



## Report by the Climate Change Task and Finish Group



**January 2020 - October 2021**

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## **Chair's Foreword and Acknowledgements**



In April 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and set itself the ambitious targets to make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and to support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Preston district zero carbon within the same timescale. A Task and Finish Group was subsequently established to carry out the work plan study of reviewing the Council's activities and recommending the way forward to achieve this target.

This work plan study has without doubt been significantly hampered by the covid 19 pandemic and the need for the council to divert key officer resources to support our local communities during that long emergency. However, despite those substantial difficulties, the study concludes with some key recommendations to the Council, the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team on how the Council can work towards achieving its net-zero ambition.

Throughout the study interim recommendations have already been implemented or work commenced, key of which has been the creation of the new position of Cabinet Member for Climate Change to lead and oversee the Council's actions on this most important agenda. This decision ensures that action on climate change is now at the heart of the Council's policy making.

I would like to express gratitude to ex-councillor Brian Rollo and Cllr Carol Henshaw for leading this important task and finish group through its initial and main work phases respectively, and to acknowledge the work of the various members of the task and finish group and the officers who have supported their work. I would also like to thank the members of the public who have provided evidence to inform the study, including the group Climate Action Preston.

**Councillor James Hull**

**Chair of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group**

# Membership

## Membership 2019/20 Municipal Year

Councillor Brian Rollo (Chair)	Councillor Jennifer Mein
Councillor Carol Henshaw (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Debbie Shannon
Councillor Elizabeth Atkins	Councillor Susan Whittam
Councillor Jono Grisdale	Councillor Ron Woollam
Councillor Mark Jewell	

## Membership 2020/21 Municipal Year

Councillor Carol Henshaw (Chair)	Councillor Jennifer Mein
Councillor Jono Grisdale (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Debbie Shannon
Councillor Elizabeth Atkins	Councillor Susan Whittam
Councillor Javed Iqbal	Councillor Ron Woollam
Councillor Mark Jewell	

## Membership 2021/22 Municipal Year

Councillor James Hull (Chair)	Councillor Hindle
Councillor Mrs Atkins (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Potter
Councillor Aldridge	Councillor Sarwar
Councillor Brooks	Councillor Shannon
Councillor Duckworth	

## Recommendations to Council

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Date to be implemented</b>	<b>Officer &amp; Organisation Responsible</b>
1.	That the Council creates a dedicated post of Cabinet Member for Climate Change to help ensure that the policy, strategy, and resource decisions of the Council are aligned to deliver the Council's net-zero carbon ambitions.	Implemented June 2021	Council
2.	That a 3 concentric circles model be used to focus and communicate the Council's climate change actions on its own carbon emissions; on the areas of local emissions that it directly influences through its statutory policies and plans; and on the areas of local community emissions that it can shape through partnership action with others in the City.	Commenced May 2021	Director of Communities and Environment
3.	That an officer working group be established to develop a climate action plan, as well as identifying small-scale activities that can be implemented immediately.	Commenced May 2021	Director of Communities and Environment
4.	That the Council adopts, or adapts, good practice models already established. E.g. The Climate Change Readiness Assessment Model used by Leeds Climate Change Commission to prioritise and plan its actions based on the 5 readiness criteria of Technical; Policy; Financial; Community; and Delivery readiness	April 2022	Director of Communities and Environment
5.	That the Council's revenue budget is aligned to support the work on the delivery of capital programme spend on projects that have a carbon reduction impact and to facilitate bidding for external funding resources for carbon reduction projects.	April 2022	Corporate Management Team / Budget Working Group
6.	That the Council considers the use of officer working groups and/or future task and finish groups to undertake short term workplan studies on very specific aspects of its declared Climate Emergency Motion	Ongoing	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

7.	The Council recognises that given the limitations of its own operational estate that it cannot become carbon net-zero without substantially offsetting some of its carbon emissions. The Council should therefore explore the feasibility of various carbon offset measures such as generating electricity from solar panels and wind turbines on its own land; managing its green space to maximise carbon capture; and exploring financial models to purchase its energy.	April 2023	Corporate Management Team
8.	That the Council undertakes a study to explore the feasibility of increasing energy efficiency at the Crematorium through maximizing heat recovery. This work to align with the replacement cycle for the cremators.	April 2025	Director of Communities and Environment
9.	That the Cabinet Member for Climate Change works with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation to use the next Local Plan to ensure that Preston City Council's climate change planning requirements are as demanding as allowed under planning law.	Ongoing	Director of Communities and Environment and Director of Development and Housing, Development &

## **Background/ Aims of the Study**

### **Meeting – 16.01.2020**

Craig Sharp, Chief Environmental Health Officer/ Deputy Director introduced the work plan study topic. Mr Sharp informed the Group of the Authority had previously looked at issues relating to climate change and global warming over the years and provided the group with a list of district council's similar size to Preston who had declared a Climate Emergency. Mr Sharp suggested that rather than focus on large unitary or the metropolitan authorities, some of whom were considerably ahead in this area of work it would be better to look at the work of district councils particularly those of a similar size. There may be an opportunity to collaborate or learn from their process. The Chair suggested the Task and Finish Group split up into three sub groups, it was agreed one sub group would look at what the Council is currently doing in respect of climate change. The second sub-group would focus on the future and the third sub-group would look at setting up a Citizen's Panel or a consultation body which would involve residents, housing associations, the business community and transport. This sub-group would look at means to engage with other stakeholders in the City. The Committee agreed to meet up again in six weeks' time to feed back to the group.

### **Meeting – 12.03.2020**

At the second meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group an update was given by each of the three sub-groups. The 'now' sub group informed the committee that they had met with Mark Taylor, Head of Parks, Street Scene and Transport Manger, the meeting was held on 27 January 2020. Mr Taylor informed the sub group that he is currently looking at moving away from diesel vehicles, the discussions taking place are deciding what they will be replaced with. One of the main actions currently is defining carbon (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Preston. This means taking into account not just the emissions from the vehicle fleet we have but also looking at the Council owned buildings and looking at what CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are being let off from these. At their following meeting the Now sub-group met with Chris Blackburn, Planning Policy Team Leader on 5 February 2020. Mr Blackburn informed the sub-group that there will be a greater emphasis in the new local plan on how we can mitigate climate change such as a zero-carbon policy for new homes.

There was a huge opportunity through new and future developments to make great impact on reducing climate change. The government had previously implemented Code 4 for new developments which included the requirement to achieve significant environmental targets leading to the reduction of carbon emissions. However, due to viability issues on a number of schemes the Code Level 4 was relaxed.

The Future Sub-Group had met three times since the last meeting of the Task and Finish Group. There were meetings held with Russell Rees, Head of Engineering and Chris Hodson, Environmental Health Manager. The emphasis for the Future Sub-Group was what could happen and be achieved. The sub-group felt that the Action Plan to be produced needed to be concise and achievable. Key part of this was resources and the cost of measures to be implemented. Main area of change

was the transport mechanism. Not all potential outcomes would be resource intensive. Changes to policy or the Council becoming an influencer would not be resource intensive and could achieve a lot. Policy changes and influencing in areas such as planning, housing, air quality control, car parks, travel planning, taxi licensing were some of the areas the Authority could have positive impact on climate change.

The Engagement Sub-Group have had three meetings together to brainstorm which direction they want to go in. The Sub-Group agreed that they needed key anchors on-board such as BID, local businesses, Royal Preston Hospital and UCLan. Each Member of the Sub-Group had been in contact with different organisations, also looking at contacting South Ribble and Lancaster Councils, as these are local authorities similar in size. Partnership work would be a possibility particularly in respect of a Citizens Panel, and see if they can provide information into what they are doing. Potential to share work and information with neighbouring local authorities. Further meetings of the Sub-Group were planned to progress a number of strands identified.

At the end of this meeting the committee agreed that the Sub-Groups would continue to progress their investigations with a view to reporting back at the next meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group.

## **Meeting – 05.08.2020**

At the third meeting of the Climate Change Task and Finish Group, Councillor Henshaw welcomed all Members of the Task and Finish Group in particular Councillor Iqbal who had recently been added as a Member following Councillor Rollo stepping down from the Task and Finish Group. The Group reviewed the progress that had been made until the lockdown. It was agreed that good progress was being made until Covid-19 halted everything.

The Group discussed and reviewed how the study should be restarted. Challenges the 'Engagement' Sub-Group currently faced due to Covid-19 were highlighted in particular communicating and consulting the public. Options for doing this needed to be explored further. It was suggested that some of this could be done via the Preston Climate Action Group which had been meeting on a weekly basis. The Task and Finish Group agreed that in view of potential future combined authority and other challenges due to Covid-19 the Group should focus on a 2-3 year action plan. One of the Sub-Groups could have a wider focus looking at possible outcomes post any local government reorganisation.

At the end of the meeting it was agreed the Task and Finish Group be divided into the following sub-groups:-

Now Sub-Group	Councillors Jewell, Mein and Mrs Whittam
Local Sub-Group	Councillors Henshaw, Grisdale and Iqbal
Wider Sub-Group	Councillors Mrs Atkins, Shannon and Woollam



## **Meeting 03.11.2020**

The Task and Finish Group received updates from the three sub-Groups on the progress made since the previous meeting.

### **Now Sub-Group**

Councillor Mrs Whittam informed the Committee that the Now Sub-Group held a Skype meeting on 26 August 2020 with Mr David Tomlinson, Operational Property Manager. Mr Tomlinson gave a presentation on the maintenance of buildings owned by the Council including the use of electricity, gas, water and emissions.

The sub-group discussed combined heating and power (CHP's) and were informed that the one installed at the Town Hall has reduced CO2 emissions by 2%. The Town Hall also has solar panels on its roof but there is limited space due to the need for access. Members suggested that this issue and the potential of other sites be further examined.

The Council has previously considered the installation of wind turbines and a site identified at Riversway was deemed unsuitable as it was in the flight path for BAE at Warton. The sub-group suggested the option of mini turbines at this site and requested that there be a reinvestigation of this and other possible locations.

Members discussed other matters relating to the Town Hall such as the replacement of windows and fluctuation in temperatures throughout the building. It was noted that the Grade 2 listing of the building provided challenges.

The sub-group also recommended that the potential for heat recovery at the crematorium be examined.

### **Local Sub-Group**

Councillor Ms Henshaw informed Members that the Local sub-group had not met but she had been in discussions with South Ribble Councillor Keith Martin, Chair of its Climate Emergency Task Group regarding the Council's completed strategy. Councillor Ms Henshaw also reported on the LGC online Climate Change Summit which she attended on 17 and 18 September.

It was noted that the Council needs to be ready to access funding when it becomes available. The Chair also gave details of the Repair Café which would be opening at the Larder on Lancaster Road and initially carrying out small repairs.

### **Wider Sub-Group**

Councillor Shannon provided the Task and Finish Group with an update from the 'Wider' Sub-Group. Members had met with Eirian Molloy, Environmental Health Manager, on 15 September 2020 to discuss the insulation of homes in Preston.

The Sub-Group presented potential actions on a range of matters including planning, transport planning, Council vehicles, travel planning and parks and local public spaces.

It was noted that, due to the effect of Covid-19 and also the redeployment of staff, potential interviews had been affected. Members felt that it would be useful to ask relevant local groups to submit ten suggestions for change.

The Group then discussed the way forward and agreed that it was not necessary to carry out further interviews and the sub-groups should collate information already gathered. Concern was expressed on the Council not currently having a procurement officer and Mr Sharp agreed to provide further details to the next meeting.

Mr Sharp also reported on the LGC Summit and a presentation by the Committee on Climate Change on advice to Government and where local government fits into this. It was agreed that the document be circulated to the Group. Discussion took place on the Climate Action Readiness Tool developed by the Leeds Climate Change Commission that been showcased at the Summit and that this was potentially a useful model for aligning and prioritising actions. He also gave details of funding from the City Fund including the provision of a new railway station at Cottam.

## **Meeting 15.12.20**

Mr Isa Cole, Energy Consultant specialising in Renewable Energy, attended the meeting for an interview in relation to the work plan study. Mr Cole made a presentation to the Committee and gave information including:-

- the traditional electricity journey/unit of grid electricity;
- components of an electricity unit;
- renewable energy procurement/certification.

Mr Cole reported on “greenwashing” which involves the Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) (i.e. certifying zero emissions at source) being separated from the use of some electricity and instead traded on the open market, in effect allowing non-renewable electricity generation to be sold as “green” energy. He advised the council to ensure that the procurement of electricity came with the direct REGO certification for its generation in order to prove that it was indeed generated using renewable methods. The Committee were also given details of virtual power plants where smaller renewable sources were combined to bring them to market, together with the impact on price and consumer and renewable generator benefits. Mr Cole also set out some options for the Council. These included examining historic data going back at least two years to estimate our future need and inform our procurement policy and strategy. The proposals also included options in relation to the use of the virtual power plant model.

## **Meeting 9.03.2021**

Councillor Boswell, Cabinet Member for Environment, attended the meeting to discuss the work plan study in relation to his portfolio. He reported on various issues including:-

- Procurement

Councillor Boswell reported that the Council does not currently have a procurement officer but it was hoped that one will be appointed in the near future.

The Committee discussed the purchase of vehicles, many of which are to be changed soon. There is, however issues with supply, cost and charging infrastructure. Electric vehicles would require highway charging points which is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council.

- **Recycling/Waste Disposal**

Councillor Boswell reported that recycling rates in Preston were relatively low at 35%. Consideration is being given to waste collections on a three weekly schedule. The Group acknowledged that education work needs to be undertaken with residents. Members also discussed relevant issues from the work plan study – Plastic Free Preston.

It was reported that there has been an increasing amount of waste being incinerated. Whilst the energy produced can be used, it's a dirty way of producing it.

- Miscellaneous

Members discussed other issues with Councillor Boswell including partnership working with APSE, LCC and local groups.

The Group expressed an interest in revisiting the possibility of erecting wind turbines in the city. It was also agreed to look at planting of trees and examining the type of trees best suited to the area.

The Chief Officer (Environmental Health) gave a presentation on proposals for an action plan for the study. He reported that in its 2021/22 budget, the Council had allocated £500k within its capital programme for work that supports Covid-19 recovery, community wealth building and climate change action for the city.

Mr Sharp also reported that in order to draw on the capital allocation there will be a need to scope out and do some preparatory work on potential projects so that they can be considered for capital funding. There are some key roles that would help to move the work of the Task and Finish Group forward and he provided the following examples:-

- Baseline Assessment

Using Environmental Health Service budget, he will engage and fund the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) to support the Task and Finish group in drawing together into a report the Council's baseline carbon use position. That work should help inform setting priorities for actions to reduce carbon from the Council's own operations.

- Research Capacity

Understanding best practice and learning from the work of others is a key aspect of setting and delivering an effective action plan. The Council's Policy Team has been

supporting that role. In particular, the Policy team is responsible for supporting the Council's Community Wealth Building Strategy and there are strong links to climate change action within the recently launched strategy.

- Procurement Expertise

The Council is currently in the process of securing additional officer capacity to deal with procurement matters. Mr Sharp is discussing the extent to which this additional resource will be able to take on a role in proactively ensuring that climate change is a key decision in all the Council's procurement activities.

- Project Management

Resources to manage capital projects could potentially be funded from within the capital allocation for such projects. The challenge is to find sufficient resource to scope up such projects in the first place and take a management overview of their delivery; particularly necessary if external resources are brought in to deliver projects. Mr Sharp is pulling together a small group of key officers to look in detail at capacity issues and to identify gaps that will need to be filled to progress carbon emission reductions from the Council's own activities. This work will include consideration of the Council's current capacity to bid for external funding to deliver carbon reduction improvements.

Mr Sharp informed the Group that he will be updating the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) on the progress to date and discussing the options for bringing resources together to support the Task and Finish Group's work.

Mr Sharp also reported on proposals for an action plan for the study. Members also viewed the Climate Action Readiness Assessment Framework from Leeds Climate Commission. It was agreed that the document be adapted for use by the Group.

## **Meeting 13.4.21**

Ms Sonya Phillips, Ms Julie Ridley and Ms Marjorie Drake from Climate Action Preston attended the Task and Finish Group meeting to provide information relating to the Work Plan Study.

The first presentation was given by Ms Phillips who provided information on the organisation. The Task and Finish Group were informed that there are currently 250 such groups across the UK. Climate Action Preston is made up of members from Preston and the surrounding areas and are part of a greater network but focus on dealing with local issues. It is currently undertaking many projects to help encourage community involvement, reduce emissions and waste and to generate more green energy. For example, there are plans to set up a repair café scheduled to launch in June 2021, which will teach people how to fix and repair broken items instead of replacing them. A children's clothing library will be launched this month where residents can donate old clothes which will then be rented out at £2 per box. The Climate Action group hold fortnightly online meetings on Mondays at 8pm and throughout 2020 work had continued work on climate change by helping to plan and host online events with guest speakers.

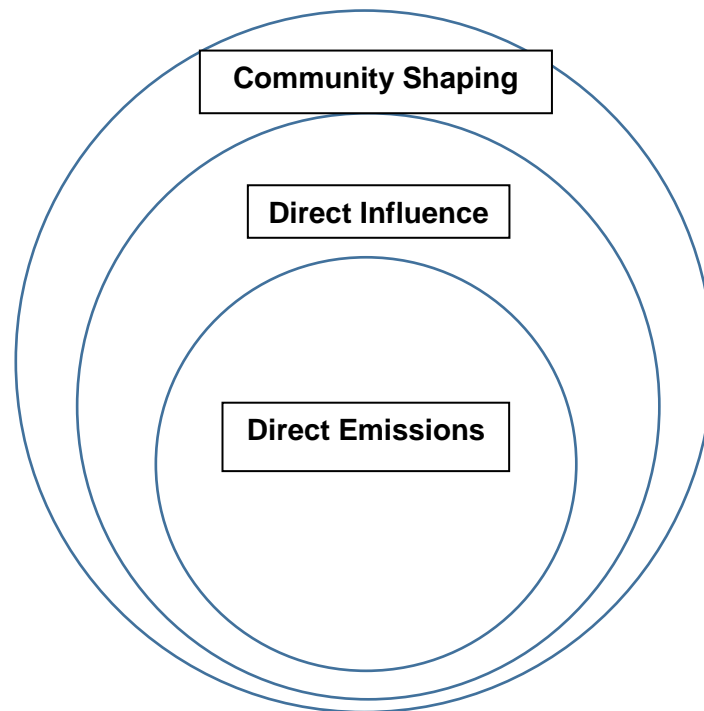
The second presentation was given by Ms Drake who provided the Task and Finish Group with information about Universal Basic Income and the relevance to climate change.

The third presentation was given by Ms Ridley and the Task and Finish Group were provided with information about cycling, and why it is an important subject for Climate Action Preston. Ms Ridley reported that cycling contributes to cleaner, healthier air, reduces emissions from road transport and tackles harmful effects of air pollution.

The Group then discussed the way forward and proposals for concluding the study. It was agreed that the Group aim to produce the final study by the end of September.

## Findings and Conclusions

The Council's declared Climate Emergency is wide in its scope and so it is necessary to recognise and differentiate between the three distinct areas of work that the Council could contribute to in order to ensure progress is made on each. A 3- concentric circle model is proposed to give focus to and help communicate these three work areas.



The first and inner circle is about the Council's **Direct Emissions** and includes energy use, building insulation and heat recovery of its own operational estate and the carbon emissions from the use of its vehicle fleet. It is recognised that due to the age of its building that the Council could not achieve net-zero carbon through energy efficiency measures alone and so this work stream will also need to consider green energy generation and carbon offset measures such as the planting and maintenance of the Council's substantial green open spaces.

The second and middle circle is about the Council's **Direct Influence** of others in Preston through its statutory policies and actions and including its land use planning policies, licensing policies, home insulation and energy use work, waste collection practices, use of its investment property portfolio. These are areas where the Council has some significant direct controls and influences on the behaviours of others and provides powerful tools to encourage, support and require carbon reduction work by others.

The third and outer circle recognises the Council's **Community Shaping** role and involves working in partnership across the City with other anchor institutions, the local business communities, residents and residents' groups to act collectively on making Preston a net-zero carbon city. This work aligns strongly with the Council's existing work on Community Wealth Building.

Work to reduce carbon emissions necessitates a long-term approach. The Council's resources mean that inevitably it cannot work on all areas at once and so future decisions will have to be made about prioritising actions and ensuring that the focus is on allocating resources to those areas where the greatest carbon reduction can be achieved at the earliest opportunity. Some of the changes necessary will be complex and pose technological and financial challenges as well as the need for behavioural change by organisations and individuals. To deliver on such actions efficiently and effectively it will be necessary to first identify the various barriers to change and to ensure that all are worked on. Some actions may not be able to be progressed immediately if, for example, the technology is not yet available at an affordable price, or the community not yet convinced of the benefits of adopting such technology. The Climate Readiness Assessment Model developed and used by the Leeds Climate Change Commission provides a comprehensive tool for managing a detailed climate change action plan and it is recommended that the Council adopts this model, or a variation of it, to help manage its climate change actions over the next decade.

<https://www.leedsclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/Leeds%20Climate%20Commission%20Results%2010%2011%20201.pdf>

The study found that while there was enthusiasm from councillors and officers to make progress on reducing the council's carbon emissions and influence an overall reduction in the City's carbon footprint that years of budget cuts had left the Council in a significantly challenged position for taking on any new work. The capital funding programme had been reworked to align the three priorities of Community Wealth Building, Covid Recovery and Climate Change and resources were available to deliver projects in these areas. However, the Council currently lacked capacity within its revenue budget to scope up and initiate such projects and, as importantly, to bid for external funds available to councils to help deliver climate change work. It was clear that Preston was missing out on external grant funding that had been awarded to other councils and action was needed to look at the officer resources and revenue spend available for carbon reduction work.

Climate change and carbon reduction is a comprehensive and complex area and one in which the Council can play many important roles. To give this work priority at the heart of the organisation the Task and Finish Group would have recommended that a dedicated post of Cabinet Member for Climate Change be created, giving one member of Cabinet the clear and single focus of leading on this important work and coordinating the Council's actions across Cabinet. Such a position was created during this work plan study, and the Group applauds that decision.

This has been a challenging piece of work made much more difficult by the covid19 pandemic. The work plan study has used the time available to recommend a broad strategic steer to the Council's climate change work, but recognises that there may be roles for future work plan studies on specific tightly focussed aspects of the Council's carbon reduction commitment.

## Corporate Management Team Comments

Members of Corporate Management Team (CMT) welcome this report and thank members and officers for their commitment and tenacity in completing this work plan study despite interruptions as a result of the Covid pandemic and various group membership changes.

CMT are pleased that 3 of the recommendations are already implemented or have commenced.

Under recommendation 5, if requiring the revenue budget to be aligned to support the initial work it will either require internal staffing resources and budget being vired from other services or require a budget growth item to be put forward by Members at the Annual budget Council meeting.

In addition to the above, CMT note that there are budgetary implications for other recommendations and would expect those to be considered with Cabinet during the relevant budget preparation process. Of particular concern is the budget impact within the need for substantial offsetting and therefore feasibility considerations of this offsetting. The Council does not have specific expertise in this area which is another key consideration against allocating resources to this work.

As with many matters that the Council is keen to progress, there are inevitable resource constraints in delivering Members aspirations and the resource challenges of this important agenda will need to be considered in the above mentioned budget processes.

In carrying out its many functions the Council has the ability via the wellbeing power contained in the Local Government Act 2000, supplemented by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, and the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 , to engage directly and work with other agencies to help to tackle climate change.

Equality Impact Assessments will be completed as each scheme from the action list is developed to a Business Case phase.



# Scoping Document

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Key background information

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”<sup>1</sup>, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 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 would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Following a Notice of Motion by Councillor Henshaw in April 2019, the Council Declared a Climate Emergency and Council resolved that a Task and Finish group be established **to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.**

### Key people to hear from

Chris Blackburn, Development

Environmental Health Manager(s)

Mark Taylor, Parks and Open Spaces

David Tomlinson, Operational Property

Russel Rees, Engineering

### External Visits/Visitors

Best practice examples

### Lead Officer

Craig Sharp – Chief Officer

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/> and summary at <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

**Panel size**

9 (5, 2, 2)

**Time estimate**

Less than 12 months

**Resources**

Member Services time

Officer time

**Target Audience**

Cabinet/Council

## Appendix B

### Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Henshaw – Council 18.4.19

#### Climate Change Emergency

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Preston area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely on a planet with human-caused climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”<sup>2</sup>, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 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 would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is no longer an option.

Children in Preston will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Preston. We must act now to ensure this.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Over 40, and increasing, local councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’. Many local authorities, include Preston City Council, have also signed up to the UK100 Agreement<sup>3</sup>, pledging to achieve 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050 in their area, but the IPCC report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much, much sooner.

Preston City Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions, both as an organisation and as the Local Planning Authority and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:

Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/> and summary at <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.uk100.org/>

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

**Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate.**

Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Preston district Zero Carbon within the same timescale.

Achieve 100% clean energy across Preston City Council's full range of functions by 2030.

Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2019 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the City.

And to take the following actions:

- (a) Ensure that political groups and Corporate Management Team embed this work in all areas of the Corporate Plan and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
- (b) Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task & Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic;
- (c) Work with, influence and inspire partners across the district, county and region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
- (d) Set up a Preston Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, UCLAN, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a City wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;

- (e) Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future;
- (f) Review the Council's Investment Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the Investment portfolio and to ensure the security of the Council's investments. Request a report within 6 months from the City Treasurer on investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held;
- (g) Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle and Investment Strategy will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;
- (h) Add the voice of Preston City Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
- (i) In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Preston's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;
- (j) Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
- (k) Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and
- (l) Note the Central Lancashire City Deal, which also includes South Ribble Borough Council and Lancashire County Council, will have a direct effect on Preston climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Preston's ambition.