

Report of	Record of	Date
Cllr Beverly Murray Executive Member (Early Intervention)	Executive Member Decision	20.12.2021
Is this report confidential?	No	
Is this decision key?	No	

## Chorley's Clean Air Strategy

### Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval to finalise the Clean Air Strategy following public consultation

### Recommendations

2. To approve the strategy.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. In order to contribute to the council's commitment to achieve a carbon neutral status by 2030 and to improve air quality and public health across the borough.

### Other options considered and rejected

4. To demonstrate full consideration of issue. If no other options considered, please explain why.

### Executive summary

5. Chorley Council declared a climate emergency on the 19th November 2019 with the overarching goal of "rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030", 20 years ahead of the UK target of 2050. This goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.
6. To enable this target to be met, the Council need to consider the changes which can be made now to reduce our carbon emissions and to look at improving our business practices and consider the range of help and support we can provide to local business and communities wishing to become greener. The council also need to consider how they can lead by example and what changes can be made quickly to assist in delivering this target.

7. An area we can make change now which will assist in delivering a move towards carbon neutrality is through improving the quality of air across the borough and to help make this happen, a Clean Air Strategy for Chorley has been developed.
8. The council currently monitor air quality across several different sites in Chorley. The 'Air Quality Status Report (ASR)', is produced annually, this is a requirement of the existing legislative framework set out in the Environment Act 1995.
9. The principle pollutants of concern within Chorley are those mainly associated with traffic, these being Nitrogen Dioxide, and Particulate Matter. The Council monitors Nitrogen Dioxide emissions via a network of passive diffusion tubes against National Air Quality Objectives. Currently there are no Air Quality Management Areas declared within the borough as the Air Quality Objectives are being met.
10. The Chorley Clean Air Strategy sets out a clear picture of the current state of air quality and monitoring practices in Chorley, our legal obligations as a council in monitoring air quality and the legislation which governs this. It also highlights what actions we are currently taking to improve air quality and what changes in monitoring practice could be introduced to provide greater understanding of the pollutants influencing our air quality to enable the Council and partners to take effective action to improve the situation.
11. The strategy is to be delivered through a series of proposed actions. The actions identified in the draft strategy are split into 4 broad areas and will require cross service support. The actions are also broken down into short, medium and long-term delivery, with a directorate lead identified for each action identified to ensure they are taken forward and delivered. The focus areas are:
  - i. Chorley Council internal actions – these cover a range of changes which could be implemented across the directorates.
  - ii. Revision of policy and guidance documents – this cover a range of areas where improvements could be achieved
  - iii. Communication, education and engagement – this section covers a wide range of work that the council can look to implement, key to this will be the development of a communication and engagement strategy which will be the mechanism for delivering change; and finally
  - iv. Research projects – this section lists the work the council can look to fund to gain a better understanding of the impacts of air quality and what needs to be done to deliver change

### Corporate priorities

12. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (Please bold all those applicable)

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

### Background to the report

13. The draft strategy was presented to Executive cabinet on 25 February 2021 – which agree the following decisions:

- That the Executive Cabinet agree the proposal involving a clean air strategy and formal consultation.
- That the Executive Member for Early Intervention be given delegated responsibility for approving the final proposal following the period of formal consultation, subject to there being no significant changes to those proposed within this report.

14. A public consultation (Appendix B) has now been undertaken and there are no major changes to the report

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

15. The work noted in this report impacts on the following areas of climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda: net carbon zero by 2030, reducing waste production, limiting non sustainable forms of transport, working with sustainable and green accredited companies, limiting or improving air quality, , improving green areas and biodiversity.

### **Equality and diversity**

16. There is no known related impact equality or diversity

### **Risk**

17. If the Clean Air Strategy is not approved, it could have significant impact of the aim of achieving a carbon neutral status by 2030 and to improve air quality and public health across the borough.

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

18. There are no direct implications of this report. Implications of the clean air strategy on individual schemes are incorporated within those reports.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

19. This section is to be completed by the Monitoring Officer (or by the Deputy Monitoring Officer if not available) and will include any legal implications for the Council.

### **Background documents**

Executive Cabinet Report – Clean Air Strategy

### **Appendices**

List the appendices in the order that they are attached to the report with titles as appropriate. Any spreadsheets/diagrams should be in pdf format and be headed up.

Appendix A – Clean Air Strategy

## Appendix B – Consultation Review

Report Author:	Email:	Date:
Laura-Jean Taylor (Environmental Health Manager)	<a href="mailto:laura-jean.taylor@chorley.gov.uk">laura-jean.taylor@chorley.gov.uk</a>	16.12.2021

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.