

Motion on Notice – Climate Change and the Lancaster District

To be proposed by Councillors Kevin Frea, Andrew Kay, Caroline Jackson and Tim Hamilton-Cox;

“Full Council Notes:

Lancaster City Council has already committed to reducing carbon emissions to zero by 2050, but the recent IPCC Report¹ shows it is imperative that this target is reached much sooner. Lancaster City Council can play its role. Business as usual is clearly no longer an option. We need local wisdom to increase our resilience and to prepare for the climate changes already in the system.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5°C report, published in October 2018², humanity has 12 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

It is vital that rural communities play their part in reducing carbon emissions.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, new income streams, and localising wealth generation; as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Our inspiration:

A number of City & District Councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’³.

We, the undersigned, therefore call on Lancaster City Council to

- 1. Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’;*
- 2. Support the setting up of a Climate Change Advisory Board immediately, involving Councillors, residents, businesses, experts from the two Universities and other relevant parties. Over the following 6 months, the Board will revisit and update the 2010 Lancaster City Council Climate Change Strategy⁴ and help the Council develop a new carbon budget taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)⁵ and set a target date of 2030, to:*
 - make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon;*
 - Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council’s activities;*
 - increase local resilience to climate impacts already in the system;*
 - maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as health, agriculture, transport and the economy;*
 - support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Lancaster District zero carbon within the same timescale.*

We recognize the current financial constraints that the Council faces and expect that both the development and implementation of a carbon budget are likely to need a significant measure of additional external funding. Some of the potential actions may have a positive or neutral financial impact.

¹ World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

³ <https://www.climateemergency.uk>

⁴ <https://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/documents/s21567/Climate%20Change%20Strategy%20Update.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>

Actions that could be recommended include: increasing the energy efficiency of buildings; prioritizing these measures for council housing and private sector housing to address fuel poverty; building solar and other renewable energy generating and storage plant; requiring all new housing and commercial developments to be low carbon; replacing the vehicle fleet with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles; switching to 100% renewable energy; setting up a council run energy company (eg. Robin Hood Energy) and adapting the Council's purchasing policy.

3. *Prepare a report on methods for conducting a consultation with young people and creating a young people's climate panel.*
4. *Task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities;*
5. *Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;*
6. *Work with partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources;*
7. *Require all officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council to contain Impact assessments on Climate Change that include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible;*
8. *Produce a report to the next Full Council on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have;*
9. *Amend the Council's Investment Strategy to give due weight to climate change targets in the portfolio of investments⁶.*
10. *Report to full Council by the end of 2019 with a fully costed action plan to address this emergency."*

Officer Briefing

Current Position

At its meeting on 18th July 2018 Council debated a motion relating to climate change and then resolved to –

- *match the ambitions of the UK100 Agreement by pledging to achieve 100% clean energy across Lancaster City Council' full range of functions by 2050.*
- *work in partnership with our residents and business community to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;*
- *turn these commitments into reality through developing a 'route map' to a sustainable future, working together with the business, educational and residential communities of Lancaster and Morecambe as part of an integrated approach to a shared sustainable future.*

The Council plan also agreed at the same meeting (18th July 2018) commits to 'contribute to tackling climate change by joining the UK100 network of local government leaders committed to transitioning towards 100% clean energy by 2050'. The plan also commits the Council to a 'detailed plan for achieving the aims of the Climate Change motion adopted in July 2018 to be in place and initial action to have been taken to progress it'.

⁶ <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/download-potential-energy-9f8.pdf>

Already the Council has demonstrably made great strides to mitigate and adapt to climate change across its range of activities (the Appendices provide evidence of this).

The strategies, policies and resources of the Council will be aligned to delivering the commitments already agreed by the Council in its Plan. To aid in this a report to Cabinet (Feb 12th, 2019) will seek approval to form a climate change Cabinet Liaison Group to assist the portfolio holder to develop the necessary plans, establish the supporting resource requirements and consider how to best gain the support of our communities and stakeholders.

Climate Change Emergency

The motion and petition presented to Full Council (30th Jan 2019) goes far beyond this in seeking the declaration of a climate emergency. Furthermore the motion prescribes a comprehensive set of actions that are considered necessary to address this emergency within 11 years.

It is noteworthy that the idea of moving forward from the Council agreed date of 2050 to 2030 was already been discussed by Council during the last motion on climate change (*from the Council minutes 18th July 2018- After a short debate, an amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox, to change the date of 2050 to 2030. He asked that this be considered as a friendly amendment. Councillor Frea was happy to accept this as a friendly amendment, however Councillor Clifford, his seconder, was not.*)

A number of other Councils have already declared climate change emergencies and now Lancaster City Council has to decide whether to do the same. The starting position, context and intended outcomes of each Council will obviously vary greatly.

In any context the declaring of an emergency requires immediate action from the responders and significant reallocation of plans and resources.

A meaningful response to the declaration of a climate change emergency would require an immediate shift of the Council's strategic focus and resources to addressing the requirements, at a corporate level.

The Council ambitions are currently focussed on four key areas. In practical terms to respond to the emergency the Council would need to choose to reduce current and planned activities so that it can reallocate resource to its response.

In dealing with any emergency the cooperation of those affected is vital as is the full commitment of other responders.

The Council's plan has been developed following extensive consultation with residents, businesses, partners and Elected Members. Any shift in strategic direction will need a clear communication plan to ensure all understand what they can now expect the Council to deliver. To provide a meaningful response at a District Council level will also require the full commitment of local, regional, national and international responders.

The starting point, therefore, if this motion / petition is agreed will be reprioritisation of the Council's ambitions and resources. The Council must then decide which services and parts of the Corporate Council Plan it no longer wishes to deliver to allow resources to be diverted to this task. This will require communication to citizens of the District. Effective communication of this change is essential as the council is moving from a plan crafted through consultation and citizen engagement to a directly imposed plan.

Specific Points

The motion besides declaring a climate change emergency prescribes a set of actions to address the emergency.

- **Setting up of a Climate Change advisory board / Consulting with Young People-** response to climate change already falls within the portfolio of a Cabinet member. As stated a report is already scheduled for Feb 12th Cabinet requesting approval to set up a Cabinet Liaison Group. The purpose of a CLG is to share information about a particular topic and develop effective consultation and communication links with community groups and other bodies with an interest in the subject area. In this way, individual Cabinet members will have a wider information and advisory platform to inform executive decision-making and policy effectiveness. Subsequent recommendations to amend strategy will be made to Cabinet and then Full Council.
- **Director to reduce carbon emissions-** the Council's Chief Officers already work with Cabinet Portfolio holders to deliver the Council's Plan. Each action in the Plan is 'owned' by a Cabinet Member/ Chief Officer. Declaring an emergency would mean that the allocated Chief Officer would have to allocate more time more on this activity and therefore less on others- as previously stated.
- **Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding-** this could be done without or without the declaration of a climate change emergency at any point. Obviously Council would need to be clear on what it was calling for.
- **Work with Partners-** this already happens and there are examples of good work with Lancaster University, Environment Agency, Lancashire County Council etc. Lancaster City Council declaring an emergency would not mean that partners would accelerate their activities.
- **Impact Assessments-** reports do provide impact assessments. Where appropriate the assessment of carbon emissions could be made. Clearly though the extent to which this was required may create resource implications.
- **Report in investment in fossil fuel industry-** providing such a report is in the gift of the pension fund who have their own statutory obligations.
- **Amend the Council's investment strategy-** Elected Members have already been consulted in the weighting of the Council's investment strategy and it will be considered elsewhere on this agenda.
- **Action plan-** see above.

Mark Davies- Director for Communities and the Environment

STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS

Monitoring Officer

This proposal alters the objectives of the council and reprioritises the allocation of resources. The Council Plan adopted in July 2018 appears to have undergone extensive consultation with the citizens of the district and presumably reflected the balance of service provision sought by local citizens at the time. The climate change date of 2050 appeared to be consistent with that plan. The impact of the alteration to priorities is clear, the impact on services is unclear and the Chamber may require officers to report on the impact climate change motion, if passed, to allow members the opportunity to explain the need for this alteration at this time.

Deputy Section 151 Officer

The financial implications resulting from undertaking some, or all of the actions outlined in the petition would need to be considered as part of the normal Council budget framework. This would allow for due consideration by Members, and assessment against the Councils priorities.

APPENDIX

Lancaster City Council- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Actions

COUNCIL PROPERTY AND OPEN SPACE

- New Combined Heat Power unit at Salt Ayre Leisure Centre
- New energy efficient lighting at SALC
- The Council's 16 solar installations have to date generated 1,487,541 kwh of electricity and saved 806,597kg of CO2 emissions.
- In Council building light fittings are replaced with LED's whenever and wherever possible i.e. when a room is refurbished we replace light fittings.
- Renewing service building lighting such as VMU, FESTIVAL MARKET and STORES with updated LED HALO lights to provide safer brighter working environments and daily lower costs.
- Currently replacing 16 emergency lights in LTH for LEDs.
- Replaced the boiler at Ryelands House making this whole system more efficient with less emissions as the previous boiler was at least 25 years old.
- Replacing the boiler at City Museum this spring with a new efficient one.
- Reroofed The Dukes and the City Museum – both improving the insulation and heat retention for those buildings.
- Williamson Park all lights in the memorial, and in the park are replaced with LEDs.
- The Ashton Memorial lights are now all LED with the exception of the existing portico lighting.
- Wildflowers –creating 'Wild' corridors throughout the park. In summer 2018 we began raising the cut of our mowing to leave daisy heads on where appropriate and leaving areas uncut with managed perimeters and pathways through, where possible, in the less formal areas.
- Power tools – replacing petrol fuelled gardening equipment for electric.- where appropriate
- In café there is a 'latte levy' to reduce single use plastics. We have also stopped ordering plastic bottles of water, with the look to sell reusable bottles and stock recyclable cans of water by the summer. We also hold paper straws and biodegradable take-out food and drink containers.
- Water fountains located across District
- Recycling bin network to be supplemented by recycling bins in Williamson park by May.
- Large events on public land have been provided with recycling facilities.
- Wildflowers / perennial and more drought resistant planting schemes
- Tree management policy
- Grassland management review due to start
- Masterplans for main parks
- Green Flag awards recognise contributions to bio- diversity
- Continued investment in parks and open space

WASTE / RECYCLING

- Ongoing campaigns to based around waste hierarchy
- Regular monitoring of and then assistance provided to residents in low recycling yield areas
- Feasibility of electric / hydrogen fleet replacement being assessed as technology mainstreams
- All wheeled bins and recycling boxes are composed of between 30-100% recycled plastic.
- Recycling of all redundant and unusable plastic and metal containers

COUNCIL HOUSING

- Districtwide LEDS - Replaced old external lighting in the district with newer LED lighting – better cleaner light with a lower cost. Ongoing works. Also now Introducing 'dimming' microwave sensor LED light fittings to installations in general lets from now on. Changes in technology since initial LED lighting installed.

- Hot water- installing energy efficient QUANTUM boilers in flat blocks to reduce energy costs for tenants and provide better more efficient hot water supply and automated legionella countermeasures.
- Tools - In the process of organising the restoration and redistribution of old power tool stocks for charity re-distribution.
- Solar panel installations in the district to help with communal energy costs. Also offered PV systems to all rural 'off-gas' council owned domestic properties
- Energy creating lifts fitted to sheltered schemes to provide electricity for the scheme, along with installation of LED lighting throughout with automatically dimming microwave sensor fittings to overall reduce usage and cost when used. Installation of Solar Thermal water heating system to Ripley Ct.
- Fencing - Plastic fencing products used, constructed from recycled materials.
- Appointment planning - Better, more efficient work processes being implemented throughout RMS to provide more efficient journeys to and from jobs, and less trips overall reducing fuel usage across the fleet.
- Alerts- Currently looking to implement new systems to reduce outgoing letters to residents – allowing SMS and EMAIL to take their place. Thus reducing plastic and paper usage.
- Time clocks – removal of time clocks from council residential areas to reduce the wasted hours which lighting is provided – now PHOTOCELL controlled by LUX levels.
- Bike racks – have been introduced to communal areas of flat blocks where possible (ie where will not cause an issue with fire egress)
- Increased insulation – all re-roofing and major void projects have loft insulation 'topped-up' to 300mm.
- Reduction of plastic waste – looked at waste collection from kitchen and bathroom renewals on planned works and reduced the use of plastic refuse sacks by approx. 70%
- 'A' rated boiler installations – majority of council owned dwellings have 'A' rated boilers (some properties cannot have them fitted – solid fuel or elec only)
- Increased thermally efficient components – implementation of advancements in building technology (improved efficiency double glazed windows, composite doors)

TRANSPORT

- **42** of our vehicles are fitted with EURO 6 engines.
- **6** of our EURO 6 RCV's are now fitted with '*Eco Delta Valves*' designed to allow the bin lifter to operate when the vehicle is on tick over, rather than with the engine revving.
- In 2018/19 we also purchased **5 electric vehicles** and installed double socket charge points at White Lund Depot and Lancaster Town Hall. These have the capability of charging up to 8 vehicles at once, so can accommodate extra vehicles as and when we buy them.
- Further reviews are planned for 19/20, when we have **72 vehicles** due to be replaced. We'll be looking at EV options for each of these on a case-by-case basis;
- We also make regular use of our *vehicle telemetry software* (C-Track) and *fuel management system* (Triscan) to gather data on routes, mileage, MPG and emissions (Co2). These system are used to help us understand how our vehicles are used, help us build an understanding of the whole-life-costs and the environmental impact.
- Road diesel consumption is reported quarterly through our internal monitoring arrangements.
- Council cycle to work scheme
In May 2015, the council undertook a major review of it's business travel arrangements and acquired a pool of 6 ultra-low emission cars on a flexible agreement. This was to get staff to use the pool cars to travel around different sites instead of using their own vehicles in an attempt to reduce CO2 emissions being emitted and to also save money for the council.

AIR QUALITY

- Progress towards the delivery of the Transport Master Plan for Lancaster incorporating the Air Quality Action Plan for the district/AQMA's (Masterplan adopted October 2016)

- Grant funding to reduce emissions from buses in Lancaster (emission reducing equipment now due to be installed to buses in Spring 2019).
 - Provision of 34 electric vehicle charge points across the Lancaster district due to be delivered by the end of March 2019
 - Work to review local/regional taxi licensing policies (ongoing October 2018).
 - Completion and activation of automatic vehicle number plate recognition system in central Lancaster (first used Sept 2017).
 - Electric taxi event (coordinated by CENEX) on national clean air day (21 June 2018). Further follow up event on 27 September 2018.
 - Working with Lancaster University to investigate the impact of greening measures (at Cable Street, Lancaster).
- Public exposure to air pollution at roadside (microgrammes of pollutant per metre cubed): A reduction in the number indicates an overall reduction in pollution levels at roadside locations where people are living within the district. The number shown is lowest value over recent years (see previous years below). Actions, such as the opening of the Bay Gateway, have contributed to the notable reduction in 2017. The result for the reported year (2017/18) show a reduction on the previous year.
Previous years results are as follows :- 2014/15 - 41.9, 2015/16 - 38.3, 2016/17 - 37.2, 2017/18 - 34.2.
 - Public exposure to air pollution away from roads (microgrammes of pollutant per metre cubed): A reduction in the number indicates a reduction in pollution levels at urban locations where people are living in positions away from main roads. The number shown is lowest value over recent years and indicates an improving position (see previous years below). The result for the reported year (2017) show a reduction on the previous year and indicates an improving trend.
Previous years results are as follows :- 2014/15 - 17.7, 2015/16 - 16.4, 2016/17 - 16.5, 2017/18 - 15.1.

PLANNING

- 23 applications approved for renewable energy projects since 2015. These include minor schemes for householder microgeneration through to solar farms to major strategic projects (such as Walney)