

Report of	Record of	Date
Director (Planning and Development) (Introduced by Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment))	Executive Member Decision	25 July 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Approval of Climate Change Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. To review the conclusions and resulting changes to the Climate Change Strategy following the public consultation.
2. To note the additional actions added to the Climate Change Strategy, highlighted in yellow.

Recommendations

3. To approve the Climate Change Strategy as a final draft.

Reasons for recommendations

4. To publicly formalise the work programme of the Climate Change team and show the Councils commitment to mitigating climate change and reaching the ambitious goal of Chorley being net zero by 2030.

Other options considered and rejected

5. To not have a strategy, this was rejected as the evidence for climate change is compelling and as a Council, we must demonstrate a commitment to making a difference with a programme of activity to deliver tangible outcomes including benefits for nature and reduction in carbon emissions.

Executive summary

6. Following the public consultation of the Climate Change Strategy draft, thematic analysis was conducted on the responses to the consultation.
7. An outcomes report has been drafted and outlines the main findings, conclusions and resulting changes to the strategy. The outcomes strategy is attached in Appendix 1.

8. The Climate Change Strategy body has remained largely intact, with most resulting changes taking place within the action plan. The changes are highlighted in yellow with the strategy attached in Appendix 2.
9. The strategy has thus far been approved by SMT and the Leader.

Corporate priorities

10. 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

11. Following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019, the Council established a Green Agenda to enable them to work towards achieving the target of net zero carbon emissions in Chorley by 2030. This ambitious target requires a coordination of activity, not only by the council, but crucially our partners, local businesses, visitors, and our communities.
12. There are two dedicated officers appointed to support delivery of this programme, the Climate Change Programme Officer and the Air Quality and Climate Change Officer.

Consultation Outcomes Report

13. The Consultation Outcomes report is attached within Appendix 1.
14. Thematic analysis was conducted on the responses of the CitizenSpace survey, written responses, and social media comments.
15. The responses were analysed for level of agreeance within quantitative questions and common themes were extracted from qualitative questions.
16. Responses to the main themes were responded to noting existing actions within the strategy and any new resulting actions, this is covered under 'Main Themes and Our Response'.
17. The main themes which emerged are;
 - a. Education and Engagement
 - b. Waste and Recycling
 - c. Transport
 - d. The Natural Environment, Green Spaces and Tree Planting

Climate Change Strategy

18. The Climate Change Strategy is attached within Appendix 2. The changes made to the strategy following the consultation have been highlighted in yellow. The majority of changes have been made to the action plan.
19. Additional actions have been added which were noted in the Consultation Outcomes Report, and a number of completion dates have been extended due to the capacity of the team and other projects having tighter time constraints such as the decarbonisation of the Town Hall.
20. The most significant actions which have been added to the action plan includes;
 - a. Draft and publish a Climate Change Engagement Strategy
 - b. Develop and publish an EV Infrastructure Strategy
 - c. Evaluate existing provision of cycle storage within the town centre and Astley park and develop a programme to increase capacity
21. The main body of the Climate Change Strategy remains largely unchanged, with changes only being made to emphasise the purpose of tree planting being to improve the biodiversity of the borough rather than to offset carbon emissions. In line with the net zero goal set by the Council.
22. The changes highlighted in Appendix 2 have been added to the designed version in Appendix 4.

Climate change and air quality

23. 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

24. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached within Appendix 3. The strategy actively works to mitigate and improve the environment of Chorley for all residents within the borough and does not exclude or impact any specific group.

Risk

25. 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

26. There are no direct financial implications of this report. In addition to the £500k funding set aside for Climate Change initiatives the Council added a further £260k at February Council.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

27. There are no legal implications adopting the proposed changes to the Climate Change Strategy and action plan.

Background documents

[Climate Change Strategy - Approval to Consult.pdf \(chorley.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Consultation Outcomes Report
- Appendix 2 Climate Change Strategy
- Appendix 3 Equality Impact Assessment
- Appendix 4 Designed Climate Change Strategy

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Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Councillor Adrian Lowe
Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment) Dated 25.7.2022

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.