



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee	21 March 2024

Progress Report – Draft Climate Change Strategy
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To present the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee with an update on the draft Climate Change Strategy and the findings of the recent public consultation.

2. Corporate priorities

- 2.1** Reduce council and wider borough emissions by at least 78% by 2035, before reaching net zero by 2050.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** To note the outcomes of the public consultation.
- 3.2** To note the updates to the current draft of the Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.3** To recommend any amendments to be included in the final Climate Change Strategy.

4. Background

- 4.1** The Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee have had the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft climate strategy on 21 September 2023 and 7 December 2023. Following these meetings, the Climate Change Strategy has been updated and member feedback has been addressed.
- 4.2** Following this, the climate change team ran a public consultation to allow the public to have their say on the draft Climate Change Strategy. This was designed to raise awareness of the emerging document, ensure the priorities were suitable and highlight if any key priority areas or specific actions were missing from the public and key stakeholder's perspective.

- 4.3** PS Research, who have previously worked with the council to complete the Staff Survey and other consultation work, were appointed to assist in the consultation process.
- 4.4** The consultation involved an online survey, which was available to fill in via the council website for approximately 3 weeks in January and February. This was promoted via a press release and paid adverts on social media.
- 4.5** The climate change team, with the assistance of other departments and volunteers, offered seven in-person public engagement events to give residents the opportunity to discuss the strategy in more detail, learn more about climate change and have their say. These were planned using footfall data to reach residents on the busiest days across a range of locations throughout Wyre, which included:
- Knott End Library (Monday 29 January)
 - Garstang Booths (Thursday 1 February)
 - Teanlowe Centre in Poulton (Saturday 3 February)
 - Fleetwood Library (Wednesday 14 February)
 - The Mount, Fleetwood (Thursday 15 February)
 - Cleveleys Library (Friday 16 February)
 - Teanlowe Centre in Poulton (Saturday 17 February)
- 4.6** A range of key stakeholders were invited to two events held at the Civic Centre on Tuesday 6 and Thursday 8 February. This involved a presentation on the strategy followed by an opportunity to read through the action plans in detail and provide comments.
- 4.7** Local schools were also invited to two events held in the Council Chamber on Wednesday 31 January (primary) and Friday 9 February (secondary). Pupils took part in interactive sessions to learn more about climate change, local impacts and to have their say on priorities and actions within the strategy.
- 4.8** Staff and elected members were encouraged to have their say via a specific links to the survey on the staff and councillor hub.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** In total, the online survey had 228 responses. Approximately 85 people were reached during the seven public engagement events. The key stakeholder events had 25 representatives attending from a range of local and wider organisations, listed within the consultation results document in Appendix 1. Children from five primary and secondary schools attended the school events.

- 5.2** A full evaluation of the consultation is detailed in Appendix 1. Within this, the key takeaways were:
- Of the eight objectives, planning, biodiversity and waste were respondent's biggest priorities.
 - When asked what one specific action the council should focus on to address concerns about climate change, the majority of respondents (23%) stated the council needs to improve planning and stop building houses and new roads.
 - Respondents felt the strategy was missing: specific objectives on education and local business/industry, more emphasis on pollution, consultation with local experts, a business case for each action and information on what other local organisations are doing.
 - Flooding in the local area and loss of wildlife were the biggest worries in Wyre.
 - The biggest barriers stopping people becoming more environmentally friendly were: public transport is not good enough, the cost of being environmentally friendly and the availability of environmentally alternatives.
 - When asked what the council can do to support residents to be more environmentally friendly, the top response was to improve waste collection and recycling facilities.
- 5.3** It is important to note that many issues raised in the public consultation are not within the influence of the council, but rather by Lancashire County Council or Government. In particular, we are constrained by government policy on housebuilding. However, we can work in partnership and use our ability to lobby government towards making these changes at a national level.
- 5.4** Some points on improving recycling facilities also failed to note that we should be promoting a waste hierarchy that focuses on reducing and reusing items before using recycling as a last resort. It is clear from the consultation as a whole that more education is needed on many aspects of climate change.
- 5.5** Following the previous Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee in December, members raised a number of points within the strategy. A response to the points raised is available in Appendix 2. The latest draft of the strategy is available in Appendix 3.

- 5.6** At the end of 2023, an invitation to quote was issued via a procurement framework to find a consultant to assist with prioritising the action plan. This unfortunately returned no interest. The climate change team are now exploring alternative options to engage consultants to complete work on calculating costings, carbon savings and payback periods for actions within the strategy.
- 5.7** The next stage of the process will be to further update the strategy with the key findings from the public consultation, as well as any recommendations from the Sub-Committee, and continue to explore ways to prioritise the action plans. The final strategy is due to be presented at Full Council in summer. This has been pushed back from spring to allow for suitable updates to be made in time. The Sub-Committee will have the opportunity to see the final document prior to recommending this for approval at Full Council.
- 5.8** It is proposed that members note the results of the public consultation and contents of the updated draft Climate Change Strategy and use this meeting to recommend any final amendments to the document.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 6.1** Using the previous draft of the Climate Change Strategy was not considered a suitable option as this needed updating to ensure the key findings from the public consultation were included.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	Financial costs of actions within the strategy have been estimated using a key. Whilst the council will endeavour to fund actions where possible through internal budgeting, achieving all the actions within the strategy will require considerable financial costs that the council does not have the resources to meet. External grant funding opportunities and partnerships with key stakeholders will be required to fund these goals.
Legal	Legal implications of individual actions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Climate Change	The strategy will provide a clear foundation for ambitious climate change action within the council in order to achieve our 78% emissions reduction target by 2035.

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.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
ICT	x
data protection	x

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

List of appendices

- Appendix 1 – Wyre climate change consultation results
- Appendix 2 – Response to councillor feedback (December meeting)
- Appendix 3 – Climate Change Strategy (Draft 13)