



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Sir Robert Atkins, Chairman of the Climate Change Policy Working Group and Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Cabinet	13 January 2021

## Climate Change Action Plan

### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To consider the contents of the summarised Climate Change Action Plan for the council and wider borough.

### 2. Outcomes

- 2.1 To support the council's commitment to climate change, as part of the Climate Emergency declaration.
- 2.2 To promote a cleaner and greener Wyre.

### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the contents of the summarised Climate Change Action Plan are noted.
- 3.2 That the process for updating and reviewing the live document is agreed.

### 4. Background

- 4.1 Climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing our society. The 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 2018, highlights how the impacts of climate change are being experienced now through unprecedented global trends and more localised severe weather events.
- 4.2 In light of the serious impacts of climate breakdown, which are already causing serious damage both locally and around the world, the council declared a Climate Emergency on 11 July 2019 (Appendix 1). This was a

cross-party motion, supported unanimously by all members of the council.

**4.3** The Climate Emergency declaration sets out a number of commitments, notably including to:

- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050;
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale;
- Ensure the Council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- Continue its policy of having officers and departmental groups work on a climate change action plan, which will report back to Council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050.

**4.4** In response to this declaration, the cross-party member's Climate Change Policy Group was established. This group has met regularly since November 2019 to discuss and approve actions to be included within the required Climate Change Action Plan.

**4.5** The establishment of a Climate Change Action Plan is a pressing requirement among local authorities across the United Kingdom, who are coming under greater pressure from the public to address the Climate Emergency. This has been combined with a desire for a 'green recovery' from Covid-19, which acknowledges some of the unintended positive aspects from the lockdown such as fewer vehicles on the road creating cleaner air. It also places more emphasis on creating jobs through energy efficiency, decarbonisation and renewable energy schemes. This is supported by the recent announcement of a £350 million fund from the UK Government to fuel this recovery.

**4.6** It is recognised that taking action on climate change leads to a large number of co-benefits, documented in the Ashden Climate Action Co-benefits Toolkit. This highlights how lowering emissions also creates improved health, social equality, thriving economics and community resilience. These co-benefits strongly align with the council's vision for Wyre as a healthy and happy place where people want to live, work, invest and visit. As such, the summarised Climate Change Action Plan supports the council's ambitions for a quality local environment for all to enjoy, a strong local economy and to support communities to lead healthier lifestyles.

## **5. Key issues and proposals**

**5.1** National statistics from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) detail the estimated carbon dioxide emissions across all local authorities. These are published annually with a two-year time lag. In 2018, BEIS estimated that the total carbon footprint for Wyre was approximately 500,300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Using 2018 census data, 111,223 people lived in the local area, equating to an estimated carbon footprint of 4.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per person, per year. Among the three main sectors, the largest contributors to Wyre's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were:

- Domestic gas (24%, 118,300 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>);
- Industry and commercial gas (15%, 73,600 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>);
- Industry and commercial electricity (14%, 71,700 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>); and
- Road transport from minor roads (14%, 69,900 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>).

**5.2** The organisation One Carbon World was commissioned to calculate a baseline carbon footprint for the council and its core activities. This was based on the 2018/19 financial year data, which was most readily available at the time of collection. Overall, the total carbon footprint for 2018/19 was approximately 5,358.82 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (carbon dioxide equivalent), which accounts for 1% of emissions within the borough. The most significant source of these emissions was those arising from fuel use, particularly natural gas, which is a key area for the action plan to address. Although it should be noted that consumption in 2018/19 was higher than normal owing to maintenance works at Fleetwood Market and a reduction is expected in (part year) 2019/20 and ongoing.

**5.3** As a note, leased assets and those used by partners to deliver our functions, but with responsibility for utilities falling to the tenant, were not included in the baseline calculation. Going forward, the recently released and freely available 'Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool' from the Local Government Association (LGA) will be used to calculate the council's carbon footprint.

**5.4** In response to these figures, and to reflect the commitments in the Climate Emergency declaration, the summarised Climate Change Action Plan has been split into two separate plans: one to address the council's own carbon footprint, and one for the wider borough. Whilst the council has influence over the wider borough, as a second-tier authority it does not have the direct control that it does over its own assets. As such, the dual action plans reflect the council's commitment to lead by example in making council activities net-zero, whilst supporting where possible a reduction in emissions across Wyre via the wider borough action plan. This approach to climate change targets is common across most councils, where it is recognised that councils have varying influence over the different activities that occur within their own operations and across their borough.

- 5.5** The action plans in Appendix 2 present high level, summary plans to reflect the general aims and commitments within the Climate Emergency declaration, and those highlighted by the Climate Change Policy Group. These are split into key themes, such as Environment. Each of these themes will have a separate operational working plan, to include more detail on timescales, progress updates and relevant officers responsible for each action. Key actions within the plans that require further investment would be the subject of separate reports for approval.
- 5.6** The action plans are intended to be a starting point from which they will grow and evolve. As such, they should be treated as 'live' documents, as opposed to 'completed'. Additions and amendments are likely to be common, as new information and guidance continues to be released. To allow for the required haste in response to the climate emergency, it is proposed that the process of updating these documents will be undertaken by the Climate Change Policy Group, who will review the detailed operational action plan on a quarterly basis. Key updates will be published annually on the website to allow for community buy-in and scrutiny.

<b>Financial and legal implications</b>	
Finance	The council has committed to tree planting and has allocated an annual budget to support this work of £5,000. Projects that arise from the Climate Change Action Plan will be evaluated and the financial implications considered and set out in reports for consideration as appropriate.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
sustainability	<b>✓</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>✓</b>
climate change	<b>✓</b>
ICT	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>x</b>

## Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

## List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Climate Emergency Declaration

Appendix 2 – Climate Change Action Plan

dem/cab/cr/20/1301sg1

## Appendix 1: Climate Emergency Declaration



### Wyre Council Resolution Climate Emergency Declaration

At the meeting of Wyre Council on 11 July 2019, it was agreed that:

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The Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;
  - That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018
    - (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5C rise, and
    - (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
  - That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and we congratulate Her Majesty's Government (HMG) on being the first country to take a lead on this issue;
  - That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits; and
  - That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions and this Council tonight declares a Climate Emergency.
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The Council therefore commits to:

- 1. Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050;**
- 2. Achieve 100% clean energy** across the Council's full range of functions by 2050;

3. Ensure that **all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon** by 2050 as far as Planning Laws allow it;
4. **Support and work with all other relevant agencies** towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale;
5. Ensure the Council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any **recommendations are fully costed** and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and **produce an action plan within 12 months**, together with **budget actions** and a **measured baseline**;
6. Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council **contain impact assessments on Climate Change**, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;
7. Continue its already agreed policy to **report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target**;
8. **Work with, influence and inspire partners** across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by **developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops**;
9. Request that the Council and partners, take steps to **proactively include young people** in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future;
10. Continue its policy of **having officers and departmental groups work on a climate change action plan** which will report back to Council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050;
11. Request an **annual investment report from our pensions administrators** Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry, such report to go to Cabinet who will make any appropriate observations thereon reflecting our zero carbon emissions target of 2050;
12. Ensuring that **all reports** in preparation for the 2020/2021 budget cycle and investment strategy will **take into account the financial implications of the actions** the council will take to address this emergency;
13. **Request the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding** to make this possible, and **ask local MPs to do likewise**;
14. Continue to consider other actions within the Council's remit that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): **renewable energy generation and storage**, providing **electric vehicle infrastructure** and **encouraging alternatives to private car use**, increasing the **efficiency of all buildings**,

including housing in particular to **address fuel poverty**; proactively using **local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon new developments and communities**, coordinating a series of **information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice**;

15. The Council should, if possible, **not allow its land to be used for anything that would result in the Council not meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2050**; and
16. Monitor the advice of the Local Government Association, (and where possible implement) as to what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on **air quality**, a modal shift away from **private cars**, increased take up on **public transport**, and ensure that **every aspect of the Councils activities** are sighted on the need to **preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage**.
17. **Use trees to offset carbon emissions** arising from the Council's activities and therefore to instruct our officers to report back on costings for the planting of trees and the maintenance of woodlands in the Borough, which is a matter of urgency because we need to start planting trees now.



## Appendix 2: Climate Emergency Action Plan



# Wyre Climate Change Action Plan

### Climate Emergency Declaration

On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the council declared a Climate Emergency. This declaration recognises the severe impacts of climate breakdown and acknowledges the urgent need to act to prevent further damage.

### Our Vision

Our vision is that Wyre is a healthy and happy place where people want to live, work, invest and visit. The following action plans support the councils' combined ambitions for a quality local environment for all to enjoy, a strong local economy, and to support communities to lead healthier lifestyles. In particular, we imagine a low carbon district to comprise of quiet safe streets, warm homes, green jobs, equity and social cohesion, community resilience, healthier people and more local consumption.

### Action Plans

To reflect our levels of influence across the borough, we have produced two separate action plans in order to effectively respond to the impacts and risks of climate change.

#### ***Council Operations:***

We aim to lead by example in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions we have direct control over and have committed to make the council's activities net-zero by 2050. This means achieving a balance of greenhouse gas emissions, where we reduce as much of our emissions as possible, and work to offset the damage of any residual emissions through carbon offsetting activities such as tree planting. The Climate Change Action Plan for our Council Operations summarises how we plan to achieve this goal.

#### ***Wider Borough:***

As a District authority within Lancashire County Council, we are responsible for local services such as rubbish collection, housing and planning applications, whilst the county council are responsible for services such as education, social services and waste disposal. Although we are limited in our level of influence, we understand our position as a leader within the borough. We therefore commit to support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon within the same timescale of 2050. Our summarised Climate Change Action Plan for the Wider Borough details how we propose to achieve this.

### Timescales

Estimates on the timescales required for the actions in each plan are based on the following timescales.

Key to Action Timescales	
Timescale	Definition
Ongoing	Action currently in progress
Short term	6 – 12 months
Medium term	Up to 2 years
Long term	Longer than 2 years

### Priority Actions

Due to the urgency of the task, it is important to prioritise key actions that will be most effective in responding to climate change. Actions in the following plans are ranked as high, medium or low priority based on the expected ease of undertaking the action and the effectiveness of the result, as detailed below.

Key to Prioritising Actions		Ease of Undertaking Action		
		Difficult	Moderate	Easy
Effectiveness of Action	Effective	Medium	High	High
	Moderate	Low	Medium	High
	Ineffective	Low	Low	Medium

### Updates

The action plans are live documents, which will be updated annually to reflect emerging technologies, guidance and policies.

## Climate Change Action Plan: Council Operations

Our goal is to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050.

ID	Theme	Action	Timescale	Priority
<b>1.0 Measurement</b> Gain an understanding of current emissions produced by the council, in order to set appropriate yearly reduction targets.				
1.1	Carbon footprint measurement	Measure the council's carbon footprint on a yearly basis and compare this against baseline data for the 2018/19 financial year.	Ongoing	High
<b>2.0 Energy</b> Identify areas to save energy, improve efficiency and generate renewable energy to achieve 100% clean energy across the council's full range of functions by 2050.				
2.1	Building efficiency	Commission energy efficiency reports for the council's main buildings to identify and implement measures for improvement.	Medium term	High
2.2	Asset efficiency	Work with tenants to identify and implement measures to improve energy efficiency of the council's leased assets.	Medium term	High
2.3	Amenity lighting	Explore opportunities to save energy by switching amenity lighting on council car parks and within parks and open spaces to LEDs.	Ongoing	Low
2.4	Renewable energy installation	Explore the potential for installing renewable energy technologies and storage within council-owned buildings, such as rooftop solar panels.	Medium term	High
2.5	Renewable energy generation	Review council-owned land for potential renewable energy generation and storage, such as solar farms.	Medium term	Medium
<b>3.0 Waste</b> Ensure waste across the council estate is appropriately disposed of or diverted from landfill using the waste hierarchy.				
3.1	Waste and single use plastics	Improve waste management techniques to reduce waste and	Ongoing	Medium

		single use plastics across all council locations.		
<b>4.0 Transport</b> Reduce the amount of emissions from staff commuting and business miles, and support the transition to electric vehicles within the council fleet and car parks.				
4.1	Vehicle fleet	Reduce the carbon footprint of the council's vehicle fleet through route optimisation and phased vehicle replacement.	Ongoing	Medium
4.2	Staff commuting	Measure staff commuting methods to determine the amount of indirect emissions produced, and explore options for reducing these.	Short term	Low
4.3	Agile working practices	To explore and develop agile working practices to reduce employee journeys and business miles.	Medium term	High
4.4	Active travel	Promote the staff cycle to work scheme and provision of cycling facilities, to encourage active staff commuting and healthier lifestyles.	Short term	Medium
<b>5.0 Procurement</b> Ensure council investments align with the Climate Emergency declaration and work to reduce emissions embedded within the council's supply chain.				
5.1	Pension investments	Work in partnership with neighbouring Local Authorities to influence the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry from the Lancashire County Pension Fund.	Medium term	High
5.2	Energy supply	Source a renewable energy supply to all council buildings.	<b>Complete</b>	High
5.3	Supply chain	Review the council's supply chain and identify areas to reduce indirect emissions by sourcing supplies locally, sustainably and efficiently.	Ongoing	Medium
<b>6.0 Environment</b> Effectively manage the council's wide range of land assets, to ensure these continue to naturally store carbon, cater for rising water levels, enhance our native biodiversity and provide space for people to use and enjoy.				
6.1	Land assets	Expand on the implementation of sustainable management	Ongoing	Medium

		techniques for suitable parks and open spaces within Wyre.		
6.2	Review land assets	Continue to review council-owned land to identify opportunities to enhance natural carbon and water storage.	Ongoing	High
6.3	Natural Wyre Action Plan	Create an overarching Natural Wyre Action Plan to review current practice and coordinate sustainable management plans across all council open spaces.	Medium term	Medium
6.4	Land use	If possible, the council should not allow its land to be used for anything that would result in the council not meeting the net zero target.	Ongoing	High
<b>7.0 Staff Engagement</b> Support staff to become climate resilient and embed climate action throughout all council departments.				
7.1	Advice and training	Maximise opportunities available from council membership of APSE Energy, a local authority collaboration to share information, resources and best practice for the green energy agenda.	Ongoing	High
7.2	Carbon literacy training	Introduce mandatory staff carbon literacy training to embed a low carbon culture within the workforce. Create climate champions who are equipped to facilitate future training courses.	Short term	High
7.3	New starters	Review information provided in job descriptions, the employee code of conduct and new starter packs to embed low carbon behaviours among new staff members.	Short term	Low
<b>8.0 Funding</b> Identify funding sources to enable the implementation of actions within this plan.				
8.1	Grants	Utilise professional memberships and partnerships to identify, prepare for and maximise use of grants and funding opportunities.	Ongoing	High
8.2	Funding streams	Explore the feasibility of new funding streams to support local	Ongoing	High

		recovery and generate revenue for green projects.		
8.3	Budget	Ensure all reports in preparation for the annual budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the financial implications of the actions the council will take to address this emergency.	Long term	Medium
<b>9.0 Governance</b> Embed climate and nature restoration goals within council decision-making and governance.				
9.1	Corporate strategies	Review all corporate strategies and plans to ensure these align with the council's Climate Emergency declaration.	Medium term	High
9.2	Officer working group	Creating a working group of officers to contribute to the Climate Change Action Plan and facilitate action within departmental groups.	Short term	High
9.3	Reports	Where necessary, officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on climate change and present alternative approaches that reduce carbon emissions where possible.	Short term	High
9.4	Scrutiny	Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee towards progress towards the zero carbon emissions target.	Ongoing	High

## Climate Change Action Plan: Wider Borough

Our goal is to support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire Wyre area zero carbon by 2050.

ID	Theme	Action	Timescale	Priority
<b>1.0 Measurement</b>				
Use national database tools to gain an understanding of current emissions produced across Wyre and identify key sources of carbon emissions to target.				
1.1	Carbon footprint measurement	Measure the carbon footprint of the borough using data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and set appropriate reduction targets.	Ongoing	High
1.2	Postcode analysis of carbon emissions	Investigate feasibility of analysing carbon emissions by postcode and targeting key areas for emissions reduction schemes.	Medium term	Medium
<b>2.0 Planning</b>				
Use planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon developments and communities, encourage healthy, active lifestyles and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.				
2.1	Wyre Local Plan	Use planning powers and relevant policies within the Local Plan to ensure new developments are designed to mitigate against climate change and to be resilient to future impacts.	Ongoing	Medium
2.2	Decision making	Ensure all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050 as far as Planning Law allows it.	Ongoing	High
2.3	Planning officer working group	Work with planning officers from neighbouring Local Authorities to identify best practice and effectively coordinate a local response to climate change.	Ongoing	High
<b>3.0 Transport</b>				
Improve air quality and healthy lifestyles by encouraging a modal shift from private cars, increasing take-up on public transport when safe to do so, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and supporting more people to walk or cycle.				
3.1	Charging points	Where appropriate, install electric charging points on council-owned	Short term	High

		car parks to support the phased transition to electric vehicles.		
3.2	Active travel	Explore ways to improve walking and cycling infrastructure across the borough.	Medium term	Medium
6.4	Air quality	Measure and monitor air quality across Wyre and target interventions accordingly.	Ongoing	Medium
<b>4.0 Housing</b> Help owner-occupied homes to be more energy efficient and support vulnerable residents from the effects of climate change.				
4.1	Home energy efficiency initiatives	Continue to support the delivery of energy efficiency measures via the Cosy Homes in Lancashire partnership to help heat and insulate homes.	Ongoing	High
4.2	Fuel poverty	Support those in fuel poverty by providing advice regarding more fuel-efficient heating.	Ongoing	High
<b>5.0 Waste</b> Educate and support residents and businesses to reduce, recycle and reuse materials as part of sustainable circular economy.				
5.1	Household waste collection	Continue to encourage residents to divert household waste from landfill or final disposal, and communicate key messages to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.	Ongoing	High
5.2	Bulky household waste collections	Continue to promote the Bulky Household Waste collection service to allow items to be reused and recycled, as well as supporting the local community.	Ongoing	High
<b>6.0 Environment</b> Work in partnership to restore and protect our native biodiversity and vital carbon sinks, work to prevent and protect against increased flooding events, and ensure everyone has access to local green spaces.				
6.1	Tree planting	Follow our commitment to plant an additional 25,000 trees by the end of the 2023/24 financial year.	Long term	High
6.2	Partnership working	Support key partnerships to enable the effective management of the wide variety of landscapes and	Ongoing	High



		habitats across Wyre, to increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration.		
6.3	Flooding	Support residents via the Wyre flood forum to become more resilient to the increased risk of flooding.	Ongoing	High
<b>7.0 Engagement</b> Support residents and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and promote positive behaviour change in the community.				
7.1	Communications plan	Develop a communications plan to maximise opportunities to promote the council's actions and encourage behaviour change from businesses and residents.	Short term	High
7.2	Community groups	Engage with community groups, parish and town councils in Wyre to raise awareness of actions to limit climate change and promote positive behavioural change.	Medium term	High
7.3	Schools and youth groups	Work with schools and youth groups to raise awareness and proactively include young people in decisions.	Ongoing	High
7.4	Youth council	Work with Wyre and Garstang Youth Councils and Youth Majors to involve young people in decision-making and action on climate change.	Short term	Medium
7.5	Partnerships	Work with, influence and inspire partners across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.	Long term	Medium
7.6	Lobbying	Lobby and request the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make action possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.	Short term	High
7.7	Local businesses	Work with local businesses to encourage green practices, provide support for accessing funding, and to share best practice.	Ongoing	High