

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX55/2021
Relevant Officer:	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Jane Hugo, Cabinet member for Climate Change
Date of Meeting:	8 November 2021

BLACKPOOL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Blackpool Climate Action Plan in line with the Climate Emergency Declaration.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To recommend to the Council the Blackpool Climate Action Plan attached at Appendix 3a to the Executive report and request the Council and partners to act towards the implementation of its actions.

2.2 To note the monitoring agreements set out in page 19 of the action plan and summarised at paragraph of 6.6, and where relevant periodic update reports on progress or amendments to the Action Plan will be brought to the Executive.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure collaboration across key parties in the town on climate issues, and to deliver against the Council’s 2030 target for the organisation to become a net zero carbon emitter.

The Council at its meeting on 26 June 2019 declared a Climate Emergency so while the implementation of the action plan will be driven forward through the Council’s Executive and the Council’s Scrutiny processes, the action plan should be actively endorsed by the Council hence the Executive’s recommendation to Council. Once approved it will form part of the Executive policy framework.

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 Not to approve the action plan and associated monitoring processes. This would make it less likely to achieve the 2030 deadline.
- 4.2 To amend the action plan. The action plan will be a live document, reviewed by the Climate Emergency Steering Group and Climate Action Partnership at their meetings, with actions added and removed in line with the overall carbon reduction target.

5.0 Council priority:

- 5.1 The subject area cuts across both of the Councils' priorities:
- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
 - "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Climate Emergency Declaration passed unanimously at a meeting of Full Council in June 2019, committed the council to making its operations "net zero" (i.e. that the total amount of carbon emissions generated is equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere), and to "work towards" the same timescale as a town. This action plan addresses both of these goals. Since the declaration, the council has been establishing internal processes to reduce carbon emissions systematically, whilst delivering projects already focused on this issue. The Climate Emergency Action Plan attached at Appendix 3a to the Executive report focuses on activity that will address the need to reduce carbon emissions across emission "scopes" 1, 2 and 3. It therefore covers direct emissions (from burning fuel), indirect emissions from energy (where purchased energy comes from carbon-burning sources) and other indirect emissions (the emissions caused by our supply chain).

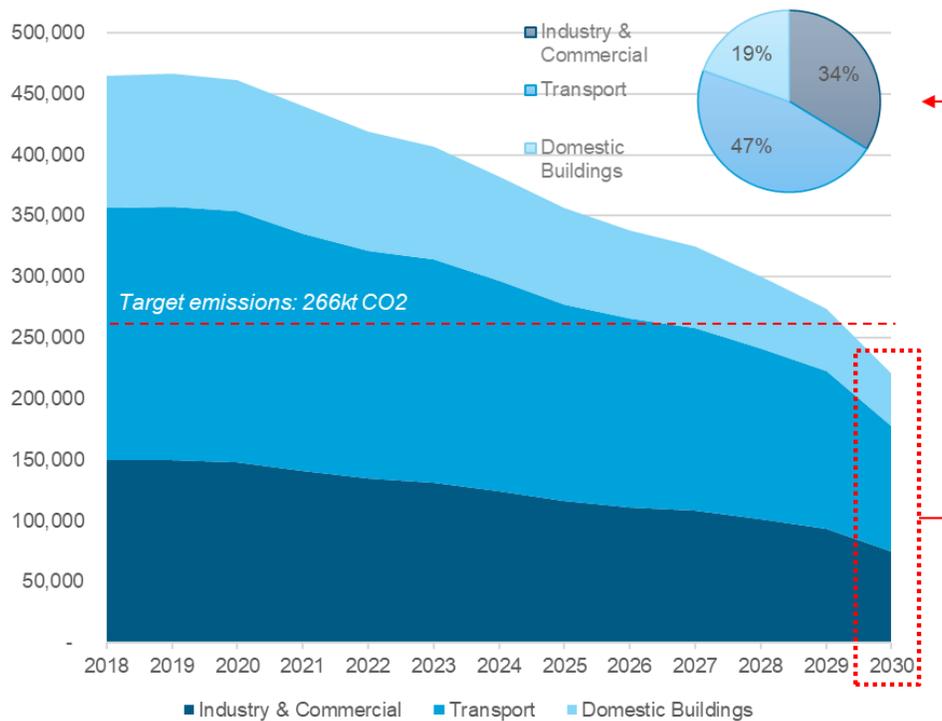
6.2 The action plan is based on information from a number of sources:

- The recommendations of the Blackpool Climate Assembly held earlier this year, which invited a random selection of residents to discuss the issues. On applying, residents were then selected by the independent organisation Sortition Foundation to ensure the Assembly was representative of the town demographically, learning about the issues before making their recommendations (Appendix 3b to the Executive report);
- A workshop held with the internal Climate Emergency Steering Group, which includes representatives from the council's wholly-owned companies;
- A review of best practice action plans and approaches adopted by other leading authorities, and recommendations of industry bodies such as the Local Government Association and Local Government Information Unit;

- The “Lancashire Net Zero Pathways Options Study” jointly commissioned by the council with Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council, which sought to produce a “routemap” to net zero based on current information and national policy. At the time of writing, this report was in draft form prior to approval.

It is also informed by an Equality Analysis (Appendix 3c to the Executive report) and the views of the public, gathered via a consultation exercise (see Appendix 3d to the Executive report and section 11 below).

6.3 The Action Plan paves the way to achieving Council’s goal of net zero emissions by 2030, and will incorporate further actions as more data becomes available to ensure this goal is achieved. It also sets out the way in which the council will work towards net zero by 2030 across the town. The conclusion of the Pathways Options Study (see 6.2) is that, in common with all of the Lancashire districts and Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool cannot achieve net zero by 2030. The maximum possible reduction in carbon emissions of 68% across Lancashire by 2030 requires an investment of around £14 billion. The graph below shows the reduction in the proportion of emissions by source in Blackpool if the maximum feasible intervention was made. Even with central government funding and council investment on a scale not seen in the post war period other than the covid pandemic response, large amounts of funding from other sources in excess of the provisions made in the government’s net zero strategy announced in October 2021 would still be required to achieve this target. The same report suggests a 78% reduction in emissions is theoretically possible by 2035, based on an acceleration of the work started to meet the 2030 target. The attached action plan is therefore based on the 68% reduction figure, which would give Blackpool the best possible chance of achieving the UK100’s “net zero pledge” of meeting the target by 2045. Should the policy and funding environment change, we will consider this and incorporate any additional actions possible in future revisions to the action plan.



- 6.4 Bringing these sources of information together has resulted in an action plan that is both science-led, but also based on the views of the community, particularly around the need to deliver a “just transition” which enables those experiencing higher levels of deprivation not to experience disproportionate impacts from the changes needed. As such, it is a balance between actions that will have a direct impact on the issue, and actions which have wider benefits for the environment, in many cases linking to the “ecological emergency” which some organisations have declared.
- 6.5 A further key piece of work with the Carbon Trust to produce a routemap to net zero for the council has been delayed due to issues with data collection. Whilst most of the likely recommendations are covered in this action plan, we will revisit the plan on conclusion of the work. Although a 2030 target for the Council to go net zero is challenging, it is achievable, and the actions identified will reflect this. An internal audit exercise due to commence on completion of the Carbon Trust work will ensure that quality data is available in future.
- 6.6 Given the rapidly-evolving nature of the science and government policy in this area, the plan is intended to be dynamic, and will be reviewed and updated by the Climate Emergency Steering Group and the forthcoming Climate Action Partnership at their meetings. Performance reporting on Council progress will be to the Energy and Utilities Group and the Climate Emergency Steering Group, with progress on Town-level indicators monitored by the Blackpool Climate Action Partnership.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 **List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 3a: Climate Emergency Action Plan

Appendix 3b: Response to Climate Assembly recommendations

Appendix 3c: Equality Analysis

Appendix 3d: Summary of Climate Emergency Action Plan consultation

8.0 **Financial considerations:**

8.1 Delivering significant progress against the climate emergency target will have substantial financial implications for the council. The Medium Term Financial Sustainability Strategy review will ensure the revised document builds in consideration of funding sources. The role and funding for local authorities on this agenda outlined in the government's net zero strategy does not result in any additional resource to deliver any earlier than the government's stated target of 2050. The council will therefore need to explore what is achievable within the resources available, as well as alternative funding options. Other than staffing, there are no core resources to deliver this agenda and consideration will need to be given to establishing a corporate budget for facilitating progress. For example, Plymouth have identified £250k to support delivery; Bristol £4m. This is included as an action in the plan.

9.0 **Legal considerations:**

9.1 No immediate implications.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 No immediate implications, but further consideration needs to be given to dealing with the adverse impacts of a changing climate as part of our work on mitigation.

11.0 **Equalities considerations:**

11.1 The Council needs to ensure a "just transition" which accounts for all groups with protected characteristics and accounts for household income. An equality analysis is attached (Appendix 3c to the Executive report).

12.0 **Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 Covered in the report and action plan.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 In addition to the input of the internal Climate Emergency Steering Group and the Climate Assembly, information sessions have been held with prospective members of the Climate Action Partnership. The Action Plan has been subjected to public consultation, with full findings detailed in Appendix 3d to the Executive report. The majority of respondents supported the broad direction of the action plan, meaning that no significant changes have been made to the plan. The comments and suggestions made will be further considered by the Climate Emergency Steering Group and Climate Action Partnership with a view to identifying additional activity to be incorporated into the action plan. Following discussions with Senior Council Officers, some of the timescales for actions outlined in the draft action plan have been amended and activity supporting the actions will be strengthened further via a series of internal discussions.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 17/2021

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

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

16.0 Call-in information:

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

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: N/A Date approved: N/A

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1 Scott Butterfield, Strategy, Policy and Research Manager presented the report to the Executive. He highlighted that the action plan produced sufficient plans to address the key aim of the Council's 2030 target for the organisation to become a net zero carbon emitter (a 68% reduction in emissions) and was intended to deliver this transition in a just and proportionate manner. The Executive noted that action plan would be a living document and would be revised as funding and policy from central government changed. The Executive also noted that the approval of the action plan formed a key part of the Council's response to the Peer Challenge (EX55/2021).

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To recommend to the Council the Blackpool Climate Action Plan attached at Appendix 3a to the Executive report and request the Council and partners to act towards the implementation of its actions.
2. To note the monitoring agreements set out in page 19 of the action plan and summarised at paragraph of 6.6, and where relevant periodic update reports on progress or amendments to the Action Plan will be brought to the Executive.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 8 November 2021

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 To ensure collaboration across key parties in the town on climate issues, and to deliver against the Council's 2030 target for the organisation to become a net zero carbon emitter.

The Council at its meeting on 26 June 2019 declared a Climate Emergency so while the implementation of the action plan will be driven forward through the Council's Executive and the Council's Scrutiny processes, the action plan should be actively endorsed by the Council hence the Executive's recommendation to Council. Once approved it will form part of the Executive policy framework.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 9 November 2021

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1 The Executive rejected the option of not approving the action plan and associated monitoring processes as this would make it less likely to achieve the 2030 deadline.

The Executive did not agree to amend the action plan but noted that the action plan will be a live document, reviewed by the Climate Emergency Steering Group and Climate Action Partnership at their meetings, with actions added and removed in line with the overall carbon reduction target.

25.0 Executive Members in attendance:

25.1 Councillor L Williams

Councillor Benson, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo, Smith and Taylor.

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1 The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter.