

Report of	Record of	Date
Director (Planning and Development) (Introduced by Executive Member (Resources))	Executive Member Decision	13 April 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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## Request to Join Cities Race to Zero

### Purpose of the Report

1. Provide an overview of the UN Race to Zero and Cities Race to Zero campaign
2. Proposal to become a member of the UN Cities Race to Zero

### Recommendations

3. Agree for Chorley Council to sign up to the UN Cities Race to Zero campaign

### Reasons for recommendations

4. To provide another method of support in the Council's goal to be Net Zero by 2030.

### Other options considered and rejected

5. To reject the proposal to join the Cities Race to Zero campaign and remain only a member of the UK100 campaign.

### Corporate priorities

6. 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	<b>An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area</b>

### Background to the report

7. In November 2019, Chorley Council declared a climate emergency and set the ambitious goal to be Net Zero by 2030.
8. A notice of motion of raised in January 2022 requesting the Council commits to signing up to the Race to Zero campaign which was discussed at Cabinet in February 2022.

## **What is the Cities Race to Zero?**

9. Race to Zero is a global campaign initiated by the United Nations to rally businesses, cities, regions, and investors. It mobilises a coalition of leading net zero initiatives representing actors in over 120 countries. The objective of this campaign is to build momentum to shift to decarbonisation efforts and pressure governments.
10. The Race to Zero campaign is for non-state actors, and therefore is not available for Chorley Council to join directly. Local Authorities can join through the partner initiative Cities Race to Zero, with around 60 UK local authorities having already joined. This campaign is largely in line with the Council's goals and actions which have been set internally, which include declaring a carbon emergency and monitoring and publishing annual carbon footprint reports.

## **Chorley Council's Current Commitments**

11. Chorley Council's has already set itself the goal of being net zero by 2030 which the Council committed to in 2019. This goal is more ambitious than that of Cities Race to Zero who have a goal of 2040.
12. Chorley Council is a member of an equivalent UK based campaign, the UK100, which was joined in October 2021. This campaign is specialized to UK Local Authorities with programmes and training tailored to the work streams and abilities of Local Authorities.
13. The monitoring and goals of Chorley Council's current work has been approved by the UK100 as an apt monitoring system, the Council's carbon monitoring system follows the UK governments business carbon monitoring methods.
14. The Council's programme of work is extensive and covers a greater degree than the Cities Race to Zero requires including biodiversity, sustainable transport and community education and engagement.

## **County and Other Council Positions**

15. Lancashire County Council resolved to join the Cities Race to Zero in December 2021 and will encourage other partners to also join. The forthcoming Lancashire Climate Summit and Lancashire Climate Officers Group will provide an opportunity to introduce the campaign and initiate a discussion on the actions adopted within the County Council's pledge.
16. Other Council's within the local area have also been contacted through the Lancashire Climate Officers group for their position. No officers have stated any intent in actively pursuing works to pledge to the Cities Race to Zero campaign presently.

## **Work Commitment When Joining Cities Race to Zero**

17. Cities and regions signing onto the Cities Race to Zero must commit to the following:
  - a. Publicly endorse the following principles
    - i. We recognise the global climate emergency.
    - ii. We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement

- iii. We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
  - iv. We invite our partners – political leaders, COEs, trade unions, investors and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.
  - b. Pledge to reach net-zero in the 2040's or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
  - c. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius
  - d. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on [www.citiesracetozero.org](http://www.citiesracetozero.org)
  - e. Report progress annually.
18. The Council has recently appointed an Air Quality and Climate Change Officer who now leads on the carbon monitoring work annually. It is envisaged, should the Council choose to join the Cities Race to Zero Campaign, that the monitoring and reporting work will be covered by this officer.

### **Moving Forward**

19. Should the Council agree to join the Cities Race to Zero, the organisation will be contacted to begin the signing process.
20. An interim target will need to be researched and set for the Borough, based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol community-scale inventories.
21. UK100 will also be contacted to ensure the joining of the two campaigns is acceptable within their programme criteria.

### **Climate change and air quality**

22. 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 and all associated works aims to mitigate the effects of climate change.

### **Equality and diversity**

23. 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**

24. 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

25. There are no direct financial implications of this report however individual scheme financial implications in achieving this goal will be included within relevant reports.

### Comments of the Monitoring Officer

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

### Background documents

There are no background documents to this report

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation contained in Paragraph 3 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Councillor Peter Wilson  
Executive Member for Resources      Dated 13.04.22

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.