

CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



DATE	14th February 2022
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance
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PURPOSE

1. To seek approval for a number of initiatives that will support and advance the Council's priority to address the issues of climate change across its work programme and in partnership with stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Members approve the Climate Change Strategy 2022 - 2026 (appendix 1).
3. That Members approve the introduction of a Climate Change Programme Manager subject to Full Council approval of the budget provision.
4. That Members authorise the Chief Operating Officer to apply for Carbon Literacy Accreditation for the Council.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

5. To ensure that the Council has sufficient resources, skills and knowledge in place to effectively address the issues of climate change through their work programme, and promote and facilitate climate change action through their partnerships and sphere of influence.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Background

6. In July 2019 Burnley Council declared a climate emergency.
7. The Council has recognised and sought to address the issue of climate change in recent years through a number of its previous plans and strategies, but in declaring a climate emergency has sought to highlight the importance and urgency of this issue and ensure it

is doing everything practically possible to limit Burnley's contribution to global climate change and adapt to its effects.

The Strategy

8. In order to communicate our role as community leaders and state our intentions clearly it is considered necessary to have a published strategy that draws together in one place all the work that the Council is doing, and intends to do, to tackle the issues.
9. To achieve this a strategy has been prepared that is based on 7 core themes to present a coherent structure under which we can present and develop our priority work programme.

The 7 core themes are,

1. Vehicle Emissions
 2. Emissions from the occupation and use of buildings
 3. Emissions from the use and manufacture of products and materials
 4. Renewable energy
 5. Enhancing the natural environment
 6. Flood risk
 7. Communication and stakeholder engagement
10. Importantly the document includes a comprehensive action plan that sets out the specific actions the Council will undertake independently, and with our partners, to realise the ambitions of the strategy. On the same agenda as this report the Executive Committee are also recommended to approve an Electronic Vehicle Charging Strategy, and a bid for infrastructure funding, which together with the recommendations in this report form part of the Council's wider approach to addressing the issues of climate change. These decisions will ensure that we continue to prepare the Council and the Borough to maximise the opportunities for action and embed this action throughout our work programmes.
 11. The strategy is not intended as a static statement of intention but rather an organic and dynamic narrative that will develop over the life of the strategy and beyond. It is recognised that to address the issues of climate change it is necessary to continually reassess actions and priorities as the organisations knowledge, skills and understanding improves. The proposed Capital budget for 2022/23 includes £159k for Carbon Reduction Measures that will support the implementation and development of the Climate Change Strategy. It will help the Council progress ambitious schemes such as improving the EPC rating of the properties we return into use through our empty homes programme to a B, in line with the average new build house. Further work is planned to identify the best initiatives to benefit from this funding.
 12. The action plan will be monitored through the Sustainability Working Group consisting of senior officers from the Council and our strategic partners. A formal review of the action plan will be carried out every 12 months to monitor progress and adapt and revise the priority actions. The revised action plan and progress report will be presented to Scrutiny Committee and approved by the Executive.

Stakeholder engagement

13. Central to the implementation of the strategy is ongoing and meaningful engagement with our partners and stakeholders. This will inform the continual development of the strategy to ensure we maximise its relevance and impact. It is clearly understood that the Council can not act alone to address the issues of climate change and that the actions and solutions cut right across the entire spectrum of society. It is also acknowledged that engagement with young people will be crucial to developing a sustained programme of action for change and this will be a key strand of the strategies development.

Climate Change Programme Manager

14. To support the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy it is proposed to appoint a full time Climate Change Programme Manager. This post will provide a valuable resource to support the delivery of carbon reduction initiatives within the strategy and across the Council's own operations. It will also lead on engagement with stakeholders and help develop the strategy in to a cross cutting partnership document.
15. The post will sit within the Housing and Development Control Unit reporting to the Head of Service. The work programme of the post will also be monitored through the Sustainability Working Group chaired by the Chief Operating Officer.

Carbon Literacy Accreditation

16. The Carbon Literacy Project is a registered charity and was established in Manchester and aims to deliver awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual community and organisational basis. It also communicates and demonstrates why it's important that we all take these steps and that the actions of individuals communities and organisations can and do make a difference.
17. The Carbon Literacy Organisation accreditation supports the development of a Carbon Literate workforce. There are four tiers of accreditation: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, each demonstrating a higher level of commitment and achievement.
18. In order to be eligible to apply to become a Carbon Literacy Organisation, individuals across the organisation need to successfully complete a day's worth of approved Carbon Literacy learning. As part of the certification they are required to complete an action plan where they must commit to both a significant individual and group action to reduce their carbon footprint. Upon successful assessment, participants are awarded a certificate to evidence their Carbon Literacy and confirm that they have met the requirements of the Standard.
19. The level of accreditation is determined by the percentage of employees who have completed the training, integrating carbon literacy into performance indicators, visual promotion of carbon literacy and completion of case studies.
20. To support the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy and ensure that the key principles of addressing climate change are embedded within the organisation the Council is proposing to apply for Carbon Literacy Accreditation. This will support the development of a carbon literate workforce and ensure that the Council engages positively with our partners and wider community to develop and deliver low carbon behaviour.

21. The first step in this process is to introduce a programme of carbon literacy training for all Council employees, Members and the employees of our strategic partners to ensure that knowledge and understanding permeates throughout the organisations and across our diverse workstreams.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

22. There are no direct financial implications associated with the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy. Any resource implications that arise from the implementation of the action plan will be subject to separate independent approval as required.
23. The post of Climate Change Programme Manager has been assessed through the Job Evaluation process as a grade 11 post. The introduction of this post will require an annual budget of £46,525.
24. Applying for carbon literacy accreditation and training costs will be met from the Council's approved budget for climate change and the training budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

25. The introduction of a Climate Change Strategy will introduce a central resource that will facilitate our development, adaptation and monitoring of initiatives and inform our work to tackle the issues of climate change.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

26. As set out in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

27. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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