

REPORT OF: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATES: 19 MARCH 2020

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CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline progress to date on the Climate Emergency Declaration and inform Policy and Resources Committee on the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan (Appendix 1).

RECOMMENDATION

To endorse the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To aid delivery of the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Introduction

1. Policy and Resources Committee will recall that in July last year, PBC declared a Climate Emergency, joining over 200 other councils in committing to take local action on climate change:

'Pendle Borough Council recognises that the world is in the midst of a climate and environmental emergency and that action is required at all levels of Government – local, national and international – in order to protect our planet for future generations of life in all its forms and for human society as we know it.

This Council notes –

(1) on 8th October, 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions;

(2) the report warned that the risk of catastrophic climate change including extreme heat, drought, flooding and climate-related poverty would significantly increase unless global warming could be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C. Council (11.07.2019) 9

(3) the report authors found that global warming was likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate and say that urgent and unprecedented action was required to meet the target.

Council further notes that many Councils throughout the United Kingdom were declaring a climate emergency and resolving to take action to help to tackle this existential crisis. It therefore resolves:

(1) To declare a climate emergency in the Borough of Pendle.

(2) To set up an all-party member and officer working group to research what actions other Councils were taking; to take evidence from local and wider sources on what action it could usefully take and what actions could be promoted in other ways in Pendle; to seek to work with other Lancashire Councils including Town and Parish Councils in Pendle and Lancashire County Council; to make recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee on what short-term action could be taken; and to present an Action Plan to the Council within six months with the aim of taking the lead and making Pendle Council and its arms-length bodies carbon-neutral by 2030 and for working for Pendle as a whole to be carbon neutral by 2030 or as soon as possible thereafter.

(3) To audit and review the local development plan as part of this process and to include a climate emergency audit and statement as part of all significant new Council policies and plans.

(4) To seek to work with local schools, Nelson and Colne College and other education bodies, together with community groups of all kinds and local media to increase understanding of the climate emergency and to develop ways of tackling it in ways which promote freedom, fairness and equality and community strengths.

(5) To promote such short-term action as may be possible during the course of the current Council year.

(6) To present a full report and action plan to the Policy and Resources Committee and thereby to the Council meeting in March 2020.

2. Actions and commitment to date to support implementation of the Climate Emergency Declaration include:

- Establishing the Member Climate Emergency Working Group (4 meetings to date)
- Engaging interested parties to collate their views and ideas for local action (meeting held on 14th Nov 2019)
- Organising a Pendle Schools Climate Summit in Dec 2019 to engage young people. Over 100 pupils and teachers attended from 20 Pendle schools, kickstarting the Pendle Schools Climate Movement
- Developing a Communication Plan for the Pendle Schools Climate Movement
- Undertaking a PBC staff survey to seek views from staff on possible council actions
- Embedding climate change into the refreshed 2020- 23 PBC Strategic Plan
- Securing the One Carbon World Carbon Neutral Gold Standard grant to enable an external calculation and assessment of PBC's carbon footprint
- Allocation of a 2020/21 Climate Emergency Budget of £100,000

- Agreement to support the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme to the value of £30,000 over 2 years, providing a much needed tree planting resource for Pendle.
3. A Climate Emergency Action Plan, outlining short, medium and long term actions to support delivery of the Declaration and move us towards the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030, has now been developed (Appendix 1).
 4. This action plan takes account of the views and ideas submitted by interested parties, young people and Pendle Council staff and is based on 7 key themes:
 - Support and enable sustainable travel
 - Reduce carbon emissions and energy demand from the built environment
 - Reduce the harmful impacts of waste and water consumption
 - Support our communities to take action
 - Support our future generations to find solutions
 - Mainstream climate change
 - Support biodiversity and the natural environment to help local carbon off setting opportunities
 5. The Climate Emergency Working Group will monitor performance of the plan, reporting progress bi-annually to Policy and Resources Committee. Monitoring performance will include overseeing PBC's carbon reduction targets, both of which are currently being reviewed by the Climate Emergency Working Group to better align with the 2030 goal.
 6. Members are now requested to consider and endorse the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan and receive the first Action Plan progress report in October 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Climate Emergency Action Plan will support delivery of the Strategic Plan and, longer term, the PBC's Climate Emergency Declaration.

Financial: A 2020/21 budget of £100,000 has been allocated to support implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, along with £30,000 to support tree planting through the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme over 2 years

Legal: None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: None arising directly from this report.

Health and Safety: None arising directly from this report.

Sustainability: Addressing climate change and reducing Pendle's carbon footprint is fundamental for long term environmental sustainability.

Community Safety: None arising directly from this report

Equality and Diversity: None arising directly from this report.

Appendix 1
Draft Climate Emergency Action Plan