

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Planning and Development	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Thursday, 30 September 2021

Is this report confidential?	No Delete as applicable. If confidential please give a short explanation as to why
Is this decision key?	No Delete as applicable and bold the reason below if key
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

## Developing the Councils Green Agenda - Monitoring Report Number 2

### Purpose of the Report

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

### Recommendations to Scrutiny Committee (change committee name if not applicable)

2. To note the contents of the report.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. None, for information only.

### Other options considered and rejected

4. NA, report is an update report on project progress only.

### Executive summary

5. A total of 24 recommendations have been finalised. Over the last period (March 2021 – September 2021) all recommendations have been progressed and 5 have been completed.
6. While most recommendations are led by the Climate Change Programme Officer, there is cross collaboration efforts through the entire council which has ensured the progression of the recommendations.

### Corporate priorities

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

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

### Background to the report

8. 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 which was first reported to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2021.
9. 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 all of the Councils strands of activity relating to the green agenda.

### Climate Change Programme Update

10. Following the commencement of the Climate Change Programme Officer in March 2021, climate change work, including all recommendations from the Green Agenda Task Group, have progressed substantially. The Climate Change Working Group and the Climate Change Officer Working Group provides an opportunity to report on progress and work solutions on a monthly basis as a cross council effort.
11. The majority of climate change actions and programme work is divided into 10 strategic themes of work. These themes are displayed within the task group recommendations and the expected reporting methods from the upcoming Environment Bill 2020. The themes are as follows:
  - a. resourcing, governance, and baseline
  - b. (clean) air quality
  - c. sustainable transport
  - d. community (the built environment)
  - e. water (management and flood risk)
  - f. nature and biodiversity

- g. energy
- h. communications (and influencing behaviours)
- i. waste and recycling
- j. planning and policy

12. 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 a whole includes additional strands of work.

13. Progress to-date is detailed in the update column and it is worth noting that since many of these are being delivered or led by the Climate Change Programme Officer, who commenced March 2021, momentum of the recommendations have been progressed significantly since the last Overview and Scrutiny report in March 2021.

### 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)	<p>The determination of what is included within and outside of scope has been agreed upon, and we are following the approach of Dr John Hindley of the NW Energy Hub, who has developed a calculation workbook to determine the councils carbon footprint and actions including timeframes.</p> <p>The Asset team are currently completing fabrication work on all council assets and sourcing electricity and gas bills from the reporting period of March 2019 to March 2020 (to prevent the skew of data due to covid). This data will then be added to workbook for calculation. This work will be completed annually internally by the asset team and the (upcoming) Carbon &amp; Air Quality Officer</p> <p>Lancashire County Council are leading on a Lancashire Wide Project to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Calculate the baseline carbon footprint of each of the councils' assets</li> <li>b) Commission external consultants to calculate the baseline carbon footprint of all boroughs.</li> </ul> <p>Lancashire County Councils work will be completed by end of year and borough specific data will be provided to each council.</p>
Commission work to develop a roadmap and	Climate Change Programme	Gap analysis complete but still further work to develop SMART action plan to achieve

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<p>action plan towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 including targets, actions, and measures</p>	<p>Officer</p>	<p>2030 net zero. The upcoming targets will be more specific and achievable being based on in-depth carbon footprint data</p> <p>LCC are currently drafting action plans surrounding decarbonisation routes, offsetting, and biodiversity amongst others. This work has been presented to the climate officers for comment and will be presented to Council Leaders for final approval and comment. This work will be provided to us at district level upon completion.</p> <p>The upcoming carbon and air quality officer will support this action plan by completing the carbon production calculations annually to analyse decreases and areas for improvement.</p> <p>The climate change strategy and action plan is currently being drafted with a full council member workshop in planning to be held before Christmas break.</p>
<p>Set up a council-led climate change steering group to oversee activity and provide direction</p>	<p>Service Lead Spatial Planning /Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Democratic Services Team Lead Climate Change Programme Officer /</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Produce regular monitoring reports to track progress against key objectives and measures</p>	<p>Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>All work is reported to the Climate Change Working Groups. The working group meets approximately 10 times a year.</p> <p>The carbon baselining will be completed annually which will include the fleet, commuter miles, and building electricity. This will inform any changes in carbon production and areas for improvement. These will inform the KPI's from the upcoming climate change strategy. A generic climate change email has been set up and promoted on the website to allow for residents to email in questions, requests, and information.</p>

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		<p>Spatial analysis of green spaces, tree planting and nesting boxes will ensure that the borough promotes optimal bird and insect migration – this work is first being input into excel and then into GIS for annual renew and optimal analysis.</p> <p>The following areas are all monitored either as statutory functions or climate monitoring work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electricity and carbon production by council</li> <li>• Air Quality</li> <li>• Waste and recycling</li> <li>• Fleet and commuting carbon production</li> <li>• Green spaces and nesting locations</li> <li>• Green accredited business numbers and forum involvement</li> <li>• Community satisfaction and community requests</li> </ul>
<p>Identify dedicated officer resource to coordinate development of the council's green agenda and roadmap to becoming carbon neutral</p>	<p>Service Lead Spatial Planning /Local Plan Coordinator</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Consider the additional resources needed to deliver the action plan which could include funding for specialist knowledge, additional expertise, or specific projects</p>	<p>Climate Change Programme Officer</p>	<p>There are multiple networking groups between councils and other organisations within Lancashire which allows for information sharing and support.</p> <p>Gary Hall has approved the appointment of a new Carbon and Air Quality Monitoring officer. This officer will aid in the delivery of the Green Agenda. This role will be funded from climate pot for a 2 year period.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Service Lead Communities /Private Sector Housing Team Leader/Public Protection/Street scene</p>	<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&amp;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 option's.</p>

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		Funding for renewables and other decarbonisation work can be applied for following carbon calculations as these calculations are a requirement of the funding applications. Funding avenues includes the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund
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	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	<p>Task group has been set up with LCC authorities for a county wide funding bid for EV ChargePoint's</p> <p>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. This work will also be completed in Chorley.</p> <p>Change in Lancashire County Council electric vehicle charging policy is expected for end 2021. It is expected that more powers will be passed to tier 2 authorities.</p>
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>Work on the delivery of the recommendations of the O&amp;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</p> <p>The Council have taken steps to acquire electric fleet vehicles and put in place electrical charging facilities at Bengal street, &amp; Flat Iron carpark. There are 6 electric vehicle charging bays available on the Flat Iron car park and 2 on Cleveland Streetcar park.</p> <p>Locations for bicycle centres are being</p>

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		investigated and priced up for feasibility in areas surrounding the town centre. 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.
Investigate green burial sites in Chorley, including council-owned cemeteries	Street scene Manager/Asset Manager /Open Space Strategy Officer	Various sites of Council owned land have been put forward for woodland creation. One site in particular would be suitable to create a memorial woodland should the Council want to take forward this option.
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>This work is being completed to coincide with the green accreditation for businesses which was recommended by the climate change working group. Along with the town centre team and business engagement team drafts of the criteria are currently being developed.</p> <p>The project has been initially slowed from immediate release due to businesses current struggles following COVID-19 lockdowns. A business green networking event is currently being planned to coincide with COP26 which will provide businesses with starting points and advice on sustainable practices and applying for grants.</p>
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>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.</p> <p>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 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>Currently exploring additional funding</p>

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		options such as the social housing decarbonisation fund. The fund is being applied for as a consortium of all Lancashire councils. This work is also being applied for internally on Chorley Council Assets as an opportunity to display the options and discuss the work with the local housing providers.
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	Completed
Investigation of renewable energy sources for the council	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>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 across the procurement, design, construction, and operation of the Digital Office Park buildings and developments</p> <p>As with recommendation 1, the work being completed to measure the council carbon footprint this will identify which assets and areas which require correction first. There are funding options available including the public sector decarbonisation fund, these applications focus on buildings where boilers and heating systems are at 'the end of life' thus on some of the council's buildings can be improved at a time.</p>
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>A communication plan is being developed for the green agenda, which will include using a range of channels to communicate our messages, and this is reviewed and updated regularly as a live document. We have started to share some climate change related content on the Chorley Council Facebook page so we can monitor engagement they receive, which may help inform best uses of social media in the future. The below are examples of this</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clean Air Strategy launched &amp; Promoted</li> <li>- School Uniform swap engagement</li> </ul>



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		<p>and supporting materials launched</p> <p>Events, webpage, comms plan, resident survey (commuting, sustainable, climate considerations, green spaces) are all plans to be included.</p>
<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>Based on the feedback from the Climate Change Members Working Group meeting, we continue to work on developing ideas and plans for a climate change event to engage with residents, businesses and groups. The event will include resident specific engagement opportunities. A school and church working group has been established alongside the Catholic Justice and Peace group and Inspire Youth Zone regarding events and initiatives. St Laurence school has engaged with the members to organise visiting the school and speaking to the students regarding the decarbonisation work that the school has conducted.</p> <p>The goal for an event in spring 2020 was postponed due to COVID-19. An event is now planned to occur during COP26 2021 at the start of November.</p>
<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>Contact information for CCPO has been provided to several businesses through the Development and Business team, businesses such as PVS, GA Pet foods and Freedom Heat Pumps have all reached out for advice thus far.</p> <p>Useful links for businesses added to climate change section of website which include grant opportunities and carbon footprint reduction support.</p>
<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>Develop an accreditation scheme for 'green' traders and businesses operating in the town centre and demonstrating commitment</p>	<p>Service Lead (Development and Business) /Climate Change Programme</p>	<p>It has been decided local businesses will be given time to re-establish themselves before a green-accreditation system is rolled out.</p>

Recommendation/ Action	Lead	Update
to a set of specific green principles such as minimising waste and cutting out single use plastics by providing reusable or recyclable containers.	Officer	<p>First draft of the scheme is currently being devised with town centre team to ensure function and feasibility.</p> <p>Event workshop with COP26 and engagement with businesses planned. This will provide an opportunity for people to re-establish themselves as the impact of covid has slowed work.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Climate change and the build back greener promise following covid are key areas of focus for the new plan.</p>
<p>That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Secretaries of State for Business, Energy &amp; 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:</p> <p>Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to cope with a higher percentage of renewable and electric cars</p> <p>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</p> <p>Deliver a major investment in public transport, walking and cycling including bus</p>	Climate Change Programme Officer	<p>This letter is currently being drafted ensuring that it is relevant to the newly updated documents and funding stream for community groups and the council. Such as the update the minimum energy efficiency in the private rented sector which has increased the required EPC band to a C by 2030 where practical with larger contributions where not.</p>

<b>Recommendation/ Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Update</b>
services		

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

14. The work noted in this report promotes the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and provides positive steps to ensuring they are delivered. All environmental considerations are in place.

### **Equality and diversity**

15. 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**

16. 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**

17. There are no direct financial implications of this report.

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

18. 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**

Developing the Councils Green Agenda Monitoring Report Number 1

<https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s123548/Developing%20the%20Councils%20Green%20Agenda%20Monitoring%20Report.pdf>

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