

Allerdale Borough Council

Executive – 22 June 2022

Climate Change Action Plan update

Portfolio holder	Councillor Marion Fitzgerald - Policy, Governance and People Resources Portfolio
Report from	Climate Change Advisory Group - Cllr Sally Lansbury, Chair
Wards affected	All
Is this a key decision	Yes

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 The Climate Change Action Plan as agreed by Executive on 21 April 2021 has now been updated.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Executive note the progress being made and the updates proposed to the Action Plan to Address Climate Change as presented at Appendix A.
- 2.2 That Executive approves the objectives and targets identified for 2022/23 as presented at Appendix B.
- 2.3 That Executive approves that minor changes can be agreed by the Climate Change Advisory Group in consultation with the Portfolio Holder before the next annual update; any major changes will be submitted to Executive for approval.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 At its 4 March 2020 meeting Council agreed that a Climate Change Group be established to further develop the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and work on its implementation. It was agreed that the Climate Change Group would have responsibility for publishing an annual progress report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and that any future updates should be approved by Executive.
- 3.2 The current members of the Climate Change Advisory Group are: Councillor Sally Lansbury (Chair), Councillor Allan Daniels, Councillor Janet Farebrother, Councillor

Marion Fitzgerald, Councillor Elaine Lynch and Councillor Alan Tyson. Councillor Andrew Semple will shortly be joining the Group.

3.3 The CCAP is presented annually to Executive and to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.3 The CCAP is structured to shadow the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) programme areas:

- Economy Skills and Infrastructure
- Refitting Homes and Buildings
- Decarbonisation of Transport
- Planning to develop Zero Carbon development
- Reducing Waste and encouraging sustainable consumption
- Restoring nature for all and improving biodiversity (also referred to as LULUCF)
- Funding, Governance and Accounting

3.4 The Climate Change Advisory Group has a small budget to support its work. In 2021/22 £10.9k was allocated (in partnership with Cumbria Action for Sustainability) to support community group projects with their carbon reduction ambitions and around £4,000 to training of officers and elected members in Climate Science and Solutions (around 60 people to date). The training courses have been well received by both officers and members and more sessions are planned to take place in 2022/23.

4.0 Progress, key achievements and areas for improvement

4.1 The Group has achieved the immediate priorities established at Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2021. These and other areas of progress include:

- Continuous improvements to Allerdale Borough Council's website. The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have been published for some time. There are regular updates on waste and recycling – most recently the updates to bulky waste advice and waste advice promotions that link in with the Recycle Cumbria campaigns.
- Establishing a regular schedule of meetings with internal and external stakeholders – Cumbria Green Investment Plan, Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Planning Team, Waste Team, Procurement Team, REBUILD initiative, Sustainable Keswick and Climate Emergency West Cumbria groups;
- Establishing a prioritised activity programme, split into work areas that link to the ADEPT and LGA framework;
- Regular presentations from external stakeholders and meetings of this cross party group to ensure that the work programme is delivered;
- Climate Literacy Training – delivered to around 60 officers and members, this has had an impact on individuals and teams;

- Work by the procurement team, in particular, following the climate literacy training to further embed climate considerations into the Council's policy and procedures around procurement including training to support officers;
- Work with CAfS to develop a grants scheme for Allerdale community groups seeking to reduce their energy emissions and make environmental improvements;
- We have a communications strategy supported by the Communications team and an environmental newsletter with 3000+ subscribers.
- We have prepared robust consultation responses for:
 - Transport For the North Decarbonisation Strategy
 - Cumbria Transport Infrastructure Plan
 - Community Resilience Strategy
 - Cumbria Green Investment Plan
 - Workington Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Tree planting and meadow creation in our communities is moving on a pace and we will continue to influence that through our parish councils and community groups;
- We have created communications networks with Electricity North West (ENW), Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP), Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership (ZCCP), CAfS, town and parish councils and community groups.

4.2 The Council is top of the league of Cumbrian local authorities in terms of the information available to the public regarding its Climate Change Action Plan. (Source: Climate Emergency UK, January 2022). This achievement was reported widely in local and national media – we see this assessment as a good result – and an opportunity for further improvement.

4.3 The Group has also identified a number of areas for improvement:

- Whilst our engagement with community groups and parish councils is good, there are some gaps - we have not fully achieved our aims of engaging with schools or the farming community, although our partner organisation ZCCP is now starting to develop these links.
- Engagement with many Council officers is strong, however, not everyone is involved and engaged at the same level – climate change action should run through all department's policy, strategy and activity if we are to achieve our aims. It is positive that climate change considerations appear at the heart of the local government reorganisation programme as a cross cutting theme.
- Communication of the work programme could be improved – we intend to bolster our messages through further bulletins from the Communications team.
- Pathways need to be found, in order to address the climate impacts of corporate finance, investments, governance and accounting. This may involve reviewing where funds are held, but also municipal bonds and support for Community Interest Companies as a means of raising finance for new industry and projects that reduce emissions and wasted energy.

5.0 Key updates to the Climate Change Action Plan

5.1 Some updates have been made to the CCAP presented at Appendix A. In the main these are updates to the narrative sections of the CCAP, some minor changes have also been made to the actions to mark a few activities as complete and show the progress being made in other areas. In updating the CCAP the Climate Change Advisory Group have:

- included updated information from the IPCC and the recommendations from COP 26;
- reviewed the assessment from Climate Emergency UK and feedback from members, stakeholders and officers and edited some narrative within the document in line with new science and vocabulary;
- reviewed the action plans from other Cumbria local authorities;
- introduced a co-benefits section linking to example scenarios;
- considered the recommendations of the Copeland and Kendal Citizens Panels;
- added an additional appendix to show linkages across key council policies and strategies which incorporate climate positive action and the route to net zero emissions for Cumbria.

6.0 Priorities and opportunities for 2022/23

5.1 The Group has recognised a need to draw out a number of objectives and actions from the overall CCAP to ensure that there is focussed activity during 2022/23 and a clear statement of what the Council intends to achieve in its final year.

5.2 A set of objectives and targets for 2022/23 have been drawn up and are presented for approval at Appendix B. These will not be the only areas of activity for 2022/23, but will ensure that resources and capacity are focused on the achievement of some specific, achievable key activities.

5.3 The objectives and targets for 2022/23 cover all aspects of the CCAP and include working with partners on decarbonisation of transport, progressing decarbonisation of council buildings and operations, further work on waste and sustainability and biodiversity projects. Activity has also been identified that will support the transition to Cumberland Council.

5.4 Alongside the specific objectives and targets set out for 2022/23 work will continue to be progressed in a number of areas. In particular the CCAG will:

- Engage with partners on decarbonisation opportunities and developments such as the potential for hydrogen production and the future decarbonisation of the M6 corridor.
- Work with the ZCCP Local Authority Coordinating Officer, with Copeland Borough Council, Carlisle City Council and Cumbria County Council to align targets for 2023 and beyond to help the new authority develop a clear strategy moving forward.
- Engage with the Cumberland Shadow Authority to steer them towards banking and insurance companies that invest only in Climate Positive funds; committing to contracting only with renewable energy suppliers and ensuring that all

strategy and policy documents and HR specifications, include targets relating to Cumberland's targets to Net Zero by 2037.

- Support our planning and procurement teams to ensure they have portfolio holder and SMT support in introducing new policies and guidelines.
- Ensure there are continued improvements to website information on energy and residual waste via the ABC website and ancillary communications.
- Continue support for community groups to develop their own projects through the Community Climate Grants Scheme, in partnership with CAfS.
- Work with our farming community to ensure opportunities for Agri Forestry, Agri Volataics, and regenerative farming methods are developed. With new legislation and changed subsidies – there are climate positive actions that the farming community now have the opportunity to explore.

7.0 Delivery arrangements

- 7.1 The Climate Change Advisory Group will oversee the implementation of the plan by working with officers around each theme focusing on the detailed delivery.
- 7.2 Direct responsibility for delivery will be with the specific services.
- 7.3 The Climate Change Advisory Group is clear that the Council can only be responsible for its own actions and activities and all other aspects will need to be achieved through influence and partnership.

8.0 Implications and Impact

8.1 Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

The Climate Change Action Plan contributes directly to the Council Strategy. The action plan links strongly to the 'Cleaner, Greener Allerdale' theme within the Council Strategy, but also links to the Resilient Communities and Thriving Towns and Villages themes. More broadly the action plan also strongly supports the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy.

8.2 Finance/Resource implications

While there are cost implications within the plan, these are fundamentally around shifts in 'business as usual' approaches.

Specific projects will be individually costed once developed. Any proposals emerging from action planning that would require additional resources will be subject to the usual Council decision making processes.

Central government has a series of programmes to support local authorities to address the implementation of changes needed to meet its targets. It is likely that the Council will need to develop its preparedness to access these funds over the coming months.

8.3 Legal and governance implications

There are no legal or governance implications directly associated with this report. Government legislation and support to develop solutions to meet legislative requirements continue to be created and issued.

8.4 Risk analysis

Risk	Consequence	Controls required	Mitigated score
The Council does not achieve the aims of the plan.	Loss of public and government confidence in the Council.	Regular monitoring as part of the internal performance management process. Annual assessment of progress made available to stakeholders.	Low

8.5 Increasing satisfaction and service

The overall subject of climate change currently has a national and international prominence and there is clearly a strong interest locally from a number of groups and individuals in the activities the Council will pursue to achieve its goals.

8.6 Equality impacts

The Action Plan and the process of its development sought to involve a range of interested parties, and the comments received from the public include some which are more concerned to ensure specific groups are included in the Council's intended actions, for example bus users, young people, cyclists, and tourists. Equality impacts are considered in the development of individual projects and programmes.

8.7 Health and Safety impacts

There are no health and safety implications directly associated with this report.

8.8 Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

Achieving the ambitions of the action plan is intended to have long term positive benefits for all.

8.9 Environmental/sustainability impacts

Achieving the ambitions of the action plan will have long term positive benefits for sustainability and the environment.

8.10 Other significant implications

Achieving the ambitions of the action plan will contribute to achievement of the government targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

Appendices attached to this report

Appendix number	Title of appendix
Appendix A	Allerdale Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan March 2022 update
Appendix B	Climate Change Action Plan Targets 2022/23

Background documents available

Name of background document	Where it is available

Report author(s) and contact officer(s):

Cllr Sally Lansbury

Chair, Climate Change Advisory Group

sally.lansbury@allerdale.gov.uk

Alex FitzGerald

Strategic Advisor – Corporate

alex.fitzgerald@allerdale.gov.uk