

Appendix 3b: Climate Assembly Recommendations:

Next Steps

Summary

This report represents the Council's considered view on the recommendations made by the Blackpool Climate Assembly held by FutureGov in early 2021. It draws together the views of officers from across the Council and other local organisations, gathered in a series of 1-1 discussions, via meetings, mini-questionnaires and emails.

Officers were selected because of their direct involvement or knowledge of the topic under consideration, and their level of seniority to enable authoritative comment on the recommendations. At the core of the process were three simple questions:

- What is the Council already doing about this issue, and what could be done differently?
- Are the recommendations beneficial to the Council's work in this area?
- What are the barriers to implementing the recommendations?

The original report divided the points made by participants into two categories: *Recommendations*, which were suggestions made with a direct link to addressing the Climate Emergency, and *Further Reflections*, which were other points and suggestions less directly relevant but which would facilitate the achievement of climate goals. In addition to this, the document produced contained a number of further commentary points considered too valuable to be lost in this process. These were compiled into a single list (see Appendix A) for the purposes of producing this response. To help with the clarity of this report, some closely-related points have been amalgamated into one.

A related Young People's Summit, co-produced by the Council's Headstart team with young people and held over consecutive nights in January, also produced a report with eight specific recommendations. Several of the recommendations overlap with those made by the Assembly, but all have been included in Appendix A for completeness.

The Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the recommendations at its [informal meeting](#) on 16th June 2021. Members made general observations on the need to achieve net zero and asked specifically about the creation of an Ultra-Low Emission Zone in the town centre recommended by the report. In particular, they queried whether this would have significant adverse consequences alongside the environmental benefits. This report considers the proposal (see 2.3 below) and recommends rejecting the recommendation due to the practicalities and timescales involved.

In total, of the 56 recommendations:

- 41 are accepted, with the recommendations feeding into existing council activity and future action planning;
- 13 are accepted, with a different approach than the one suggested by the assembly being taken to implementation;
- 2 will not be progressed at this stage, for one of the following reasons: technical constraints, cost issues, incompatibility with other council or climate goals or potential for unintended consequences, or because more progress can be achieved with the resources available via the delivery of other actions.

The actions arising from report have been incorporated into the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan, as shown in the "Summary of Actions" table at the end of the document. The Plan is primarily based on two pieces of analysis undertaken by the Carbon Trust and Atkins, to map the Council's and the town's paths to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. In this way, our response considers both the views of the public and the best scientific evidence available to us. The final action plan therefore incorporates many additional actions requiring substantial investment in order to make significant progress against the net zero target agreed by Council.

Background

The Assembly process sought the views of a representative group of local residents on the challenges of the Climate Emergency, who were asked to consider how Blackpool could respond to the issues it raises. The theory is that residents are best placed to help determine what would work locally when provided with high quality information on the subject matter. Subject Matter Experts gave presentations to the group, who then held facilitated discussions to share thoughts and ideas.

In total, 36 participants attended all of the sessions, which lasted for a total of around 10 hours. Due to the pandemic, the assembly was held online, with participants being given equipment and support to access the sessions where they required it. Following the sessions, FutureGov compiled a report based on participants' views, which they were invited to comment on and refine, ensuring ownership of the suggestions remained with the Assembly. Participants were then invited to sign up to a mailing list to keep abreast of the progress of the recommendations, and further opportunities to discuss and promote the report, which is attached (Appendix B).

The remainder of this document is structured under the headings of the Climate Assembly report.

Principles of Climate Action

The Assembly spent some time developing some ground rules about the type of recommendations they wanted to make. In addition to these requiring a specific response, these can act as a series of cross-cutting issues applicable to the other topics under consideration. These have therefore also been considered throughout the topic areas highlighted.

| Recommendation | Response |
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| 0.1 Education for young and old people Accepted | Assembly participants highlighted the benefit they had from the chance to develop their knowledge and wanted to share this with a wider audience. This will be a key part of our approach to communications and engagement, with tools included on the dedicated web pages (see 1.2). Blackpool and Fylde College are participating in the Climate Action Partnership and are integrating consideration of climate issues throughout their curriculum. Discussions are underway with the Eco-schools initiative and via (Paul) to increase school participation in this project. The Council's Adult Learning team have agreed to pilot a Level 1 and 2 Award in Environmental Sustainability Course, and the Climate Emergency Steering Group is evaluating various tools involving "gamification" which could also raise awareness and knowledge. |
| 0.2 Make solutions to combat climate change available to as many Blackpool residents as possible by removing cost barriers Accepted | The Council is considering adoption of the socio-economic duty contained in Section 1 of the 2010 Equality Act, which as yet has not been enacted by the government. This would then apply to any measures to address the Climate Emergency, automatically ensuring the consideration of lower income groups in the delivery of our objectives. Many of the Council's funding bids and programmes seek resources to deliver low carbon projects benefitting people with cost barriers e.g. the Grange Park scheme (see recommendation 0.3) is being part funded by ERDF and Homes England. There are plans to bid for BEIS green energy grant funding which would be marketed to low income households living in low EPC-rated properties. |

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| | <p>Similar funding schemes will be considered as they become available.</p> |
| <p>0.3 Council to be accountable to residents for its actions Accepted</p> | <p>The Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee will receive regular progress reports on our actions, and scrutinise other strategies and plans with regards to the Climate Emergency. Regular updates on progress will be issued via the specific Climate Emergency Mailing List. In addition to this, the Council will establish a residents group of those particularly engaged with the Climate Emergency for communication and liaison, and to encourage the development of grass-roots initiatives that align with our goals. The Council will link to the Poverty Truth Commission to ensure consideration of the cost barriers remains paramount in delivering projects, with a good example being the Grange Park new build, retrofit and eco-coach programme.</p> |
| <p>0.4 Council to hold other local organisations to account Accepted</p> | <p>The mechanism for this will primarily be the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership, as the Scrutiny Committees have few powers relating to local organisations and none on climate initiatives specifically. Initial meetings are being held in August with public, private and voluntary sector organisations to appraise them on the current picture and future intentions, and to establish the scope of the Partnership. They will ultimately oversee the delivery of a town-wide net-zero action plan. The Council will champion good practice through our approach to communications where appropriate. In addition to this, the Council has agreed to adopt the TOMS Social Value indicators and these will measure the effectiveness of delivery of contractors on a range of social value issues, including the environment and sustainability.</p> |
| <p>0.5 Residents need to understand the impact of climate change at a local level Accepted</p> | <p><i>See also recommendations 0.1, 0.3, 1.2, 3.7, 4.1, 4.3, 5.5, 5.6, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1</i></p> <p>Recommendations 0.5 to 0.7 are central to our approach to communications and engagement. By giving people facts about climate change, demonstrating the co-benefits of climate-positive actions and offering solutions which people can easily relate to their current situations, we hope to make it easier for people to make a change. We will develop a communications plan which delivers on this and other related</p> |
| <p>0.6 Individuals need to understand what they can do about climate change issues themselves Accepted</p> | <p>recommendations. We will communicate with existing flood forum groups to understand the impact on flood risk at a local level, and the revised Lancashire flood risk strategy (Local strategy) includes actions to provide information locally on the impact of climate change.</p> <p>Recommendation 0.7 also applies to businesses, which we will reach out to via the Blackpool Business Leaders' Group on a regular basis, and seek a link via the Responsible Business Group led by Business In The Community.</p> |
| <p>0.7 Grow awareness of climate change issues in Blackpool Accepted</p> | <p>Officers have discussed the Assembly process with 3 other Councils, presented at 2 online events and will present at further events throughout the remainder of the year. We will evaluate the Grange Park retrofit programme and share our</p> |
| <p>0.8 Act as an example for other Councils to follow Accepted</p> | |


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| | learning. As our action plan is developed and delivered, we will share details of innovative projects with other organisations. |
| 0.9 Form partnerships with other Councils to reach shared climate goals Accepted | The Council led the formation of the Lancashire Climate Officers Group. It is participating in the development of the Greater Lancashire Plan, which includes an environmental theme. We have jointly commissioned studies with the County Council on the potential of renewable energy, the current state of the environment and biodiversity, resilience to adverse impacts of climate change, and a roadmap to net-zero. We have held discussions with Fylde, Wyre and Lancashire Councils on developing joint approaches on particular topics, and have presented to the Economic Prosperity Board on the topic, leading to further discussions with climate leads and economic development officers. |

Generating and Buying Clean Energy

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| 1.0 Convene a taskforce to identify good practice about generating and using energy from natural resources Accepted | Several pieces of work are underway including a pan-Lancashire exercise looking at the potential of renewable energy and a roadmap to net zero which highlights where clean energy would need to play a role. The next stage would be to deliver a more detailed piece of work updating the 2011 Aecom exercise to map renewable energy potential in more detail. The council is considering establishing a Climate Expert Panel, potentially operating across a wider geographic footprint, and this would include advisors on energy. |
| 1.1 Create a local energy plan based on the findings of the above Accepted | |
| 1.2 Develop a central information point where all Blackpool residents can get information, advice and guidance Accepted | |

Transport

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| 2.1 The Council should commit to public transport being the primary choice for getting around and into the town by 2022 by making it more accessible, frequent and less expensive Accepted in part | Completion of the tramway extension will encourage further use of the existing zero-emission transport infrastructure in the town by making it directly accessible to rail users. Blackpool Transport have plans to install electric charge points at their Rigby Road depot and are looking to introduce electric buses, and are under consideration for government funding to accelerate this process. Blackpool Transport have made substantial improvements to the quality of their fleet (USB charging facilities, named stops etc) and significant reductions in emissions (buying low emission "Euro 6" buses) when upgrading over previous years, and are considering what is needed to further increase quality in order to appeal to habitual car users. Consideration is being given to a bus |
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| | <p>interchange that will minimise bus disruption in the town centre, and other models of public transport delivery (e.g. “demand responsive” transport and shuttlebuses for the conference centre). New zonal fares have been introduced to simplify the fare structure and reduce some ticket prices. There are no further plans to change or reduce prices for the foreseeable future due to the need to invest in electric buses and the financial impact of the pandemic. The forthcoming Bus Service Improvement Plan and Enhanced Partnership between operators will look to make further improvements.</p> |
| <p>2.2 Become a pedestrian and cycling-friendly town by 2023 <i>Accepted in part</i></p> | <p><i>Cycling:</i> Blackpool benefits from being part of the National Cycle Network, with route 62 running the length of the promenade and out to Staining. Most of the route is traffic free bar a stretch on Read’s Avenue up to Stanley Park. Plans for an additional cycleway on St Walburgas Road have been consulted on and are under discussion. There are also plans to develop the “Blackpool Wheel” cycleway around the town for both travel and leisure use. However, the dense built environment makes it difficult to create new cycleways without remodelling buildings and roads, or demolition. Young people were particularly keen to highlight easier ways to encourage cost and emission-free transport, which would be consistent with cycling and pedestrian initiatives</p> <p><i>Pedestrians:</i> The existing town centre pedestrianised area covers an extensive area, with significant reductions in traffic on many of the roads not highlighted below creating a relatively safe environment for pedestrians:</p>  <p>The traffic-free area of the Promenade is accessible via several zebra crossings in a 20 mph zone. Around this, the Quality</p> |

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| | <p>Corridors project has improved the paths and general environment of several streets over the past few years, facilitating access to town centre amenities on foot. However, the CBRE Blackpool Town Centre Placemaking report delivered in July 2021 highlighted that some of the pedestrianised areas were visually unappealing, and other streets, whilst having limited access to vehicles, provided further opportunities to extend pedestrianisation and bring both social and environmental benefits to the town. These are being considered as part of the development of a new town centre strategy and the Town Centre Access Scheme, which needs to balance the benefits of reduced pollution from keeping vehicles moving with the availability of suitable pedestrian crossing facilities.</p> |
| <p>2.3 Implement an ultra-low emissions zone in the town centre by 2027, charging vehicles that are not electric for access Rejected</p> | <p>As highlighted in section 2.2, much of the town centre is already covered by a pedestrianised area, with some of the other non-pedestrian streets only accessible to certain types of vehicle (e.g. buses/taxis). The designated Air Quality Management Area opposite the former Wilkinson’s building, targeted on the site in the centre with the greatest air quality issues, helped to improve air quality substantially prior to demolition of the building. The promenade in peak season is the major source of congestion near to the town centre, but this sits outside the designated town centre area.</p> <p>Key issues to consider in the adoption of an ULEZ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential displacement of traffic onto other roads, although evidence elsewhere disputes this; • Delivery of goods via vehicles not required to go zero emissions by 2030 (i.e. lorries and trucks) • Options for last mile zero emission delivery and the infrastructure needed to facilitate this • Whether instituting a charge would actually encourage companies and individuals to decarbonise their transport faster or reduce journeys • Enabling a just transition - whether affluent individuals, tourists and companies would just pay the charge without incurring the inconvenience felt by other road users • Whether the UK government’s national policies would encourage change at a sufficiently rapid speed that the cost associated with this change would better be used in other ways <p>Aside from carbon emissions, Blackpool’s air quality is of a reasonably high standard due to the onshore breeze.</p> <p>The Council is considering piloting traffic-free illuminations days and measuring the relative change in emissions via traffic counters and mobile air quality monitors. This evidence will be reported back and further discussions held on the associated</p> |

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| | <p>work needed. We have also recently introduced bus lane cameras to improve enforcement, deterring car users further from contravening the regulations.</p> |
| <p>2.4 Increase the use of electric vehicles by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encouraging businesses to increase the availability of charge points - reducing parking charges in the town centre for EV's - introducing a fully electric bus fleet - supporting and rewarding taxi companies for switching to EV fleets <p>Accepted in part</p> | <p>The council is commissioning an Electric Vehicle Strategy that will consider how provision by both businesses and other organisations can ensure infrastructure able to meet with increasing demand for electric vehicle charging. This will include promotion of workplace charging opportunities. As per recommendation 2.1, Blackpool Transport has plans to fully electrify its bus fleet and intends to do so in advance of other operators.</p> <p>Reducing the cost of EV parking may encourage visits to the town centre by Electric Vehicles, but the relative cost of the parking is unlikely to contribute to a decision by drivers to switch. Instead, many councils offer subsidised or free charging which is of benefit to EV users and is an essential “hygiene” factor encouraging drivers of EV's to visit the town, particularly where people are travelling long distances.</p> <p>Regarding taxi operators, the council wants to understand how the rollout of further charging infrastructure can benefit taxi operators wanting to switch to electric vehicles, including consideration of suitable locations, availability and usage patterns. The council will not seek to subsidise operators to transition beyond the provision of shared infrastructure. National government policy will achieve this, and Premier Taxis have proved that this is possible without taxpayer subsidy, with other firms such as C Cabs moving towards hybrid vehicles.</p> |
| <p>2.5 Encourage carbon-neutral options for visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - campaigning for more frequent/faster electric train services - Implementing a Park and Ride on the edge of the town centre <p>Accepted in part</p> | <p>The rail industry participated in the initial discussions of the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership, although they were unable to give firm commitments on further electric services beyond existing plans. Currently only one regular service into Blackpool North (to/from York) is not electric, although the South Fylde Line is still serviced by diesel trains.</p> <p>Park and Ride has been used with success for large events – for example, the Air Show, and Blackpool Transport is continuing to explore potential sites for further park and ride operations, with a service operating from Blackpool Airport starting on 31st July for 8 weeks during peak demand times. This will need to be evaluated to check for use and financial viability, with a preferred option being to move visitors on to transport such as trains and coaches for their journeys to Blackpool. A major issue is a lack of regularly-available land at key sites on the road transport network. As part of responding to this recommendation, the Corporate Strategy Team will review evidence on the effectiveness of Park and Ride for seaside towns and report this to the Climate Partnership and internal Working Group for consideration.</p> |
| <p>2.6 Other options to encourage modal shift:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Car sharing schemes | <p>The council will explore all options open to achieve modal shift as part of a specific piece of work taking these and other options into account. There are already car-sharing websites nationally, and there could be an opportunity to link into and</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public transport vouchers - Season ticket loans <p>Accepted in part</p> | <p>promote these. Other options include “co-wheels” – making zero emission cars available to hire locally at an hourly rate; and other on-demand transport (such as bicycles and potentially scooters; see also 2.1). The Council already offers season ticket loans to staff for public transport and further roll out of these, and initiatives like the Cycle to Work scheme, will be explored via the Climate Action Partnership.</p> |
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Homes

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| <p>3.1 Commit to exceeding current building regulations by 20% by 2025</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Changes in building regulations in 2022 will mean new build properties need to achieve a 31% carbon reduction, meaning that this target will be surpassed. The council has undertaken work previously to understand what it is legally possible to achieve beyond minimum standards within the Blackpool housing market, and currently any stipulations beyond the standard requirements would be likely to result in legal challenge. One of the major challenges is the current state and cost of the technology compared with demand. This will be kept under consideration by the planning team with changes being made to the policy framework when possible.</p> |
| <p>3.2 Lead by example in Council’s buildings</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The council and its companies will quantify the cost difference of improving the energy performance of refurbishment projects, presenting options for consideration at the approval stage in a “test and learn” pilot, and from a study of work at Queen’s Park, Troutbeck and the Grange Park developments. We will seek funding to build on this learning, particularly from the Grange Park project, including the level of achieved financial savings as well as carbon savings. Learning from the Eco-coaches in the Grange Park project will be key in understanding how to deliver similar projects, as it will explore the day-to-day reality of living in a house using alternative heating technology. We will revise the Asset Management Plan to build in emissions as a key determinant of future programmed works. A key issue is the use of gas boilers in facilities where electric-based systems would be prohibitively expensive (such as the Sandcastle, Crematorium and the Winter Gardens), where we are exploring technologies to save on the use of gas in the short term. In the future, technological advances may enable further progress to be made.</p> |
| <p>3.3 Introduce an Energy MOT for homes by 2024</p> <p>Accepted in part</p> | <p>We will build on the existing mechanisms to assess the efficiency of properties, using the potential for funding distribution to assess properties which are likely to be amongst the most poorly performing. Our Selective Landlord schemes require the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of certain properties to be at a particular level, and around 1400 landlords have applied for assessments as a result of this. Grant funding is available to improve the properties in line with EPC findings, and properties with low EPC ratings are being targeted. The funding allows for EPC’s of properties which have not previously had one. Blackpool Coastal Housing’s stock has</p> |

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| | <p>very few E-rated properties, which are being addressed currently, and around 1000 D-rated properties, which are partly being tackled through external funding. Given our track record in addressing this issue, the council will continue to advocate for additional resources to be made available. We will review the outcome of work undertaken by authorities awarded Compliance and Enforcement Funding by BEIS for the enforcement of minimum energy efficiency standards in the private sector.</p> |
| <p>3.4 Work with contractors, developers and colleges to upskill young people Accepted</p> | <p>The Council is currently implementing the TOMs social value performance indicators, which measures contractors on their contribution to various social and environmental indicators. We will explore how these can be tied into the green skills needed for the future. Blackpool and Fylde College is building environmental and sustainability considerations into all education provision, including ensuring that the new skills required for retrofit and other sustainable construction work are provided on the relevant courses. In addition, the Community Renewal Fund project proposed by NW Skills Academy Limited and endorsed by the Council would result in Low Carbon Career Packages being made available to 80 construction workers at NVQ Level 2-3. This is subject to government signoff of the funding.</p> |
| <p>3.5 Introduce the “Climate Contact Point” scheme – i.e. all interactions with public services should include an opportunity to discuss energy efficiency Accepted in part</p> | <p>Council frontline staff tend to be in contact with people with particular needs, or in crisis, meaning that it is often not appropriate to raise energy efficiency or climate issues as a conversation point. Recommendation 1.2 suggests the creation of an information hub and this would be a starting point to explore these issues further, along with the ecocoaches programme which could seek to reach out pro-actively rather than needing to react to a contact. There is an existing training programme for frontline staff (starting with the hospital respiratory team), who work with vulnerable groups to understand the impact of cold on their health and well-being.</p> |
| <p>3.6 Support the rollout of alternative heating solutions, including community energy schemes, as long as people are supported to afford the technology Accepted</p> | <p>The council is constantly reviewing opportunities to develop community and district energy schemes, but would need to explore additional resource and expertise to further this. As a result, we will undertake to raise these issues with the government.</p> <p>As per section 3.4, the NW Skills Academy Limited CRF project would also support some businesses to achieve the PAS 2030 standard, meaning that installations of energy efficiency improvement measures will meet the required specification and customer requirements.</p> <p>We are particularly mindful of the need to ensure a balance between measures which reduce carbon emissions whilst enduring that occupants can continue to keep their homes heated. The current imbalance in taxation across electricity and gas will be addressed via the net zero strategy, but currently means that switching to non-gas options could result in price</p> |

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| | <p>increases, and any change of this type will need assessing to ensure it does not put households into fuel poverty.</p> <p>We also note that this was an issue raised by young people and will ensure that we seek a “just transition” as part of our plans.</p> |
| <p>3.7 Greater promotion and celebration of good energy efficient developments</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The council recently ran a poster competition to promote environmental issues on the hoardings around the new Holiday Inn development, working with contractor Robertsons and the Holiday Inn, and has a communications plan for existing energy efficiency developments such as the ERDF Grange Park programme (see 0.5)</p> |

Reducing Waste

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| <p>4.1 Provide more options to sort waste at the point of disposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More bins for different types of waste in public spaces, homes and businesses, including food composting - More guidance on how to sort waste - More information on reducing waste <p>Accepted</p> | <p><i>See also recommendations 0.5-0.7 on communication and 4.3</i></p> <p>The council is working with our waste company Enveco to provide more kerbside collections of various materials, such as textiles, and to extend existing services to properties with communal waste disposal areas. Other measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking to people 1-1 where waste is being disposed of incorrectly, which could lead to recycling being rejected as “contaminated”; • Switching collections from bags to bins; • Considering the introduction of on-street recycling bins, including ways to resolve the difficulty of people disposing non-recyclable material in them – something also highlighted by the young people’s assembly suggesting innovative devices to encourage this <p>Further services are dependent on the passage of the Environment Bill, which may enable further funding for Local Authorities to introduce further recycling streams.</p> <p>Enveco’s waste minimisation team are leafleting with further information on how to recycle and improving web content to include more information.</p> |
| <p>4.2 Explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentives for businesses, residents and tourists to reduce waste - Fines for excess waste or flytipping - Encouraging shops to sell produce without excess packaging/ encouraging use of containers - Supermarkets and retailers working with universities to develop sustainable packaging <p>Accepted in part</p> | <p>The Council has worked in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy over a number of years on various schemes to improve the disposal of waste, and has teams that investigate and prosecute flytippers. There are Public Space Protection Orders in place to complement this work. These arrangements are kept constantly under review with a view to improving enforcement and cleanliness.</p> <p>We will explore incentives for waste reduction via our Climate Emergency Steering Group, with a specific focus on the hospitality sector and the achievement of Green Key or equivalent accreditation.</p> <p>Chain retailers tend to have their own corporate initiatives rather than operate store-by-store, making progress on packaging difficult from a local perspective, but we will explore options to encourage this via business groups.</p> <p>Work by supermarkets and retailers with universities is beyond the scope of the Council’s work, but we will use our existing links with Lancaster University and work through the Climate</p> |

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| | Action Partnership to encourage local trials of such schemes and materials. |
| 4.3 Encourage composting Accepted | This will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. The council has plans to roll out recycling food waste in the future, and encourages community composting schemes in parks. |
| 4.4 Encourage donation of garden areas, plants and tools for communities to garden in Accepted | Given limited resources, and the lack of a large, direct impact on emissions, this work will not be prioritised immediately. However, work is underway by the parks and community engagement teams to encourage adoption of alleyways, and the work will be picked up there. Additionally, the council is recruiting a climate action officer who will link to work being undertaken by the Parks team, and support ways of developing a self-sustaining grassroots organisation to contribute to this. |
| 4.5 Explore incentives for people participating in beach cleansing/public space cleansing including free entry to attractions or businesses giving paid days off Accepted | Whilst this action does not directly address carbon emissions in Blackpool in a significant way, the councils streetscene team will explore community involvement in site specific cleaning and the role of incentives in achieving positive change in behaviour, whilst considering the need to make sustainable changes. Various policies are in place at employers across the town regarding “volunteering days” and we will explore how these can be used for environmental objectives. The Young People’s assembly also highlighted measures to promote pride in place via beach cleans, and are keen to develop this as an action in their own right. |

Education and Awareness

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| 5.1 Schools in Blackpool should be provided with information and support on how to reduce their carbon footprint, expanding the existing eco-schools programme Accepted | The council has held discussions with the Ecoschools initiative to explore how it can be promoted to other schools in the borough, and will work with schools and academies to increase the number participating, with a target that all schools in Blackpool are working towards an ecoschool award by the end of 2022. This ties in to a recommendation from the young people about education and awareness amongst young people. |
| 5.2 Schools should co-create a carbon reduction plan with young people, parents and teachers Accepted | Ecoschools must have a plan as part of their award criteria, we will work to ensure that carbon reduction is included as part of these plans and seek to extend these as part of recommendation 5.1 |
| 5.3 Schools should hold an annual competition and celebration around their progress Accepted | We will explore which organisation is best placed to lead this initiative, and support them to run a competition in 2022. |
| 5.4 Adult education should lead drop-in sessions for adults who wish to learn more about climate change Accepted | Adult Education will pilot a level 1 and 2 qualification in sustainability, which will provide knowledge but also skills for the workplace. The course will give participants the knowledge about what they can do at home and work to help us all make a difference, how we can look after the environment, and live in balance with nature. Participants will get to know what roles |

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| | business and industry play in protecting the environment, and how to reduce our impact on it. |
| 5.5 Council should take a lead in collecting and sharing facts on climate change Accepted | Will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. |
| 5.6 Expert information/learning should be made available via communication with residents, via community venues and schools Accepted | Will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. |
| 5.7 Climate solutions and science should be prioritised in the classroom, including in partnership with local businesses Accepted | The Council has no direct authority to implement this recommendation. We have spoken to Ecoschools who are due to make an announcement about their scheme later this year which could help with this. We are aware that various awarding organisations are ensuring that sustainability content is built into their qualifications, and Ecoschools will run a seminar with all Blackpool schools to promote both the environmental and financial benefits of their model. |

Community Action

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| 6.1 The community should set up action groups to respond to particular issues Accepted | This recommendation is for the community to respond to, but the council recognises that it has a leadership role in bringing people together and providing some initial support in establishing the approach the individuals or emerging group want to take. We will look to invite interest from anyone who would like to participate in an initiative aiming to facilitate more positive activity on low carbon and environmental issues, taking into account existing groups. However, it is important that such groups are ultimately independent of the council to provide challenge and enable Blackpool to access funding available to the third sector. Council and other public sector staff could be targeted, and an internal council group will be set up to explore what can be done. This process would also enable the identification of Community Champions (see 6.3). |
| 6.2 Local education organisations collectively should set up and manage a single website that provides information about climate change and how residents can get involved Accepted in part | Whilst not primarily aimed at the council, this will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. It is important to give a single definitive source of advice which can be adequately resourced and kept up-to-date rather than a number of separate ones. |
| 6.3 Community Champions should be identified to take projects forward, tapping into the existing volunteer base Accepted | See 6.1. |

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| 6.4 Use social media to bring people together Accepted | Will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. |
| 6.5 Use established groups such as PACT meetings to build awareness Accepted | The communications plan developed under 0.5-0.7 will ensure that, where relevant, we will use existing groups and structures to promote messages. |

Network-building and influencing national government

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| 7.1 The Council should support and promote green companies and give them priority driven by a Green Business Pledge Accepted in part | This will be addressed as part of the communications action plan covered under 0.5-0.7. Our approach to procurement allows us to give credit to companies for their environmental credentials and we will continue to score proposals based on these wherever possible. |
| 7.2 Businesses should establish a Blackpool Climate Emergency business forum to meet monthly and share ideas Accepted | The council will engage with businesses across the town to understand what works best for them as they seek to respond to changing government policy. We will work with them to establish an initial meeting or series of meetings if appropriate, or provide information and facilitate discussions. Ultimately businesses will need to decide for themselves whether this adds value. |
| 7.3 Elected representatives should consistently be more public and vocal in their support of the Net Zero agenda and take responsibility for a net-zero Blackpool Accepted in part | The council will provide information, training and ongoing communication to elected members about the importance of the agenda, their role within it, and measures the council is taking to address the issue. However, it is down to the members and their parties as to how much they want to use their voice on this issue, and they ultimately remain accountable to the electorate across all social, economic and environmental issues. Members are active in their local communities and their role often includes addressing the wider environmental agenda, with particular responsibility for addressing the climate emergency resting with the council's Executive. |
| 7.4 Challenge national policy where this conflicts with Blackpool's net zero goals Accepted | We will review future government policy announcement in light of their implications for Blackpool's net zero goal, and provide feedback where necessary - participating in all relevant government consultation activity on this topic. |
| 7.5 Council should encourage and empower businesses, organisations and the community to act Accepted | This will be included in the responsibilities of the Climate Action Partnership to ensure that activity is based on views drawn from across the business and community. |

Biodiversity

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| 8.1 Businesses should undertake carbon and environmental assessments and | The Government is currently consulting on measures to extend and strengthen the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme that requires larger companies to undertake energy saving audits. We will explore opportunities to fund a similar scheme across |
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| <p>increase their contribution to improving the environment</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>small and medium sized businesses in the town, in a way similar to the recent Access Fylde Coast project delivered free accessibility audits to businesses.</p> |
| <p>8.2 Businesses should make information on their environmental contributions available to the public</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>Whilst the council does not have any powers in this regard, we will promote this as a matter of good practice via the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership, the Blackpool Business Leaders' Group and other similar forums.</p> |
| <p>8.3 The Council should designate all vacant land as "green land", requiring a case to be made in favour of its development as opposed to leaving it as green space</p> <p>Rejected</p> | <p>Whilst we support the idea behind this suggestion, the diversity and type of vacant land and the opportunities it may offer mean that this proposal could counteract proposals that offer biodiversity net gain (see later comment). Open Space in Blackpool is protected by local and national policy, with Core Strategy Policy CS6 protecting Green Infrastructure and only permitting its loss in exceptional circumstances. The Council have commissioned an Open Space assessment that provides an audit of open spaces within the borough, which is used to a basis to identify the quantity and quality of open spaces. Recent changes to national planning policy require development proposals to provide for net gains in biodiversity. The Council are currently consulting on the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document that provides further guidance on requirements for green infrastructure in Blackpool. There are existing mechanisms to identify land as community assets which could be used to create opportunities for green space.</p> |
| <p>8.4 Explore opportunities to cultivate green spaces and plant trees on unused spaces (including roofs)</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>The first stage of this recommendation is to undertake the update of the Renewable Energy Potential mapping exercise to explore renewable energy projects, to assess whether sites are suitable for power generation prior to looking at alternatives, as this would deliver the biggest net contribution to reducing emissions.</p> <p>The council has a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy that commits us to this agenda. We are looking at any land in our ownership, and are currently in discussions with the "Tiny Forests" campaign to identify suitable sites that could contribute to the removal of carbon and improve public amenity space via the dense planting of suitable trees on undervalued green sites. Further work is looking at identifying the landowners of other suitable sites. Sites will be prioritised on the basis of the biggest possible gains in terms of biodiversity and emissions absorption.</p> |
| <p>8.5 Involve as many people as possible across Blackpool in the planning and planting of trees</p> <p>Accepted</p> | <p>In addition to the launch of the Grange Park tree planting programme in August, the aim is for the vast majority of trees called for by the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy to be planted by local people. We plan to have a live map and "totalizer" showing the number, although the exact carbon impact depends on the maturity of the tree on planting.</p> |
| <p>8.6 Help people to "grow their own" veg, including sharing</p> | <p>The council does provide some community space – there is a community garden at Revoe, and growing spaces @thegrange and the TAB family centre, the latter of which may be taken</p> |

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| space for those without land, including expert advice Accepted | over by a third sector organisation in the future. The council also provides allotments, although limited space and options in Blackpool prevent this being expanded further. The recommendation also links to one made by Young People around buying local food and reducing food miles; action 53 in the Action Plan seeks to promote the benefits of eating seasonally and locally. |
| 8.7 Encourage wildflower gardens, windowboxes and tree planting by making grow bags, pots and whips available to communities Accepted | See 8.6. In addition, we have identified funding to seed wildflower areas and are looking for sites to deliver new schemes. |
| 8.8 Council to lead discussions on how to regenerate natural wildlife habitats, working with the community to designate areas for protection and develop a grant process Accepted in part | Blackpool lacks the land and natural capital to be able to deliver a significant re-wilding of habits, with efforts focussed on existing sites such as Marton Mere, a former rubbish tip now designated as a Local Nature Reserve which has been identified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. This, together with recommendations 8.4 and 8.5, was also highlighted by young people, who felt that greenspaces and trees offered an important carbon offsetting option. |
| 8.9 Explore the feasibility of planting a “Blackpool Forest” to offset carbon emissions by 2023 Accepted in part | The original vision of this recommendation was presented by one Assembly participant, and involved the planting of a forest in the shape of the borough of Blackpool elsewhere in the country. The council believes that as trees make a tiny contribution to capturing and storing carbon, their benefits on mental health and in providing shade to lessen the effect of the warming climate are much more important, and consequently we will focus our efforts on planting trees within Blackpool and reducing activity that causes emissions. The Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy identified a target to plant 10,000 trees in Blackpool over its lifespan, and as this is well on the way to being achieved, the team intend to increase this target. |

Summary of Actions

| Rec | Action | Included in Climate Emergency Action Plan? |
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| 0.1 | Pilot entry-level qualifications in sustainability - Level 1 and 2 award in Environmental Sustainability via Adult Learning | Yes – action 63 |
| 0.2 | Adopt socio-economic duty to ensure consideration of lower income groups in delivering climate objectives | Yes – 122 |
| 0.4 | Adopt specific environmental measures for suppliers as part of the rollout of TOMS social value indicators | Yes - 118 |
| 0.5 | Develop full communications and marketing plan | Yes – 66 |
| 0.7 | Work with Blackpool Business Leaders’ Group and BITC responsible business network to establish a relationship with businesses sector by sector on the Climate Emergency | Yes - 75 |

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| 0.9 | Work with Blackpool Fylde and Wyre Economic Prosperity Board to ensure cross-borough collaboration and development of suitable schemes | Yes - 77 |
| 1.0 | Develop and implement a Renewable Power Infrastructure Strategy, including update of 2011 Renewable Energy Potential study | Yes - 104 |
| 1.1 | Establish Blackpool, Fylde Coast or Lancashire Climate Expert Panel to bring latest thinking and expertise to future activity planning | Yes - 82 |
| 1.2 | Scope the potential establishment of an Energy Hub(s) in the town, providing signposting and assistance to sources of funding, advice etc. | Yes – 69, also 68 to improve online resources |
| 2.2 | Ensure the Climate Emergency is explicitly addressed in the Town Centre Strategy Review | Yes – 15 |
| 2.3 | Establish baseline of promenade emissions and consider pilot of traffic-free days during Blackpool Illuminations | Yes - 30 |
| 2.4a | Include business provision of EV chargepoints in EV strategy, and publicise opportunities for grants via Climate Action Partnership | Yes – 24 (develop Electric Vehicle strategy) |
| 2.4b | Include consideration of EV charging policy in the development of the EV strategy | |
| 2.5 | Undertake a review of evidence on Park and Ride schemes, including evaluation of summer 2021 scheme | Yes - 29 |
| 2.6 | Develop modal shift action plan, including exploration of all transport options | Yes - 25 |
| 3.2a | Undertake pilot work to quantify cost of delivering housing refurbishment to higher energy efficiency standard | Yes - 7 |
| 3.2b | Revise Asset Management Plan to account for need to address emissions | Yes - 22 |
| 3.4 | Link implementation of social value indicators directly to upskilling on environmental skills | Yes - 119 |
| 3.6 | If bid for government funding is successful, work with NW Skills Academy to ensure take-up of the low carbon training roles available | Yes – 76 (green job skills action plan) |
| 4.1 | Respond to provisions in the Environment Bill for the further rollout of recycling streams | Yes – 48 and 50 |
| 4.2a | Promote and support take-up of a sustainable tourism accreditation programme | Yes - 84 |
| 4.2b | Explore options to promote use of sustainable packaging and waste minimisation amongst retail businesses | Yes – 83 (benefits of circular economy) |
| 4.4 | Develop grassroots organisation/link to organisation to encourage donation of garden areas | Yes - 64 |
| 4.5 | Explore role of incentives in achieving positive change and map employer policies on volunteer days with a view to using them for environmental benefit | Yes - 124 |
| 5.1 | Work with schools and academies to increase the participation rate in the ecoschools initiative to 100%, and ensure that action plans all include actions to reduce carbon | Yes – 65 |
| 5.7 | Run taster session for schools on the Ecoschools initiative | |
| 6.1a | Seek interest in the community in setting up a new environmental organisation or group working across Blackpool | Yes – 71 (approach to community involvement) |

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| 6.1b | Set up an internal council/public sector staff group to bring interested parties together | Yes - 107 |
| 7.4 | Adopt pro-active stance on Blackpool's needs from environmental legislation, funding and action, raising local issues with government officials and ministers as necessary | Yes - 123 |
| 7.5 | Include remit of "encouraging and empowering" businesses, organisations and the community to act in the terms of reference of the Climate Action Partnership | Yes - 74 |
| 8.1 | Bid for funding to deliver environmental audits and support to follow up on the recommendations across Blackpool | Yes – 100 (explore all sources of funding) |