



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Henderson, Leader of the Council and Garry Payne, Chief Executive	Council	3 October 2019

Climate Change Policy Group

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To enable a new Policy Group to be established.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 More effective consideration of climate change initiatives.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That a Climate Change Policy Group be established with the Terms of Reference set out in paragraph 5.1 below.
- 3.2 That 9 Conservative Councillors, 2 Labour Councillors and 1 UKIP Councillor, including at least 1 member each from Fleetwood, Thornton, Cleveleys, Poulton-le-Fylde, Rural East and Rural West areas of the Borough, be appointed as members of the Policy Group for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal year.
- 3.3 That, an initial meeting of the new group be held on a date to be arranged in October or November 2019 and that further meetings then be arranged, probably in January and March 2020.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 11 July 2019 the Council committed to:
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050;
 - Achieve 100% clean energy across the council's full range of functions by 2050;

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Continue its already agreed policy to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Request the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise;

- 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;
- 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
- 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 council's activities are sighted on the need to preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage.
- 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.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 The Climate Change Policy Group will not have any delegated decision making powers. Its functions will be:

- To assist officers in the development of the Climate Change Action Plan.
- To make recommendations to the Cabinet on issues relating to climate change.
- To monitor and review progress on the development and implementation of measures to alleviate the impact of climate change, referred to in the motion approved by the Council on 11 July 2019.
- To report annually to Full Council.

5.2 As the proposed Policy Group is not being established as a formal Committee or Sub-Committee its' composition does not have to comply with the statutory political balance requirements set out in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. However, the Council's usual convention is to voluntarily agree to appoint members to the Group

in the same proportion as the make-up of the Council overall. It is therefore proposed that the Policy Group will comprise of 12 members (9 Conservative, 2 Labour and 1 UKIP).

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. Some of the issues to be considered by the Climate Change Policy Group may have financial implications. These will need to be considered as proposals are worked-up and will be subject to the normal approval process.
Legal	The arrangements for the establishment of the Climate Change Policy Group comply with the requirements of the law and the Council's Constitution.

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
sustainability	✓
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	✓
climate change	✓
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
None	-	-

List of appendices:

None.