

Road Map to Net Zero

EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Housing and Development Control
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PURPOSE

1. To enable the Council to meet its aim of minimising the carbon impact of its business operations.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Members approve the Road Map to Net Zero Report as a working document to be reviewed and updated periodically (Appendix A & B).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure Members have access to relevant information to assist them to prioritise actions and resources to minimise the carbon impact of the Council's business operations.
4. To enable Members to plan the Council's Road Map to Net Zero.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

The Context

5. The Road Map to Net Zero report (Appendix A) has been produced to allow informed decision-making around the order in which the Council can take climate action and achieve net zero at the earliest possible date. The document will outline potential costs and timeframes for each action, allowing priorities to be established and a realistic and appropriate timeline to be set. The document will allow the Council to work through climate actions over time, with costs spread out between now and 2050. This will allow for strategic planning and prioritisation within appropriate timescales and resources.

6. A snapshot image of the Road Map to Net Zero (Appendix B) has also been produced to allow a quick but informative outline of the Council's plans for reaching net zero, demonstrating the priorities for the Council in 5-year brackets between now and 2050.
7. The documents will also allow for a comparison of options where a climate action may have more than one possible route. For example, different costs and timeframes for decarbonising buildings, different options for green energy tariffs, or different options for moving to a green fleet (electric, hydrogen, biodiesel).
8. The Council has achieved some significant strides in taking climate action and this roadmap will support a wider suite of documents, including the Climate Change Strategy, the Council's Carbon Budget and Annual Action Plan Updates.

Since the Climate Emergency was declared in 2019, the Council have been hard at work implementing climate change actions including the continued roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on all existing council car parks in the town centre and at other facilities. This included a successful funding bid to On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) to deliver 21 fast charge points at 8 car park locations. Between April 2022 and April 2023, Burnley saw a 17.2% increase in chargers of all speeds increasing from 29 to 34, and a 37.5% increase in rapid chargers, increasing from 8 to 11. The Council also continues to work with Lancashire County Council to explore opportunities for the provision of electric charging infrastructure on the borough's highways.

A partnership between Burnley Leisure and Culture and the Council has helped to secure funding through Trees for Cities, enabling the Council to plant 7,500 trees across the borough during the tree planting season between November 2023 and March 2024. Green spaces are also actively identifying areas of frequently mown grass that can be managed as annual cut meadow, reducing CO2 costs and increasing biodiversity, with more than 60 ha now managed as meadows.

The Council has achieved the Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation award and are in the process of reaching Silver through the roll out of internal training, with the aim of engaging all staff with carbon literacy and encouraging increased climate action.

The Council has also worked to establish their carbon budget to monitor their direct and indirect emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) and to plan reduction targets and actions necessary to reach net zero. As a result of this, the Council have committed to a net zero target of 2050 at the latest, and remain committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. The carbon budget involves collating the Council's energy, water, fleet and business travel data (additional scope 3 data will be incorporated over time) and allows the largest areas of emissions to be identified, and plans for emissions reductions to be determined. This has supported and fed into the production of this Roadmap to Net Zero.

A Council Document

9. The Road Map to Net Zero has been prepared specifically for Council operations, it is not intended to cover the wider works necessary for Burnley as a borough to reach net zero. Working with wider partners and across sectors does however form part of the Council's climate action. We are currently developing a communications plan and have established a working group with external organisations across the borough to discuss wider issues

and share best practice. The Council also plays an active role in the Lancashire-wide climate change agenda, with regular engagement through the Lancashire Climate Change Officers Group.

Purpose of the Road Map

10. The document presents a series of actions that officers have worked up into component parts and costs, to produce a list of actions that can be structured chronologically and within budget priorities to achieve the Council's road map to net zero. The document can also be used to inform a decision about the possibility of bringing forward the Council's net zero target if realistic, including budget considerations and efficient use of Council resources to have a maximum impact on carbon reduction. The timeline of actions will also need to consider available and developing technologies.
11. The document will naturally have certain gaps and limitations due to the current information available but is intended to give a clear view of the current options available to the Council, and the options expected to become available over the coming years. It is intended that the document will be reviewed and updated periodically, to take into consideration new technologies and future funding opportunities.
12. The document also sets out some of the challenges and limitations around each climate action. For example, the Council's operational properties such as the Town Hall are old, historic listed buildings, and they bring with them particular challenges in terms of carbon reductions and reaching net zero emissions. There are several low and zero carbon technologies that can be used to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency in listed buildings but before implementing any of these technologies, it will be necessary to consider whether they are suitable for the particular building and its use, what the carbon reduction benefits are, if the potential savings exceed the whole-life energy costs and whether the system can be fitted safely without significantly impacting the building and its historic fabric.
13. The production of Heat Decarbonisation Plans (expected February 2024) will allow this area of the report to be expanded on in more detail.

Conclusion

14. Overall these documents will allow the Council to make informed decisions for achieving net zero at the earliest possible date, and in the most cost effective way. These documents are expected to evolve over time, taking into account new technologies, research, and external funding opportunities.
15. The Council's Road Map to Net Zero form part of a suite of documents that include the Climate Change Strategy, the Annual Action Plan and the Council's Carbon Budget. In line with the Council's Annual Action Plan and Carbon Budget it is expected that officers, working with Members, will carry out an annual review of the Road Map to Net Zero and publish an updated document each year

16. There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no direct policy implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

18. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

19. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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