 2,851 home per year until 2030 and that 1,834 government funded eco-heating systems should be fitted every year.
- Transport: 6% of people commute by public transport, 2% cycle and 9% walk. In the best performing similar local authorities, 21% use public transport, 5% cycle and 14% walk.
- Energy: Chorley has access to 20MW of renewable power in comparison to 74MW in the best performing similar local authority.
- Trees: 8% of Chorley is woodland. It is suggested that Chorley should increase their tree coverage to 20% (Chorley has 71.8% of land designated as greenbelt and over 300 hectares of countryside).
- Chorley reuses, recycles or composts 43% of household waste.

¹ <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-friendly-communities?%23p:postcode=PR7%201DP>

New Legislation

The [Climate Change Act 2008](#)² introduced the UK's first legally binding target for 2050 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% compared to levels in 1990. Progress has been made between 1990 and 2017 with the UK reducing its emissions by 42% whilst the economy has grown by more than two thirds.

However, government recognised the need to go further and on 27 June 2019, the UK government amended the [Climate Change Act](#)³ to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050.

National Profile

Climate change has been dominating the headlines in recent times and there has been a notable shift in public concern over the environment. This is backed up by the recent reports published by the [United Nations \(UN\)](#)⁴, the UK's [Committee on Climate Change \(CCC\)](#)⁵,

The Green Agenda is supported nationally through different policies and papers such as:

- [‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’](#)⁶
- [The Clean Growth Strategy](#)⁷
- [The Clean Air Strategy](#)⁸

Members considered each of the above policies and reports which outline central government's green agenda and how to work towards a greener, healthier and more sustainable future for the next generation.

Corporate Strategy

In November 2019, Members approved the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2019/20 – 20/21 which, in recognition of the critical importance of the green agenda, reflects the commitment of the council to supporting and enabling residents to be more environmentally conscious and leading the way as an organisation.

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.

Going forward, the council intends to do even more to ensure that the environmental agenda cuts across everything that it does. The Corporate Strategy for 2019/20 has been updated visually to represent this pledge and can be viewed [here](#).

Climate Change Emergency

Members recognised that Councils across the world are responding to the issues of climate change by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and making a commitment to address this crisis. UK Parliament and many local authorities have declared a 'climate emergency'.

As a result, Chorley Council declared a climate emergency at the Full Council meeting on 19 November 2019 and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030.

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/reports.shtml>

⁵ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/>

⁶ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

The council's decision to declare a climate emergency can be viewed [here](#).

Service-Level Survey

To help with the inquiry, the Task Group undertook a survey to all Service Leads at Chorley council to recognise the work that the council was already doing. The findings demonstrated that Chorley is already doing a lot to address environmental concerns and has a strong track record of working proactively to support this agenda.

Activities and initiatives include:

- **Sustainable transport:** electric fleet vehicles, electric charging points on Market Street, additional bike storage in the town centre
- **Policy and Strategy:** joint procurement strategy includes priority and action to support sustainable products and services
- **Staff incentives:** subsidised rail passes and 'Cycle to Work' scheme, implemented WorkSmart and upgraded ICT systems meaning it is now easier for staff to work remotely/reduce the amount of car travel
- **Council Buildings:** energy efficiency lighting installed in all buildings, solar panels on Town Hall roof, biodegradable knives and forks.
- **Project and service delivery:** proposals to create wildflower meadows and corridors, community projects such as MySpace.
- **Astley Hall:** 'green museums', new energy efficient track lights and radiators, work with Café Ambio to use paper straws, vegware cups for take away drinks, glass sugar dispensers and growing organically in the eco-friendly walled garden.

A detailed summary of the findings can be found in the [Position Statement](#)⁹.

Mini Fact-Findings

The Task Group acknowledged how big the issue of climate change was and therefore in order to consult with as many people as possible, Members split into smaller groups to interview and gather information from stakeholders.

Two site visits also took place to Lancaster City Council and GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing site in Bretherton:



Site visit to Lancaster City Council to meet with Mark Davies, Director for Communities and Climate Change

⁹ <https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s107788/Position%20Statement.pdf>



Site Visit to GA Pet Food Partners Manufacturing Site in Bretherton

Students from Parklands High School visited the Town Hall:



Students met with Members of the Task Group to discuss the issue of climate change and raise their concerns.

Learning from Other Authorities

The climate emergency declarations that have been made vary across the UK.

At October 2019 65% of District, County, Unitary & Metropolitan Councils had declared a Climate Emergency. A recent survey by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) showed that of those, the majority have set a net zero emissions target date of 2030 although some have set it as early as 2024 and others at 2050. For 54% this relates to the council's own emissions with the remaining 46% suggesting that the net zero target should be achieved for the entire council area.

66 councils are in the process of developing an action plan to achieve the carbon target and 61% of those have established a working group with responsibility for dealing only with climate declaration matters. The majority of councils are concerned about capacity and skills with 75% identifying major barriers including national government policy and resourcing.

A summary of the types of activity undertaken by other local authorities can be found in the Position Statement. Examples highlighted by the task group in particular included:

- Schemes to tackle single use plastics such as the Single Use Plastic Pledge led by Durham Council which aims to get all residents, schools and organisations to eliminate their use of single use plastics
- Development of renewable energy schemes such as the Southampton City Council Citizen Energy which is powering all council run estate with 100% green energy
- Installation of 73 government funded vehicle charging points in Welsh towns and cities to encourage drivers to switch to electric vehicles

Findings and recommendations

Between September 2019 and January 2020, the task group undertook a vast amount of investigation. This report presents baseline findings from the work undertaken in that period and recommends governance arrangements to support the next phase of work to develop the roadmap.

Members considered a range of evidence including submissions and representations from parish councils, town centre traders, representatives of Chorley and District Natural History Society, Green Living Chorley, local employers, students from Parklands High School, Jigsaw Homes (Chorley's largest social housing provider) and the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons. The council also consulted extensively with officers as outlined earlier in the report.

The findings are grouped into several categories and recommendations are likely to result in short, medium, and longer term actions.

Governance and resource

The scale of the challenge that climate change presents is unprecedented and sits outside the normal budget, policy and performance processes of the Council. It is a challenge where the totality of the solutions needed is unclear and the approach taken will be emergent. It will need a concerted focus over a number of years that covers all areas of the Council's activities. With this in mind, a programme of work will need to be undertaken to develop a roadmap to 2030 as a more detailed plan for the local response to climate change including actions and targets.

In order to develop a roadmap there is a need to firstly understand the current local position in terms of climate change. This will require a range of evidence, much of which has already been gathered or identified through the work of the task group and development of the Position Statement. Work has also started to calculate the council's carbon footprint. This baseline position will inform the development of specific actions, targets and measures as the basis for ongoing monitoring, reporting and scrutiny.

It was identified early in the process that although the council is already taking positive action to address climate change, there is a need to accelerate activity and apply dedicated expertise if we're serious about the 2030 target. Additional resource was recommended through an interim report by the task group to be considered as part of the 20/21 budget setting process.

Recommendations

1. Establish a baseline
 - a) Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint
 - b) Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions and measures
2. Set up appropriate governance
 - a) Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction
 - 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. This should ensure that Members are aware of the environmental consequences of any plan, policy or programme prior to the decision to move forward, for example, highlighting the removal of trees to progress local developments.
 - c) Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures
3. Allocate appropriate resources and develop the Roadmap to 2030
 - d) Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral
 - e) Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise or specific projects
 - f) As part of developing road map to 2030, key priorities should include investigation of renewable energy sources for the council as well as sustainable transport options and air quality monitoring

Community leadership

Councils can play a significant role in realising the benefits and opportunities of climate action in their area. The council is ideally placed to bring agendas together to ensure 'win-win' outcomes for the local community, raising the profile of green issues through visible action in collaboration with residents and stakeholders. As a community leader the council has a role in:

- Developing a vision and mainstreaming ownership and responsibility
- Encouraging and empowering residents and businesses to participate and act
- Communication and engagement, listening to local views and bringing people together
- Representing and advocating for change at regional and national levels

Collaborative and coordinated action will help deliver on a range of local priorities: improving health outcomes, saving the council money, creating jobs, boosting the local economy, enhancing the natural environment and strengthening local transport systems.

Recommendations

4. Communications and engagement
 - a) Develop a communications and engagement campaign via social media and other outlets to educate residents about the green agenda and encourage small behaviour changes that

will collectively add up to a more significant impact. Include information about sustainable living and sources of advice and support.

- b) Immediately establish a networking group to consider environmental issues, meeting regularly to act as a group of community leaders for the green agenda, engaging wider stakeholders and utilising local expertise. Incorporate a youth element by working with local schools and the Youth Zone. Deliver a networking launch event in Spring 2020.

5. Support for local businesses

- a) Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and wider borough demonstrating commitment to a set of specific green principles such as minimising waste and cutting out single use plastics by providing reusable or recyclable containers.
- b) Support local businesses to be more environmentally friendly by promoting best practice and demonstrating the business benefits. For example, GA Pet Foods offered to act as an ambassador for the green agenda, advising other businesses and sharing their knowledge/experience.

Council operations

Local authorities only emit a small proportion of the carbon for an area through their operations. For example, Lancaster City Council emitted 3,018 tonnes of carbon dioxide from directly provided activities in 2018/19 compared to 754000 tonnes produced by the district as a whole in 2017.

However, the scale of the challenge is huge and requires immediate and concerted action by all individuals, organisations and the government. Therefore, the council should look first at its own operations and identify how it will make changes to work towards the carbon neutral target. The council should also consider its direct areas of wider influence such as housing, planning and environmental management such as tree planting.

The service level survey highlights existing areas of best practice, particularly in Streetscene with recent developments in the approach to grass cutting, development of wildflower corridors and recycling initiatives. This proactive approach should now become part of business as usual for the wider organisation.

Recommendations

6.Green operations

- a) Establish a staff working group as a sub-group of Staff Matters to consider how the council can support and encourage a more environmentally friendly workplace including the further developing of initiatives like Sustainable September.
- b) Develop a 10-year tree planting strategy for Chorley to coordinate the planting of trees and hedgerows across the borough, taking a partnership approach including workshops, species management and maintenance
- c) Develop a council Waste and Recycling Strategy to outline how the council will support residents to recycle more and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Action in the strategy should range from providing better quality information about what can be recycled through to working with partners to improve waste processing.
- d) Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries
- e) Through the council's role as a Licensing Authority, investigate and develop an action plan for electric or hybrid Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

7. Housing, planning and development

- a) Adopt a clear set of principles for our approach to planning policy in relation to the green agenda such as those recommend by the [Royal Town Planning Institute](#) and apply this throughout the preparation of the local plan including public transport, green spaces and sustainable development.

- b) Promote sustainable developments and the council's contribution by developing a 'green plaque' scheme as a visible way to identify buildings that have strong green credentials.
- c) Work with local housing providers to ensure that Chorley's housing stock is as efficient as possible and to ensure that opportunities aren't being missed to save energy e.g. boiler replacements, insulation and recycling facilities.
- d) Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models

National policy

The task group recognise that to achieve the most significant change a change in national government policy is required. This is reflected in the council's climate change declaration which asks:

That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Transport; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Housing, Communities and Local Government calling for the creation, provision or devolution of powers and resources to make achievement of the 2030 target possible in Chorley;

Recommendations

8. In addition it is recommended that the council specifically calls on government to:

- a) Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars
- b) Increase minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector (to at least a minimum EPC band C rating in 2030) and empower local authorities to ensure compliance
- c) Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus services