

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – meeting 27.01.2020

PRESENT:

Cllr S Atkinson	John Heap
Cllr J Clark	Michelle Haworth
Cllr S Bibby	Olwen Heap
Cllr D Berryman	
Cllr A Knox	
Cllr S Fletcher	
Cllr R Thompson	

APOLOGIES: received from Marshal Scott

It was agreed that Cllr Judith Clark should chair the meetings of the working group. Each member gave a short precis of any experience in the climate change field they felt relevant to the working group/

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference as agreed by Policy & Finance committee were outlined to the group

“To consider how the Council is meeting the challenge of climate change, both in relation to how the Council provides its own services and how it provides wider support to the community in their efforts to tackle climate change, and to report the findings to Policy & Finance committee”.

This statement allows for consideration of where the Council is now although it doesn't make any reference to the Corporate Strategy. When reporting to Policy & Finance it was felt that

ACTION: the working group should be able to make specific recommendations.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH - REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

RVBC is at the bottom of the ratings when compared to other similar authorities. The working group must look specifically at RVBC.

Discussion ensued around insulation in housing and commercial buildings and the changes made to Building Regulations that means all new build are much improved. Private rentals are an unknown quantity although landlords are required to produce an energy performance certificate. However, the traditional stone-built property in RV cannot have cavity wall insulation. Listed building / conservation area rules also has an effect on including energy conservation measures. This is based on National guidance, not primary legislation so there may be scope to review our policies. Also, as part of the Core Strategy review there may be scope to consider a lot of the issues in the Friends of the Earth report.

Consideration would need to be given to the Action Plan relating specifically to RV and whether the actions fall under the remit of the Council. It may be that the Council could lead by example and use positive publicity to encourage others to follow suit.

Another area to consider would be that of procurement by supporting those businesses that can show and demonstrate they are environmentally sustainable. Although this is often done on a practical basis it is not written in the form of a statement in Policy.

It is important that desirable outcomes are both possible and deliverable and need to be considered and evaluated as to whether they will work. Eg new licences for hackney carriage / private hire vehicles only be issued to electric / hydrogen cars.

ACTION: Invite Trading Standards to attend a meeting of the working group and/or provide a report on energy performance measures taken by private landlords in Ribble Valley.

ACTION: Ask the Head of Regeneration & Housing to attend a meeting of the working group to inform what scope / flexibility can be included in the review of the Core Strategy

ACTION: Each Councillor to look at their own ward and provide feedback

ACTION: Michelle to check what action the Councils at the top of the Friends of the Earth ratings are taking to see if there are any that we could be doing relatively easily.

ACTION: Each member of the working group to consider the Action Plan and feedback views at the next meeting

ACTION: Michelle to circulate feedback from Heads of Service and CMT on the Action Plan once it has been considered.

ACTION: Publicise good practice by way of example using the Council's high profile.

ACTION: Examine the Council's Procurement Policy

ACTION: Examine if policy could be changed around licencing of hackney / private hire vehicles.

ACTION: Michelle to circulate a list of benchmark councils so that working group members can look for educational material

ACTION: Michelle to circulate the following documents to the working group for their information

- Carbon Trust – Saving Energy in Local Authority Buildings
- Friends of Earth Actions for Councils
- LGA Councillors work book

ASSESSING THE COUNCIL'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

One Carbon World are a worldwide resource partner with the UN programme for Climate Neutral Now initiative and are recognised for offering advice and support on measuring and reducing green house gas emissions. To achieve full Carbon Neutral Gold status costs £3000. There is an 80% grant of £2400 with a contribution of £600 from the local authority. They are a nationally recognised accredited organisation.

Data including utility bills, car mileage information etc would have to be provided to establish our baseline for which staffing resources would be required. They would then produce a report.

Lancashire CE's and Leaders are currently giving consideration to all Lancashire authorities taking advantage of this offer.

Michelle also reported upon Scatter, a greenhouse gas reporting tool website that supports local authorities once they have got their carbon footprint by using a model to show the impact of potential changes on the footprint.

ACTION: Agree to ask Policy & Finance committee for the budget to get this study carried out by One Carbon World.

UPDATE ON MEETINGS

Cumbria & Lancashire: Climate Emergency – Towards Net Zero – A Learning Event on 10 January 2020. Michelle had attended this meeting where a good mix of university professors, public health and local authorities had been in attendance and presenting. Michelle had now maintained contacts with officers at Blackpool and Blackburn.

Responding to Climate Emergency – event on 30 January 2020. Alex Shutt (Countryside Officer) will attend as there is a particular emphasis on trees.

Cllr Thompson informed the group that engagement is already happening with the Huntroyde Estate with regard to tree planting and with the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership with regard to peat wetland restoration.

ACTION: Cllr Judith Clark will attend the event on 30 January on behalf of the working group and report back.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson will get a costing for the peat wetland restoration on Pendle Hill and report back.

A PUBLIC CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

After some deliberation and acknowledging that whatever we say as a Council there will be issues from residents and/or pressure groups a statement was agreed.

The working group has to remember that the Council has to consider other competing priorities and objectives as well.

We may be able to make use of the existing citizens panel to get feedback as well as allowing organisations/persons to exercise their right to speak at meetings to voice their concerns and ideas.

ACTION: Engage with the existing citizens panel for feedback

ACTION: Put the following on the Council website as a public statement

“The Council recognises the many challenges of climate change and has therefore set up a working group that is currently evaluating and analysing the role the Council can play”

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the meetings would be monthly. The next one was scheduled for **10am on Monday 2 March 2020.**

The meeting closed at 11.55am,