

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Thursday, 17 March 2022

Developing the Councils Green Agenda - Monitoring Report Number 3

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a final update on progress made on the recommendations of the Task Group on Developing the Council's Green Agenda.

Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee

2. To note the contents of the report

Reasons for recommendations

3. None, for information only

Other options considered and rejected

4. Not applicable, report is an update on recommendation progress only

Executive summary

5. This report provides an update of the actions arising from the Green Agenda Task Group. Of the 23 recommendations originally made, all have been progressed and a total of 13 have been completed, a further 3 are completed to the point of approval and whilst the remaining 7 are ongoing long-term pieces of work.
6. Progression of these work streams has been cross collaborative and has required input and support from teams throughout the Council.
7. All ongoing recommendations have been integrated into the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan which is currently out for public consultation.

Corporate priorities

8. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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

Background to the report

9. The Green Agenda work was set as a corporate priority which was first reported to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2021. This work has since been integrated into the larger Climate Change Programme.
10. A budget of £500,000 has been made available for the completion and progression of green agenda work, this budget has recently been increased by a further £260k to give an overall total of £760k..
11. This project sits within the Spatial Planning Team with dedicated Climate Change officers in post within the Council, dedicated to the completion of the project and climate related work.

Green Agenda Recommendation Update

12. The largest piece of work that has been completed by the Climate Change officers following the previous monitoring report has been the drafting of the Climate Change Strategy which is currently out for public consultation. The actions within this Strategy include all ongoing and progressing actions of the green agenda recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny.
13. A secondary dedicated Climate Change Officer commenced at the Council in January 2022, whose work is focused on Air Quality and Carbon monitoring.
14. The table below lists all the recommendations made by the Task Group. The specific O&S recommendations have been extracted from the larger Climate Change Programme of work.
15. Progress to date is detailed in the update column of the column. A total of 13 actions have been completed, a further 3 are completed to draft awaiting approval and the remaining 7 are long-term ongoing actions which have been integrated into the Climate Change Strategy.

Table of Recommendations and Progress to Date.

No	Recommendation/ Action	Lead	Update
1	Undertake work to map and calculate the council's current carbon footprint	Climate Change Team and Assts	<p>Complete</p> <p>The 2019 carbon footprint audit was completed and the public facing report has been reviewed inside the Climate Change Strategy at SMT, Executive Cabinet, Climate Change Working Group and Leader Brief. The 2019 carbon audit report is attached within Appendix 1.</p> <p>Moving forward we have a dedicated Air Quality and Carbon office who reports and publishes the Councils carbon footprint annually, this will also go to the campaign body UK100.</p>
2	Commission work to develop a roadmap and action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions, and measures	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Lancashire County Council has commissioned and published the Climate and Environment reports within the Greater Lancashire Plan which covers net zero pathways,</p> <p>The climate change strategy encompasses the climate change programme of work and any final work within the O&S recommendations. This strategy is currently out for public consultation.</p> <p>Actions within the strategy include the formulation of an asset decarbonisation action plan and the analysis of tree canopy cover within the borough.</p>
3	Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction	Service Lead Spatial Planning /Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Climate Change Working Group meets 8 times a year with the Climate Change Portfolio Holder being the Chair. This Working Group oversees the programme of work and the Climate Change Budget.</p>
4	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 /	<p>Complete</p> <p>Environmental impacts are considered within all committee reports with environmental impacts and remediation measures considered.</p>
5	Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>Complete</p> <p>All work within the climate change programme is reported to the Climate Change Working Groups. The working group meets</p>

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			<p>approximately 8 times a year. Work which is monitored includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon footprint of the Council and the borough • Air Quality • Waste and Recycling • Community and business engagement • Fleet use, fuel use, and decarbonisation • Decarbonisation of assets • Green spaces and tree planting <p>The Climate change strategy includes work within all of these areas which is re-evaluated every 2 years with a public version of the climate change strategy publish following this evaluation.</p>
6	Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral	Service Lead Spatial Planning /Local Plan Coordinator	<p>Complete</p> <p>Two dedicated climate officers are now in post. The Climate Change Programme Officer and the Air Quality and Carbon Officer.</p>
7	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	<p>Complete – this action will be continually re-evaluated as climate work continues and evolves due to changes in legislation and local priorities.</p> <p>There are multiple networking groups between councils and other organisations within Lancashire which allows for information sharing and support. Local businesses have provided support and specialist businesses have previously been brought in to provide support.</p> <p>The requirement for internal officers has been continually monitored, an additional officer has been added through this process to monitor and mitigate air quality and carbon usage.</p>
8	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	<p>Air Quality – Work has commenced on a 12-month case study with the real time monitoring equipment and the additionally fitted Noxx tubes – the data from the tubes can only be analysed annually.</p> <p>Work on the delivery of the recommendations of the O&S Task Group for Sustainable Transport are underway which include promoting greener travel options and engaging with key partners to improve bus, train and walking and cycling options. This work is being integrated into the Climate Change Programme of work.</p>

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			<p>The Town hall has been priced and feasibility work has been completed for low carbon technology options. The next feasibility studies on other assets will be completed and culminated into an asset decarbonisation action plan.</p> <p>A further action within the Climate Change Strategy is producing a low carbon technology options paper for senior management and relevant member to allow for further understanding feasible technologies, constraints, and upcoming technology.</p>
9	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	<p>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.</p> <p>The overarching Taxi Licensing Policy is currently being renewed. This is a large and controversial piece of work which will likely be drafted early 2023. Further work into hybrid/EVs will be put into the formulation of this policy.</p>
10	Establish a dialogue with Lancashire County Council to consider the opportunity for sustainable transport schemes including commercial models	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>Complete</p> <p>Task group has been set up with LCC authorities for a county wide funding bid for EV ChargePoint's Procurement is currently out for new ChargePoint installation partner to complete scope and installation work throughout county to apply for the On-Street Residential Parking Scheme.</p> <p>The current focus of the task group is options for businesses surrounding the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone and it's impacts. This task group has continued to evolve as work throughout the county progresses.</p>
11	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	<p>Delivery of the recommendations from the O&S Task Group on Sustainable Public Transport are on track. This work has included positive engagement with LCC regarding the new Enhanced Partnership for Bus provision, representations to Northern Rail on planned changes to the rail service through Chorley and the development of a package of work around cycling which is to be presented to O&S in March 2022 for approval.</p>

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			<p>The Council have 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. Locations for bicycle storage in the town centre centres are being investigated to be drafted into the updated Carpark Strategy. This work correlates to the feasibility and pricing work that is currently being undertaken between the Canal and Rivers Trust with Chorley Council to improve the paths along the canal in the borough. Improvements such as these will promote increased cycling to the Town Centre from outer areas.</p>
12	Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries	Street scene Manager/Asset Manager /Open Space Strategy Officer	Open Space Strategy Team are engaging with colleagues including Streetscene and Commercial Services to look at options for future cemetery provision including green burial sites and a paper is expected to be presented to SMT and then Members in before May 2022.
13	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	<p>Currently in draft for finalisation and approval This work is being completed to coincide with the green accreditation for businesses. This work will be an award which will tie into the existing awards ceremony run by the Business Engagement Team. The draft application for the award is in Appendix 2. This has been drafted alongside Crowberry Consulting, this openness of the application is standard for business awards and allows for a wide range of businesses to apply. The goal of this work is for the awards to be decided by November 2022 to allow the awards to be promoted at the next Climate Change Business Event in Chorley.</p>
14	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/	<p>Complete, communication and support will be ongoing long term. Increased funding opportunity available through the Local Authority Green Home's grant to help those in fuel poverty. Housing team has been working on this long term. All local housing providers have been contacted. All local housing providers in the area are committed to meeting the council targets. Changes to the fuel poverty strategy this year have meant that all homes must have improved fabrication in the next 5 years to meet EPC band C by 2030. All companies are working on, or have released, a climate</p>

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			<p>emergency strategy to include scope 1,2 and 3 emissions. The initial focus of housing providers is currently meeting the EPC Band C 2030 requirement.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the Lancashire County Council consortium application for the social housing decarbonisation fund (SHDF) was not progressed to a final bid due to the lack of feasibility and management of the work. The next wave of funding will not require a consortium to be managed by a local authority. All local housing providers are looking to apply however the feasibility of sites in Chorley have not yet been determined.</p>
15	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	<p>Completed</p> <p>The tree action plan can be publicly found on the Council's website.</p>
16	Investigation of renewable energy sources for the council	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>As with Recommendation 8, work surrounding renewable energy is ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An options paper is being produced around low carbon technology for Council Assets and the borough, their feasibility, and any constraints. • An asset Decarbonisation Action Plan is being produced to detail the feasible work, costs and carbon saved of decarbonisation within Council assets <p>Decarbonisation work which has already occurred within the Council includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of energy efficient LED lighting in all buildings • Solar panels on the Town Hall • New builds meet BREEAM sustainability levels
17	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	<p>Complete</p> <p>An internal communication plan has been devised. Whilst a number of comms work is done on an ad hoc basis, social media posts regarding behavioural change and sustainability information is prepared on a yearly basis. This document also includes any community event and campaign dates. Communication work has included the infographics of themed sustainability options. These are posted on a monthly basis approximately and then saved on the</p>

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			<p>Councils Climate Change webpage. This is a live document that is continually evolving. A public communications report will be published following the Climate Change Strategy public consultation as a round-up of the community engagement and any results of interest.</p>
18	<p>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.</p>	<p>Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>There are a number of Climate/eco/sustainability community groups established within different facets of the community such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Eco Council – hosted by Inspire • Primary School Eco Group – hosted by each school in a round robin • Chorley Church Sustainability Network • Chorley Business network – run through events hosted by Chorley Council • Green Living Chorley <p>Each of these groups is engaged with the Council and the Climate Change in different ways depending on the support they have asked for. Based off feedback from these groups the Climate Change officers are looking for a third party group to run and organise an adults networking group which brings all the community groups together where the Council can be a participant and supporter over an organiser.</p>
19	<p>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</p>	<p>Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The first Climate Change business event held in November 2021 was very success, with the event reaching it maximum capacity. The follow up questionnaire to attended businesses is currently out, this was emailed directly, and will provide insight into what businesses would like to see next.</p> <p>Useful links for businesses is available on the Council's climate change webpage include grant opportunities and carbon footprint reduction support.</p>
20	<p>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.</p>	<p>Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Two Climate Change Officer Working Group meetings have been held so far with the next meeting planned for March 2023. These meeting provide opportunities to spread awareness of work that is ongoing, educate and share ideas across different teams.</p>

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21	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	Currently in draft for finalisation and approval This work is being completed to coincide with the green plaque for buildings. This work is also work as an award which will tie into the existing awards ceremony run by the Business Engagement Team. Similarly, to the green plaque application process, the questions have been left open ended to allow for a wide range of businesses to apply no matter the size or function of the business. During research this has been noted as the standard application process. This work was also supported by Crowberry Consulting. The draft of this application can also be found in Appendix 2. The goal this work is also to have to finalised and approved in time to be promoted at the next Climate Change Business event in November 2022.
22	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	Work on the Local Plan is continuing. The Local Plan team are working closely with County colleagues to ensure the outcomes from the environment work commissioned to support the Greater Lancashire Plan is accounted for. The team are also working with other Lancashire Councils to ensure there is a consistency in climate change policies developed across the region to enable effective delivery of change in this area. Climate change and the build back greener promise following covid are key areas of focus for the new plan.
23	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	Climate Change Programme Officer	Drafts completed Following the notice of motion to agree of goal of net zero by 2030, the Leader has sent letters to parliament requesting for the devolution of powers to aid in Chorley Council reaching this goal. Following recent publications of strategies and legislation such as the levelling up scheme, net zero strategy and the rising of the minimum energy efficiency in the private sector a number of letters have been drafted to address specific issues that are not covered within the schemes. The letter by the leader and drafted letters can all be found in Appendix 3.

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	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 and air quality

16. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place. The work of the Climate Change Programme aims to mitigate the effects of climate change

Equality and diversity

17. No impact, this programme is accessible to all and is looking to improve equality and diversity across the borough by addressing the impacts of climate change and promoting sustainability.

Risk

18. The risks associated with this work are concerning the failure to mitigate the impact of climate change locally, and the challenge to achieve the targets and ambitions of the Council to deliver on the net zero carbon emissions goal of 2030. Possible delays in delivering the actions relating to nature recovery and sustainability in the environment when working with external stakeholders.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

19. As the report is for noting there are no financial implications at this point.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

20. There is no general statutory duty imposed on English local authorities in relation to climate change.

Background documents

[Developing the Council's Green Agenda Monitoring Report 1](#)
[Developing the Council's Green Agenda Monitoring Report 2](#)

Appendices

Appendix A – Carbon Footprint Audit
Appendix B – Draft Green Business Award Application
Appendix C – Draft Government Letters

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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