

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Fred Jackson, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Highways
Date of Meeting:	5 November 2018

BLACKPOOL COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND WATER STRATEGY 2018 – 2024

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider and approve the Blackpool Council Sustainability, Energy and Water Strategy - Delivering a low-carbon, energy efficient, economically resilient community 2018 to 2024.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Blackpool Council Sustainability, Energy and Water Strategy - Delivering a low-carbon, energy efficient, economically resilient community 2018 to 2024, as attached at Appendix 3a.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Council has an effective Sustainability, Energy and Water Strategy formally committing the Council to taking action to assist the region in achieving the national goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050 and improving local sustainability and resilience.

Through improved sustainability, the development and utilisation of local energy supply and shifting to a more energy-efficient and low carbon economy, innovative technological solutions to improve efficiency, reduce demand and costs will aid Blackpool’s aim to boost the local economy and help in creating more resilient communities.

Taking a more sustainable approach will enable the Council to:

- Support the delivery of the Council Plan
- Reduce the Council’s impact on the environment
- Reduce the amount of natural resources the Council’s uses and

purchases

- Achieve efficiency savings by reducing operating costs
- Increase resilience of corporate services and assets, ensuring they are fit and efficient to deliver
- Improve the sustainability of the supply chain

Ensuring a constant supply of energy is one of the key challenges facing the world, and Blackpool is well placed to develop a new specialism in this field. A new Enterprise Zone will give added support to this industry as it emerges, and tether important elements of the supply chain to Blackpool.

All across the Fylde Coast, developments are taking place in areas such as nuclear, wind and gas power, with further potential offered by other renewable energy sectors, such as tidal power to aid the local economy.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Alternative Options:

Not to have a Sustainability Strategy which would mean that the Council would not be able to direct and coordinate its sustainability efforts.

4.0 Council priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

“The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background information

5.1 Sustainability and the supply of energy and water are three of the key challenges facing the World. Energy is essential in almost every aspect of our lives and for the success of our economy and the UK faces two long-term energy challenges:

- tackling climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions both within the UK and abroad; and
- ensuring secure, clean and affordable energy

The world is also projected to face a 40% global water deficit by 2030 under the business-as-usual climate scenario. With only 3% fresh water resources, the fact is

there is not enough water to meet the world's growing needs without dramatically changing the way water is used and managed.

By managing and taking the lead for the reduction of energy, water and carbon dioxide emissions across the Borough, the Council is at the hub of the sustainability challenge to deliver, demonstrate and encourage sustainable practises not only across the Borough, but across the Fylde and Lancashire and it is committed to meeting that challenge.

5.2 Taking a more sustainable approach will enable the Council to:

- Support the delivery of the Council Plan
- Reduce the Council's impact on the environment
- Reduce the amount of natural resources the Council uses and purchases
- Achieve efficiency savings by reducing Council operating costs
- Increase resilience of corporate services and assets, ensuring they are fit and efficient to deliver
- Improve the sustainability of the supply chain

5.3 Policy context:

In 2008 The Climate Change Act, set the world's first legally binding climate change target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050 compared to the 1990 base level.

The Act aims to encourage the transition to a low carbon economy and reduce the effects of climate change on the economy, society and the environment to a manageable level.

Under the Act UK Governments are obliged to:

- Set five year carbon budgets to limit greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce the demand for energy and improving energy efficiency
- Invest in low-carbon technologies
- Publicly report carbon emissions from businesses and the public sector
- Use statistics on greenhouse gas emissions and further evidence, analysis and research to inform energy and climate change policy

In 2009 the EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC) was implemented, which mandates the levels of renewable energy use within the European Union, requiring that 20% of the energy consumed within the European Union is from renewable resources. This is a pooled target across member states.

The UK specifically has been given the target of sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

- 5.4 The Clean Growth Strategy, published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy “ in October 2017 sets out the action needed to take to cut emissions, increase efficiency, and help lower the amount consumers and businesses spend on energy across the country” to meet the UK’s 2050 target and the intermediary 2032 Carbon Budgets.

The Strategy calls for a public sector 30 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020/21, against a 2009/10 baseline

5.5 Strategy Structure

The Sustainability Strategy is will be supported by three additional documents which will be delivered in the next 12 months, detailing further actions in relation to energy, water and renewable energy.

- Strategy Action Implementation Plan Reviewed Annually
- Renewable Energy Programme Reviewed Annually
- Water Action Plan Reviewed Annually

The performance of strategy and supporting actions plans and programmes will be reviewed and reported annually against 2016/17 levels and a comprehensive set of key performance indicators.

- 5.6 Is the Corporate Delivery Unit aware of this decision? Yes

The Corporate Delivery Unit has been directly involved in the creation of the strategy and in ensuring strong linkages with the Council’s other policy documents and its ethical framework.

- 5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information No

5.8 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3a: Sustainability, Energy and Water Strategy 2018 - 2024

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 The Climate Change Act, 2008 set the world’s first legally binding climate change target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by the year 2050 compared to the 1990 base level.

7.2 EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC). The Directive mandates levels of renewable energy use within the European Union, requiring that 20% of the energy consumed within the European Union is from renewable resources. The UK specifically has been given the target of sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020

7.0 Human resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 There are no financial considerations directly from the approval of the strategy. The projects arising from the strategy would require separate decisions where the financial considerations would be analysed.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Failure to implement a Sustainability Strategy could see the Council fail:

- To assist the region in achieving the national goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050
- To improve local sustainability and community resilience.
- To develop and utilise local energy supply and shift to a more energy-efficient and low carbon economy
- To deliver measures to reduce Council energy and water costs
- To assist in the delivery of UK renewable energy targets and develop a local low carbon and renewables infrastructure network.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The development and implementation of the Sustainability Strategy will support the Council's ethical framework namely in the following principles:

- We will use our influence to promote social justice, and the reduction of poverty and inequality;
- Where possible, we will use our influence to uphold the dignity of all people, respecting equality and valuing diversity
- Where we can, we will ensure that our actions and activities promote and support health and wellbeing

12.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

12.1 None.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 44/2018

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 26 October 2018 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

19.0 Date of Decision:

19.1

20.0 Reason(s) for decision:

20.1

21.0 Date Decision published:

21.1

22.0 Executive Members in attendance:

22.1

23.0 Call-in:

23.1

24.0 Notes:

24.1