

Report to:

**TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Relevant Officer:

Scott Butterfield, Strategy Policy and Research Manager

Date of Meeting

16 June 2021

CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION: CLIMATE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To present the final reports of the Blackpool Climate Assembly, and the Youth Climate Assembly

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Committee notes the recommendations of the Assembly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Full Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 which committed the Council to work towards carbon neutrality across its services and companies by 2030, and across the town in a similar timescale.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The Climate Emergency cuts across both Council priorities:

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 At the meeting of 3 February 2021, the Committee received an update on progress made by the independent organisation commissioned to develop and deliver the Assembly, FutureGov. Following the session, FutureGov undertook analysis of the contributions and liaised with Assembly participants to agree the contents of the final report (Appendix 8(a)). This was presented to the Council's Leadership Board on 19 April 2021 for consideration. Leadership Board requested that officers undertake work to establish the detailed implications of the recommendations in the report.
- 6.2 The first step was to create a definitive list of the recommendations (Appendix 8(b)), of which there are two types. "Primary Issues" are of direct relevance to the Emergency, whilst "Supporting Issues", may impact positively on people's perceptions or the environment more generally. The former are highlighted in green in the Appendix, and the latter in light blue.
- 6.3 These recommendations are now being discussed with officers responsible for the areas concerned, to assess the technical and financial implications and identify any consequences of implementing these findings. These will be presented to the Council's Leadership Board to allow them to determine whether to accept or amend the recommendations.
- 6.4 Once this work is complete, the confirmed recommendations will be added to information generated by the work to develop "pathways" to net zero and incorporated in the resultant action plan.
- 6.5 In addition to the Climate Assembly, the Headstart team worked with UR Potential to develop and deliver a Youth Climate Assembly. Running on consecutive nights in January and based on a format developed with young people, they produced their own report and recommendations (Appendix 8(c)). These have been included alongside the recommendations of the Climate Assembly and will be considered as part of the same process.
- 6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes/No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 8(a) – Blackpool Climate Assembly Final Report
Appendix 8(b) - Blackpool Climate Assembly - Summary of Recommendations
Appendix 8(c) – Blackpool Youth Climate Group Report

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 No immediate considerations, although many of the recommendations would require the identification of funding.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 The UK government has set a legally binding target on itself to deliver net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 No immediate implications.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 A draft analysis has been prepared which considers issues of Climate Justice. This will be developed further in line with the outputs above.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 This work is aimed at both delivering net zero carbon emissions, and also changing the culture of the organisation and town in line with this objective.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 In addition to the Climate Assembly, the council hosted an open-access survey to seek the views of the public. This was publicised via the 8000 letters distributed as part of the Assembly recruitment and to others via press releases and social media. The survey received 111 responses from Blackpool residents.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.