

# Minutes of Climate Change Working Group

Meeting Date: Thursday, 1 February 2024, starting at 3.00 pm  
Present: Councillor D Birtwhistle (Chair)

Councillors:

J Alcock	S Fletcher
S Atkinson	G McCrum
L Edge	A Wilkins-Odudu

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, and Principal Policy and Performance Officer.

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor G Hibbert.

## 2 UPDATE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The working group reviewed and approved the updated Terms of Reference for the Climate Change Working Group subject to slight amendments.

## 3 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last working group meeting of 21 November 2023 were approved as a correct record. Councillor S Atkinson highlighted that a lengthy discussion took place regarding suitable wording for a climate change declaration, which wasn't reflected in the minutes, however the group agreed that this would be covered under the agenda of this meeting.

## 4 ACTIONS ARISING AND UPDATES SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Director of Community Services reported the six actions arising from the last meeting and provided Members with updates. The group discussed the actions as follows:

**Action 1 – Declaring a Climate Change Emergency.** A note had been produced and would be discussed later on the agenda.

**Action 2 – Community Services report on the HVO Feasibility Study.** The Director of Community Services presented a report to Community Services Committee in January 2024. A further, more detailed report had been requested by the committee for its March meeting.

**Action 3 – Minimising Waste Streams.** The Director of Community Services updated the group in regard to ongoing work to assess the changes that would be required. Discussions were taking place with suppliers, LCC, DEFRA and other Lancashire Districts. An update would be provided to Community Services Committee in March.

**Action 4 – Council Offices Solar Panels.** A briefing note was circulated. A report would be submitted to Policy and Finance Committee in April seeking approval for the works to go ahead.

**Action 5 – Climate Action Group Scorecards.** The Principal Policy & Performance Officer had cross referenced the themes and scores included in the Climate Emergency UK Scorecards and included them in the Climate Change Action Plan.

**Action 6 – Draft Climate Change Action Plan –** A draft action plan had been developed for discussion by the Working Group as part of the agenda.

Councillor S Fletcher left the meeting.

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## DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The group were asked to consider and recommend a draft action plan for approval by Economic Development Committee. The group worked through the action plan and discussed the following:

- Climate Training for staff
- Appointment of an officer with overall responsibility for RVBC Climate Change
- Collaboration with LCC (LEVI Funding) and local businesses for installation of EV chargers
- Review of the Councils Procurement Policy - procuring local businesses to reduce carbon footprint
- e-bike charging
- Home improvement grant schemes and support
- Sharing energy efficiency information with recipients of planning permission
- Providing information to the public
- Request for RVBC to join LANCSCan and Ribble Valley Climate Action Network (RVCAN)
- Link to supporting the farming Community

**Action – consider the inclusion of feedback and progress from the last action plan and add a high/medium/low impact rating to the listed actions.**

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## MAKING A CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION

The group were asked to consider suggested wording in regard to the Council's Climate Change Declaration.

The group recognised the importance of reaching an agreed wording which represented the views of the wider membership of the Council. Suggestions were made to include scientific information on the challenges being faced and the changes being made in response.

**Action: Making a Climate Change Declaration to be discussed further at the next Working Group meeting.**

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## DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged in March 2024.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, [committee.services@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@ribblevalley.gov.uk).