

## **Climate Change Scrutiny Review Group report**

The group consisted of the following members of the Scrutiny Committee: Councillors Gail Barton, Jamie McGowan, Joanne Broughton, Bill Horrocks, Martyn Hurt, Jack Launer, Helen Bridges, Syeda Kazmi, and Paul Reynolds.

The officers supporting the group were Claire Graham and Paul Gatrell.

The following topics were the main areas of discussion.

### **Climate Change Action Plan Prioritisation**

Members are keen that the Council focuses on agreed priorities for climate actions, after discussion they are satisfied this work is ongoing and the action plan is sufficiently robust to deal with prioritisation.

### **Electric bus funding – ZEBRA2**

There was discussion around transitioning buses to electric. Officers investigated ZEBRA2 funding that other Councils and bus companies have previously had success with, to consider the potential for Burnley.

It was determined that this funding would need to be applied for by Lancashire County Council and the bus companies interested in being involved.

Members and officers will follow up with Lancashire County Council about the ZEBRA2 funding application, and the potential for Burnley bus routes to be included if the bid is successful.

### **Electric/ hybrid taxis**

There was a lot of discussion around assisting taxi drivers/ operators to transition to electric or hybrid taxis in a just and fair way. Officers reached out to the Energy Savings Trust who used to help Local Authorities deliver EV opinion surveys with the trade. Unfortunately, the Energy Savings Trust no longer offer the same extent of support in this area as they used to, however, they sent us the survey they used and are happy for the Council to deliver these ourselves.

These survey questions were sent to the Taxi Task Group for further discussion and possible dissemination amongst taxi drivers/operators.

This action has been left with the Taxi Working Group members to monitor.

### **Homeworking action**

Members would like the action 'Facilitate hybrid working for council staff' with the output 'Monitor and record the percentage of time employees are working from home' to be reworded. The aim is to make clear that working from home was not implemented as a climate change action, but that climate change benefits and emissions reductions because of this may be a co-benefit.

A proposed change to the wording of this action would be: 'Facilitate hybrid working for council staff' with the output 'Monitor and record the percentage of time

employees are working from home. Monitor the impact this is having on Council's emissions as a potential co-benefit of hybrid working.'

### **Resources**

The group discussed the level of resources being put into the climate change agenda. After discussions, members were satisfied there were currently sufficient resources.

### **Conclusions**

Members concluded that they felt more certain of the climate change actions and the work being undertaken. There was overall interest in the climate change agenda and the need to drive forward actions.