

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	18 th March 2021

Developing the Councils Green Agenda Monitoring Report Number 1.

Purpose of report

- To update members on progress made on the recommendations of the Task Group on Developing the Council's Green Agenda

Recommendation(s)

- To note the contents of the report.

Executive summary of report

- The final report of the Task Group for the Green Agenda was presented to Executive Cabinet in March 2020 and it was agreed that an action plan be developed to expedite the green agenda as a corporate priority.
- Funding was allocated to the project and following transfer of the project to Spatial Planning in September 2020, a plan was devised to develop a programme which pulled together of all the Councils strands of activity relating to the green agenda, the recruitment of a dedicated officer was undertaken and, the member-led, Climate Change Working Group was established.

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

- The general update is that the inaugural meeting of the member-led Climate Change Working Group met on the 22nd February 2021 and along with terms of reference, the meeting agenda included an update from officers as to the overall programme for Climate

Change and the start of a discussion about key areas of focus for this agenda for the Council. The Climate Change Programme Officer started in role on 8th March 2021 and is part of the Spatial Planning Team where overall responsibility for this work sits.

7. The table below lists all the 24 recommendations made by the Task Group. For clarity, these have been extracted from the overall programme of activity for Climate Change, to ensure that this committee can clearly see where these recommendations have been progressed. The programme as whole includes additional strands of work.
8. Progress to-date is detailed in the update column and it is worth noting that as many of these will be delivered or led by the new Climate Change Programme Officer, a number of these actions are to commence, however momentum will now accelerate with much more progress to be expected by the next monitoring report.
9. The Climate Officer will engage with leads for actions where responsibility is in other directorates and ensure these are incorporated into business plans for the coming year.

Summary Table of Recommendations and Progress

Recommendation/Action	Lead	Update
Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint	Climate Change Programme Officer (working with LCC and internal depts)	Initial assessment complete- there is a need to review the findings and undertake quality assurance Lancashire County Council are leading on a Lancashire Wide Project to a) Calculate the baseline carbon footprint of each of the councils' assets b) Commission external consultants to calculate the baseline carbon footprint of all borough
Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions, and measures	Climate Change Programme Officer/Local Plan Coordinator	Gap analysis complete but still further work to develop SMART action plan to achieve 2030 net zero
Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction	Service Lead Spatial Planning /Climate Change Programme Officer	Completed.
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	Democratic Services Team Lead Climate Change Programme Officer /	To be implemented in 2021
Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures	Climate Change Programme Officer	Ongoing and reported to Climate Change Working Group
Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to	Service Lead Spatial Planning /Local Plan	Completed.

Recommendation/Action	Lead	Update
becoming carbon neutral	Coordinator	
Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise, or specific projects	Climate Change Programme Officer	To commence now officer in post
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	Service Lead Communities /Private Sector Housing Team Leader/Public Protection/Street scene	To commence now officer in post A significant project which may require external expertise and LCC engagement
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	Customer Services Manager enforcement	Not started The Council currently licenses 10 hybrid vehicles as private hire vehicles. The Council's current policy allows only vehicles which comply with Euro 5 Emissions standards to be granted a new licence (with effect from 2017) and that all existing vehicles must comply with this policy by 1st January 2024. The overarching Taxi Licensing Policy is due for review this year and so further work into hybrid/EVs will be put into the formulation of this policy.
Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models	Climate Change Programme Officer	To commence now officer in post
As part of developing road map to 2030, key priorities should include investigation of sustainable transport options	Climate Change Programme Officer/Street scene Manager/HR Manager	Started. Council taken steps to acquire electric fleet vehicles and put in place electrical charging facilities at Bengal street, & Flat iron carpark. There are 6 electric vehicle charging bays available on the Flat Iron car park and 2 on Cleveland Streetcar park. Chorley Transport Strategy developed as part of Local Plan and this will include schemes & future measures which promote cycling and walking
Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries	Street scene Manager/Asset Manager /Open Space Strategy Officer	Not Started
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.	Climate Change Programme Officer	Started. Council has installed energy efficient lighting in all Council buildings. The Town Hall roof has had solar panels installed. The new Digital Office Park has a BREEAM level of 26. This indicates that the development has scored highly in BREEAM's evaluation of sustainability

Recommendation/Action	Lead	Update
		across the procurement, design, construction, and operation of the Digital Office Park buildings and developments
Work with local housing providers to ensure that Chorley's housing stock is as efficient as possible and to ensure that opportunities are not being missed to save energy e.g. boiler replacements, insulation, and recycling facilities.	Service Lead Communities / Climate Change Programme Officer/	Commenced (via Local Social Housing Charter and forthcoming new Regulation). Existing support for boiler replacements and Energy Efficiency grants. Draft Social Housing Charter requires "properties will achieve an energy efficiency rating of EPC level D by 2021"
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	Open Space Strategy Officer	Complete
Investigation of renewable energy sources for the council	Climate Change Programme Officer in Partnership Lancs Climate Change Group	To commence now officer in post
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.	Climate Change Programme Officer/Service Lead Communications	To commence now officer in post
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.	Climate Change Programme Officer	Started. Discussions with GA Pet Foods and Energy Saving Trust, to be developed now officer in post
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	Climate Change Programme Officer	Linked to action above.

Recommendation/Action	Lead	Update
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.	Climate Change Programme Officer	Will be created as part of Staff Matters to commence now officer post
Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and 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.	Service Lead (Development and Business) /Climate Change Programme Officer	To commence now officer in post
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.	Local Plan Coordinator	This work has commenced, at early stages, draft emerging policies will be made available to LPWG and CCWG in Summer 21.
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; council specifically calls on government to: Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars 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 Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus services	Climate Change Programme Officer	To commence now officer in post

Implications of report

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

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

11. The risk associated with this work are concerning the failure to mitigate the impact of climate change and to meet the targets and ambitions of the Council to achieve net zero carbon emissions and generally, promote nature recovery and sustainability in our environment.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

12. The council has set aside £500k to deliver the Green Agenda. This is included in the capital programme however over £400k is funded through revenue reserves and therefore once the revenue and capital split of future commitments is understood, capital and revenue budgets can be adjusted and fully funded.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

13. No comments.

Jonathan Noad
Director of Planning and Development

Report Author	Ext	Date
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