

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Council**

**27 February 2020**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Change Update</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor Jean Todd - Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and Community Safety</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Mark Forrester - Head of Democratic &amp; Community Services</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Appendices Attached:**

**Appendix A - Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Framework**

- 1. Reason for the Report**
  - 1.1 To provide the Council with a progress report following the declaration of a climate emergency and to set out plans for 2020/21.
  
- 2. Recommendation**
  - 2.1 To note the actions taken to date.
  - 2.2 To approve the proposed actions set out in 7.6.1 to 7.6.7 below, subject to consideration by the Climate Change Working Group and relevant committees.
  
- 3. Executive Summary**
  - 3.1 On 15 October 2019, recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, High Peak Borough Council declared a climate emergency.
  - 3.2 Since the declaration of a climate emergency a number of 'enabling' actions have taken place.
  - 3.3 During 2020 there is a significant opportunity to ensure the Council's commitment to net zero CO2 emissions is embedded in key plans and policies which are due to be reviewed or developed.

- 3.4 The key proposed actions for 2020/21 include the following: Embedding climate change commitments within key policies and plans; securing data; providing training for staff; testing the feasibility of investment in green energy projects including EV charging points and carbon sequestration; working in partnership with other Councils and bodies; encouraging community level activity; encouraging staff to identify and take action to reduce Council CO2 emissions; supporting the Climate Change Working Group and the development of a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Aim 4: Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency.

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 To approve the proposed actions outlined within the report (Recommended).
- 5.2 To amend the proposed actions.
- 5.3 To take no action (Not recommended).

#### 6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications.

6.2 Workforce

No implications.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

No implications.

6.4 Financial Considerations

The measures proposed are within current budgets and there is sufficient flexibility within the financial management process to consider new proposals during the course of the year.

6.5 Legal

No implications.

6.6 Climate Change

The report sets out the approach to development of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

#### 6.7 Consultation

A number of interested community groups attended the Climate Change Summit in January 2020, contributing ideas and issues for consideration by the Council's working Group.

The Council has stated in line with the timeline agreed by the working group its intention to convene a Citizen Panel, or similar based on those principles, as part of the process of producing the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

#### 6.8 Risk Assessment

The expectations of the Council's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the Borough could far exceed the Council's current powers and resources.

The Council, as with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and many other Councils, is seeking to achieve carbon neutrality 20 years sooner than the current UK target date of 2050 – given the key role of Government policy this adds to the challenge.

When setting the Council's climate action plan, including CO2 reduction targets and trajectory, the Council will have to make some significant assumptions about the impact of future regulatory change and other Government policy interventions.

The Council has not had for some years a specialist officer dedicated to the climate change/sustainability agenda. In relation to specific projects the Council will need to access technical expertise. This could be addressed through partnership work with other authorities and tapping into Government supported initiatives.

**Mark Trillo**  
**Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

**Contact details**

Climate Change Working Group

## 7. Detail

- 7.1 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement commits the global community to take action to “hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”. Cumulative emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from human activity are the principal driver of long-term global warming. It is the relationship between CO<sub>2</sub> and global temperatures which means that staying within a given temperature threshold requires that only a certain total quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> is released to the atmosphere. This is the global carbon budget.
- 7.2 The UK Climate Change Act now legislates for a commitment to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with five yearly carbon budgets to set actions and review progress.
- 7.3 On 15 October 2019 recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, the responsibility our institutions, businesses and communities have to eliminate net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and also the need to take immediate measures to prepare for climate change impacts, High Peak Borough Council declared a climate emergency.
- 7.4 Based on analysis by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, High Peak’s ‘fair’ contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement would be to:
1. Stay within a maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 10.8 million tonnes (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) for the period of 2020 to 2100. At 2017 CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels, High Peak would use this entire budget within 6 years from 2020.
  2. Initiate an immediate programme of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging a minimum of -15.8% per year to deliver a Paris aligned carbon budget. These annual reductions in emissions require national and local action, and could be part of a wider collaboration with other local authorities.
  3. Reach zero or near zero carbon no later than 2038 as opposed to the target set within the motion to council of 2030.
- 7.5 Since the declaration of a climate emergency by the Council a number of ‘enabling’ actions have taken place:
- 7.5.1 Training: (1) Carbon literacy training delivered to councillors on 20 January 2020. (2) The Council negotiated an agreement with Keele University to provide training for staff.
- 7.5.2 Data: (1) The Council has access to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy estimates of carbon emissions by sector (2005 – 2017). Data is for every borough/district. (2) The Council has data for fleet vehicles, staff travel and energy supplies but further work is required before detailed analysis of this can take place.

7.5.3 Tools: The Council has access to: (1) Carbon budget tool - produced by the Tyndall Centre and funded by the government this tool identifies the Borough Carbon budget and CO2 reduction trajectory to align with the UK commitment. (2) SCATTER – a tool being developed to model locally the impact of policy measures by key sectors (business, transport, housing etc.). (3) A form has been created for the Modern Gov. report management system for managers to use to set out the climate change implications of all report recommendations.

7.5.4 Powers, blocks and enablers: All Heads of Service have contributed to an initial assessment of the powers the Council has, the opportunities, the blocks, the potential enablers and the potential for the Council to take action now to reduce greenhouse gases and respond to climate change. Some of the key issues identified as outlined in 7.6 below. It was noted that charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) are set to be installed at five locations across the High Peak by spring this year.

7.5.5 Partnership and Engagement: Meetings have been held and attended to lay the foundations for future partnership and joint work on climate change: (1) Derbyshire County Council has drafted a Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework (attached Appendix). (2) A Derbyshire Climate Change Officer Working Group has been established to support delivery through a partnership approach. (3) Zero Carbon Peak District National Park (PDNP) Climate Change Summit - 15 October 2019 and follow up by meeting PDNP officers to discuss working together. (4) The Climate Change Summit was held on 15 January 2020 for local community stakeholder groups and individuals. (5) Transition Town and other local community groups have engaged with the Council's work. (6) Derbyshire County Council are hosting a Tackling Climate Change Together event on 3 March 2020.

7.5.6 The first meeting of the Council's Climate Change Working Group was held 4 February 2020, with a further meeting to take place on 25 February 2020.

The meeting agreed an outline work programme and timetable which will be prioritised at the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>, with meetings to take place at least monthly.

7.6 During 2020 there is a significant opportunity to ensure the Council's commitment to net zero CO2 emissions is embedded in key plans and policies as they are reviewed or developed. The opportunities identified to date are:

7.6.1 The 10 year fleet replacement programme - this is an opportunity to plan the purchase of more fuel efficient vehicles with an ambition to use Electric Vehicles or non CO2 producing vehicles towards the end of that period.

- 7.6.2 Procurement strategy update – this is an opportunity to ensure products and services with zero or lowest greenhouse gas impacts are favoured in purchasing decisions.
- 7.6.3 Asset Management Strategy – this is an opportunity to consider measures to save energy costs when replacing plant or machinery, energy efficiency measures and possible investment in photovoltaics.
- 7.6.4 Energy: APO Framework – Total Gas and Power are the Council's current energy suppliers, at the end of the contract period there is an opportunity to consider switching to a green energy supplier.
- 7.6.5 AES parks management contract – an opportunity to include appropriate action to encourage biodiversity and resilience (e.g. by reducing mowing, encouraging wild flowers and trees).
- 7.6.6 Treasury Management Strategy – an opportunity to consider investments in green energy and other projects.
- 7.6.7 A new Facilities Management Contract – an opportunity to consider practices and products can reduce our CO2 footprint.
- 7.6.8 The Housing Stock conditions survey has identified a relatively low energy efficiency rating (SAP rating) for HPBC housing stock. There is the opportunity for a programme to be developed and considered in line with the priorities highlighted by the stock condition survey and tenants to further improve the energy efficiency in the Council's housing stock.
- 7.7 Proposed actions for 2020/21, which will also be considered as appropriate by the Climate Change Working Group and relevant committees:
- 7.7.1 Include the key opportunities (7.6 above) to address climate change and include them as part of the commitments in the Climate Change Plan for 2020/21.
- 7.7.2 Secure data on the Council's CO2 emissions – travel, buildings, operations and procurement – and use this to inform the Council's CO2 reduction targets and performance management.
- 7.7.3 Deliver staff training as required – priorities include training for key staff to be able to assess and report the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Council's operations, policies and plans in order to inform decision making.
- 7.7.4 Undertake investigative work and where possible feasibility testing of the most obvious large scale projects which a council might undertake, including:
- Green energy – the potential for Council investment in solar energy projects and wind farms.
  - EV charge points.

- Local offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions.

- 7.7.5 Continue to develop partnerships with other councils (specifically Derbyshire County Council) – seek to use common frameworks, tools (including the Tyndall Centre Carbon Budget tool) and the opportunity to share costs/expertise.
- 7.7.6 The Council's Heads of Service to encourage staff over the course of the year to identify and take practical actions to reduce CO2 emissions – by encouraging suggestions, investigating measures, sharing good practice across the organisation, flagging good ideas which require authorisation.
- 7.7.7 Encourage local community initiatives to tackle climate change with the aim of mobilising community support.
- 7.7.8 Support the work of the Council's Climate Change Working Group (including community engagement) and produce a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan within the timescale agreed at the Climate Change Working group to ensure required measures can be included within the budget for 2021/22.