

# CABINET

## Climate Change- update Nov 5th 2019

### Report of Director for Communities and the Environment

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To outline progress following the climate change emergency declared by the Council on Jan 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2019 and to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the approach set out in Appendix 2 to reduce the Council's direct CO2 emissions to net zero by 2030.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2019		
This report is public.			

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLOR FREA

- (1) That Cabinet endorses the plan outlined in Appendix 2 to reduce the Council's direct CO2 emissions to net zero by 2030. The estimated costs will be used to inform future budget projections. Before actions are implemented detailed business cases will be brought forward through the appropriate governance and financial processes.
- (2) To pre-approve in principle funding for Citizens' Jury, conversion of 2 refuse vehicles to electric, pool car infrastructure and energy management software so that so that these schemes can commence subject to reserves and capital funding bids being made in accordance with the budget framework.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Lancaster City Council declared a Climate Change Emergency on Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- 1.2 Since then work has been taking place to plan to deliver what Council required from the accompanying motion. Appendix 1 shows progress against the motion agreed by Cabinet.
- 1.3 To provide context in 2018/19 the Council produced 3,018 tonnes of carbon dioxide from directly provided activities. In the last period for which we have readily available information (2017) the Lancaster District as a whole produced 754,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions (See Appendix 3).
- 1.4 The scale of the challenge is huge and requires immediate action by all governments, organisations, communities and individuals.
- 1.5 For its part Lancaster City Council is planning activities in three key areas-

- The Council's direct carbon emissions of 3018 tonnes. An outline plan as to how the Council could become net zero carbon by 2030 is attached at Appendix 2.
- The Council's direct areas of wider influence. These are areas where the Council can have a significant impact on reducing wider carbon emissions and mitigating climate in the District- eg Council Housing, planning / building control, tree planting.
- The Council's leadership role. The Council does not have any direct control over significant causes of emissions eg transport, agriculture, industry and housing. However, the motion makes clear it will adopt a leadership role and engage with, influence, support mitigation of climate change across the whole District.

1.6 In the 9 months since the date climate change declaration of particular note have been the following actions-

- The Deputy Leader of the Council has a portfolio role dedicated to dealing with climate change.
- A Cabinet Advisory Group to cover different aspects of Climate Change and the Environment has been formed.
- Following detailed analysis, and then consideration of best practice a plan to reduce the Council's direct carbon emissions has been produced and started (see Appendix 2).
- An ambitious project to plant an additional 1,000,000 trees in the District has commenced.
- With Lancaster University the City Council has submitted a bid which, if successful, would produce a viable source of decarbonised hydrogen to power the Refuse Collection Fleet.
- Feasibility plans for a Council owned 1MW and 25MW solar farm have been drawn up.
- Plans for how best to mitigate the carbon impact of our 3,800 Council properties are being developed.
- A Citizen's Assembly to deliberate Climate Change will commence early in the new year.
- Lancaster City Council has located 5 public electric car charging points on car parks and 4 for it's own fleet. More are planned for this year. In total there are now over 25 public charging points in the District.
- A grassland management plan that will inform how we manage the maintenance of public open space has been commissioned.
- The project to improve river defences on the Lune has commenced.

1.7 The fact the Council has declared response to climate change is an emergency means significant changes in how Council services are being planned and delivered are already underway. This will not be to the detriment of the Council's core services. Planning to deliver net zero carbon creates many benefits. These include-

- Increased efficiency and reduced waste- e.g. considering how to optimise the route of cyclical services like waste collection and plan the delivery of responsive services.
- Reduced revenue costs- e.g. electric vehicles cost more to purchase but are much cheaper to run.
- New sources of income- e.g. income from solar farm.

- Greater bio-diversity in public open space- by considering how best to manage and maintain each area of open space, as opposed to the current cyclical approach.
- Improved air quality.
- Increased staff involvement- e.g. staff have already contributed to some of the ideas in this report.

1.8 Following wider engagement, including the Citizens assembly, plans will be brought forward that place addressing climate change as a strategic means of –

- Reducing poverty and inequality
- Tackling other environmental issues (e.g. increasing recycling, reducing littering)
- Improving health
- Providing better quality housing
- Community wealth building
- Engaging and connecting communities
- Improving public space
- Identifying where adaptation needs to take place.

## **2.0 Proposal Details**

2.1 The outline action plan proposed in Appendix 2 gives an indication of how the Council's direct operations could become net zero carbon by 2030. Where possible estimates of the costs of the actions have been included. At this stage the estimates are intended to provide a guide for budgetary forecasting purposes.

2.2 Before actions are implemented detailed costings and business cases will be brought forward or detailed consideration through the appropriate governance and financial processes.

2.3 There are potential external sources of funding available for projects that contribute to the climate change agenda. Having an agreed action plan will also help in bidding for these as opportunities arise.

2.4 Cabinet are asked to approve, in principle, the outline action plan (Appendix 2). This will then allow Officers to develop detailed plans for those actions which will then be referred through the appropriate governance and financial processes.

2.5 Included in the financial summary of the ninth page of appendix two are a number of projects for which pre-approval is sought. These include:

- Citizens' Jury
- Conversion of 2 refuse trucks to electric
- Pool car infrastructure
- Energy Management Software

The second recommendation of this report seeks pre-approval for this schemes in order that business cases can be commenced ahead of the annual budget process.

2.6 At a later date Cabinet will receive further update and action plans for–

- The Council's direct areas of wider influence.

- The Council's leadership role

### 3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The development of the action plan (Appendix 2) has involved extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders.
- 3.2 The output of the Citizen's Assembly will be used to inform the Council's approach to delivering the motion.
- 3.3 Work has also been commissioned to assess the impact of the climate change emergency declaration and activity to date and establish how best to engage with our citizens, communities and many other stakeholders.

### 4.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 As outlined.

<p><b>RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>As outlined in the report</p>
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<p><b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b></p>
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**(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Human Resources, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

As outlined in the report

<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments</p>
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<p><b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Appendix 2 details a multitude of actions/projects aimed at reducing the Council's direct CO2 emissions to net zero by 2030.</p> <p>Two of the projects are currently underway and have been factored into existing budgets. For the remainder, the estimated costs will be used to inform future budget projections. Before actions are implemented detailed business cases will be brought forward through the appropriate governance and financial processes.</p>
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<p><b>OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:</b></p> <p>As outlined in report</p>
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<p><b>SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS</b></p>
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The financial implications resulting from undertaking some, or all of the actions outlined in Appendix 2 will need to be considered as part of the Council's budget framework. This would allow for due consideration by Members, and assessment against the Councils priorities.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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