



**LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

## REPORTS MARKED 'TO FOLLOW'

Council

Wednesday, 23 June 2021

### Item 11. CABINET MEMBERS' ANNUAL REPORTS

Cabinet Member reports that were received after publication of the main agenda for this meeting were marked 'to follow' with a note that they would be published separately. They are now attached.

**REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM 2019/21**

Responding to Coronavirus has dominated our council's work since last March and I remain grateful and proud of work done across our district to support residents, local businesses, and organisations. Our council responded swiftly and our residents and many organisations across the district did not hesitate in offering support to each other.

Within days the council had re-focused on three simple, but powerful themes - support residents, support local businesses, continue to deliver vital services. Officers agreed to take on new roles, learn new skills and work new hours to support our district. The flexibility shown by our officers was outstanding and highlighted how important it was to have kept services in house, as we avoided some of the struggles other councils found in a lack of flexibility in outsourced services and a smaller workforce to redeploy.

Some key numbers help illustrate the work done to support the district:

- the council's community hub called and/or visited nearly 30 000 potentially vulnerable residents
- we made an accommodation offer to every rough sleeper in the district, and along with community and health partners are providing ongoing support
- working with local food banks, food clubs and their many volunteers and supporters we provided approximately 10 000 households with food
- distributed over £50 million in grants to local businesses, social enterprises, and charities

The pandemic required the city council to focus on its role as a convening body. Building on the foundations of work begun to strengthen the council's community engagement, we began gathering the individuals and organisations across the district who were responding to the pandemic to share information and to support each other. At the height of the pandemic these groups had become so large that there were several meetings each week, each hosted by a different cabinet member.

The partnership working demonstrated by the pandemic will stand us in good stead for the work the city council needs to support in the years to come - a recovery from the pandemic that continues to strengthen the power demonstrated by our communities, improve wellbeing and decrease inequality, build community wealth and address the climate emergency. Although much of this work has been delayed by COVID, it is important to recognise that progress has been made where possible and this work is reflected in other reports.

None of these vital goals can be met by the council working alone, all can be met working in partnership. I have my fingers crossed that these partnerships will be enlarged to encompass the Bay through a unitary council, because as communities entwined with each other it makes sense to address these together.

It has been an immense privilege to serve as Leader of Lancaster City Council over the last two years. It has also been a time of great learning as a new city councillor and new cabinet member. I offer my thanks to the officers and councillors both within Lancaster City Council and across the local government family who have offered support and guidance. I look forward to the work to come.

**Councillor Dr Eric Lewis**  
**Leader of the Council 2019/2021**

## **CLIMATE EMERGENCY PORTFOLIO 2019-2021**

This report highlights some of the work that has been undertaken since May 2019.

Lancaster City Council unanimously declared a 'Climate Emergency' on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at a full Council meeting. I was appointed as the Cabinet Member with the Climate Emergency portfolio following the elections in May 2019.

There have been several meetings of the Climate Change Cabinet Liaison Group involving Councillors, young people, the two Universities and other interested parties. This group has received updates on the actions that are being taken to implement the Climate Emergency motion. Unfortunately, Covid has prevented meetings from taking place in person since March 2020.

Funding was identified in 2019 for the People's Jury and for the appointment of a Climate Change Officer.

The People's Jury was convened, with 29 residents selected randomly from across the District, chosen to have a fair distribution of age, gender, geography, race, disability, to identify the priority actions needed to address the Climate Emergency. The Jury initially met at the Story Institute, but was then reconvened online to complete their deliberations and report on their findings. A subsequent meeting was held with Councillors for them to receive the recommendations and develop a plan to implement them, or to liaise with other bodies, including the County Council to promote their implementation.

The Corporate Plan was published in 2020 and required every Council decision to be made with reference to how it would reduce our emissions and/or increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change. All officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;

The City Council have been involved, with the two Universities, Lancaster & Morecambe College and other public bodies and businesses, in the development of the Morecambe Bay Curriculum which prioritises "care for ourselves, each other and our planet".

Mark Davies, Director of Environment, and his team have developed the following projects:

- A comprehensive CO2 dashboard to establish, track and prioritise decarbonisation projects
- Secured 6.8M of PSDS funding to reduce emissions at SALC as the council's No.1 CO2 emitting property by up to 58% providing a net reduction of 12% for the council. Planning permission and grid connection achieved, currently awarding contracts
- Conducted decarbonisation and thermal efficiency surveys at five of the council's highest CO2 emitting properties to develop a decarbonisation plans
- Delivered a new pool car scheme for staff using via Co-Wheels car club. Procured 6 new electric vehicles and installed EVCPs at council office locations. Reduced emissions from casual mileage by 40% with a public launch planned in May 2021
- Completed feasibility and secured capital funding for roof-mounted solar PV on City Labs
- Ordered the council's first X2 100% electric refuse collection vehicles with an anticipated delivery date of August 2021
- Replaced X14 diesel panel vans with electric Nissan e-NV200's
- Pilot Retrofit works to 2 Council properties have recorded a value of EPC A, with the independent assessor commenting they were the highest scores he'd seen in 13 years! One of the properties will produce only a 10<sup>th</sup> and the other a 30<sup>th</sup> of carbon emission of a normal household.

They are also currently working on the following:

- On installing 1-1.9MWp solar PV with battery storage on a commercial site to charge a fleet of electric refuse vehicles
- Installing 3X electric charging points for taxis

**Cllr. Kevin Frea, Cabinet member for Climate Action**