

Lancaster City Council's Progress to Net Zero

2 December 2025

Report of Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

PURPOSE OF REPORT				
To provide an end-of-year update regarding the City Council's ambition to reach net zero for all of its' own activities by 2030.				
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision		N/A		
This report is public.				

RECOMMENDATIONS OF Councillor Sam Riches (Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Action)

- (1) That Cabinet notes the progress towards net zero that is described in this first Annual Report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2019, Lancaster City Council declared a Climate Emergency. In doing so, the Council committed to reaching net zero carbon for its own activities and services by 2030.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The pace of change within the authority since then has been considerable. Climate Emergency UK, an organisation that regularly monitors all local authorities for their net zero performance and produces a national Climate Action Scorecard, have once again concluded that the City Council was the best-performing district council in England. Meanwhile, several local authority projects have been independently recognised for their contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation.
- 2.2 As we move into the latter half of the decade, it will become increasingly important to closely monitor the Council's progress against its' 2030 net zero target. The attached report, 'Our Journey to Net Zero – Delivering Energy Self-Sufficiency', is the first internal annual report which collates the progress that has been made so far.

- 2.3 The Report also identifies potential future projects that can contribute to the Council achieving its net zero target.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 This is an Annual Report which represents an overview of the Council's existing projects and the progress to date. It does not seek approval for any new projects. Individual projects that are quoted will, where required, have previously been subject to consultation with the relevant groups and organisations. Future projects will also be subject to the same standards of engagement.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 There is no option being presented; the report is for noting.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The 1st Annual Report represents the current position regarding the Council's own net zero journey. It is anticipated that further reporting will take place each December up until and including 2030.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The progress that is described in the Annual Report directly relates to all four Principles and Themes of the Council Plan. In particular, it represents a series of actions to meet the challenge of the climate emergency. It also contributes towards building a sustainable and just local economy that benefits people and organisations. The impacts of the projects listed within the report will increase wellbeing and contribute towards the reduction of inequality; and it is an example of how we can bring people together to achieve the best outcomes for our communities by delivering effective and responsible public services.

The report is also read alongside the provisions of the Council's adopted Local Plan, which includes policies which aim to minimise emissions and maximise the use of renewable resources; mitigates the impact of climate change and promote increased climate resilience; encourage a modal shift in transport through considered design and working with partner authorities; and that contributes positively and responsibly to protecting and enhancing habitats and ecosystems in order to strengthen nature recovery.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The Annual Report is reporting progress on the Council's approved commitment to reach net zero for its own activities by 2030. As this is an existing commitment, the report introduces no new impacts beyond that original decision.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications stemming from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

All current projects have financial provision included within approved revenue and capital budgets as appropriate. As detailed in section 3.1, the report does not seek approval of any new projects and any future proposals would be subject to the usual appraisal and governance procedures currently in place.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

There are no additional resource implications arising from the report.

Information Services:

There are no direct implications arising from the report.

Property:

The Annual Report provides an update on progress to date regarding the Council's previously approved objective to be net zero by 2030 in respect of its' own estate and activities. As such the content of the report has not additional implications beyond those that were considered originally.

Open Spaces:

The Annual Report provides an update on progress to date regarding the Council's previously approved objective to be net zero by 2030 in respect of its' own land. As such the content of the report has not additional implications beyond those that were considered originally.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to make.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Our Journey to Net Zero – Delivering Energy Self-Sufficiency – 1st Annual Report

Contact Officer: Mark Cassidy

Telephone: 01524 582390

E-mail: mcassidy@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref: N/A