



<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Sir Robert Atkins, Lead Member for Climate Change	Council	12 September 2024

## **Periodic Report – Lead Member for Climate Change**

### **1. Purpose of report**

**1.1** To provide an update on work conducted and supported by the Lead Member for Climate Change.

### **2. Council priorities**

**2.1** A cleaner, greener and more sustainable place.

### **3. Recommendation**

**3.1** That the Council notes my work as the Lead Member for Climate Change.

### **4. Background**

**4.1** The Leader of the Council has appointed me as the Lead Member for Climate Change.

**4.2** The Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Climate Change was commissioned in September 2023 to act as a cross-party, designated group of councillors on supporting climate action, replacing the previous Climate Change Policy Working Group. As Chairman of the scrutiny group, chairing this group has been my largest piece of work, which is playing a vital role in the development of the Climate Change Strategy and other climate action within the council.

**4.3** I have also been involved in wider collaboration across the North West.

**4.4** This report provides an overview of some of the work that I have supported and engaged with over the last year.

### **5. Work with the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee**

- 5.1** In my role as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on Climate Change, the group have primarily focused on reviewing the contents of the draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans. This document replaces two previous out-dated action plans and provides a clear direction of travel for climate action across the council, which is particularly relevant to the review of the Local Plan. We have had the opportunity to review the documents, raise questions and suggest amendments where appropriate. We approved the draft strategy before it was circulated for public consultation in January and February 2024.
- 5.2** Following a limited response to the consultation, we invited the Senior Communications Officer to a meeting in June 2024 to discuss climate change communications. A draft communications strategy was presented at the meeting. The group considered the challenges presented by climate change deniers and negative engagement with social media content, as well as opportunities to promote the co-benefits of climate action such as becoming healthier in addition to greener outcomes.
- 5.3** I requested a summary document of the Climate Change Strategy be presented to the group, with shorter and more easily digestible information for the public. The group welcomed the document and recommended outlining a plan to officially launch the strategy once approved.
- 5.4** During the year, the group also commissioned a task group on electric vehicle charging points and the partnership arrangements with Lancashire County Council. Four meetings have been held to discuss this topic and final recommendations are due to be released shortly.

## **6. Work across the North West**

- 6.1** I was also pleased to attend to a North West Climate Change Officers and Portfolio Holders event at Lancaster Town Hall. This was the first meeting of its kind and the group explored ways in which they could work better together for joined up climate action across the North West.

## **7. Questions and comments**

- 7.1** In accordance with procedure rule 13.4, I will respond to any questions or comments on the contents of this report or on any other issues relating to climate change in Wyre.

<b>Financial, Legal/MO, and Climate Change implications</b>	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Legal/MO	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Climate Change	The Lead Member is playing a leading role in supporting and monitoring the approach to the delivery of climate action across the council.

### 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	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
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 appendices

None