

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Climate Change Working Group**

**29<sup>th</sup> September 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>None Specific</b>

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To provide a progress report following the first Climate Change Working Group meeting.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To discuss and note the actions taken to date.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 On 15th October 2019 recognising the serious threat posed by climate change High Peak Borough Council declared a climate emergency
- 3.2 The first meeting of the Council's Climate Change Working Group was held 4th February 2020 and the Council produced an interim plan for 2020/21 with the aim of producing a full plan for 2021/22. A point by point update is provided at 5.4 below.

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

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

**MARK TRILLO**  
**Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer**

**Web Links and  
Background Papers**

**Contact details**

**5. Detail**

- 5.1 On 15th October 2019 recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, the responsibility our institutions, businesses and communities have to eliminate net CO2 emissions and also the need to take immediate measures to prepare for climate change impacts, High Peak Borough Council declared a climate emergency.
- 5.2 The first meeting of the Council's Climate Change Working Group was held 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and the Council produced an interim plan for 2020/21 with the aim of producing a full plan for 2021/22.
- 5.3 The interim plan was based on the recognition that during 2020 there is a significant opportunity to ensure the Councils commitment to net zero CO2 emissions is embedded in key plans and policies as they are reviewed or developed. The plan included a series of proposed actions.
- 5.4 The Covid-19 pandemic has delayed progress on a number of actions:
- 5.4.1 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.**

Following an initial meeting with HPBC Officers the Energy Saving Trust has offered to review the Councils fleet, type and use of vehicles, travel distances and patterns, and advise on a transition. The data and information required is being compiled by AES and the Energy Saving Trust will start to analyse this in late September 2020.

- 5.4.2 Procurement strategy update – this is an opportunity to ensure products and services with zero or lowest greenhouse gas impacts are favoured in purchasing decisions.**

A consultation paper has been produced which outlines potential elements of a new procurement strategy including measures to reduce the councils greenhouse gas emissions (technically - scope 2 & 3 emissions). The paper will be available for discussion at the next Climate Change Working Group.

**5.4.3 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.**

When the stock condition work is completed the Asset Management Plan will be reviewed – Targeted for 2021.

**5.4.4 Energy: APO Framework – Total Gas and Power are our suppliers, at the end of the contract period there is an opportunity to consider switching to a green energy supplier.**

Considered as part of the procurement strategy (separate agenda item). The current electricity supply source mix includes 47% renewable and 9% nuclear.

**5.4.5 AES parks management contract – an opportunity to include appropriate action to encourage biodiversity and resilience (reduce mowing, encourage wild flowers and trees).**

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been engaged to provide advice and potentially to oversee a pilot programme in the management of council land in Staffordshire Moorlands with the aim of supporting nature recovery and biodiversity. The work is expected to provide learning for officers and policy development which will be transferrable to HPBC.

Some areas of land owned by HPBC are already managed by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, so we will also be calling on them to help us with biodiversity planning for instance with green corridors and areas of open space. We have also been approached by BCA Biodiversity Group who are also very keen to assist in this respect and other ecologists based in the High Peak. We could therefore form a sub-group to discuss this aspect.

**5.4.6 Treasury Management Strategy – an opportunity to consider investments in green energy and other projects.**

Work has begun to revise the Medium Term Financial Plan in the context of the Covid-19 impact. See 7.4.11 (below)

**5.4.7 A new Facilities Management Contract – an opportunity consider practices and products can reduce our CO2 footprint.**

Discussions have commenced with Norse Group to look at the options to achieve this aim.

**5.4.8 The Housing Stock conditions survey has identified a relatively low energy efficiency rating (SAP rating) for HPBC housing stock. Consider options for a programme to further improve energy efficiency in Council Housing.**

The Government launched the Local Authority Led - Green Homes Grant scheme in August. The LAEP discussion concluded that the partnership is not in a position to bid in round 1 (September 2020) but should look to make a bid in round 2. Funding for round 2 will be managed by the Midlands Energy Hub.

One of the key priorities as a result of the High Peak Borough Council Housing stock condition surveys was to improve energy ratings. Officers are undertaking preparatory work with the aim of bidding for funds under the scheme – this involves not just the EPC ratings but the type and cost of measures which would be needed for the various property types.

Funding must be targeted at the least energy efficient housing, those with an energy performance certificate rating of Band E, F or G. The Council has identified 157 properties in these energy rating bands. Funding must be targeted at households with a combined household annual low-income of no more than £30,000

Officers are also working with County colleagues to support the Green Home Grants that are available directly to individual households – preparing scripts for our customer service staff, website information and publicity.

#### **5.4.9 Secure data on the Council's CO2 emissions – travel, buildings, operations and procurement – and use this to inform Council CO2 reduction targets and performance management.**

We have data for staff travel, fleet vehicles and buildings. A meeting has been held with the Energy Saving Trust to enlist their help in developing our staff travel policy and part of our Covid-19 recovery planning provides an opportunity to consider new ways of working which reduce CO2 emissions.

#### **5.4.10 Deliver staff training as required – priorities include training for key staff to be able to assess and report the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Council operations, policies and plans in order to inform decision making.**

On hold due to impact of Covid-19 but new contact has been made with Keele University to provide training.

#### **5.4.11 Undertake investigative work and where possible feasibility testing of the most obvious large scale projects which a council might undertake:**

- **Green energy – the potential for Council investment in solar energy projects and wind farms.**

Officers have secured national grid data on the location of the energy grid and in particular electricity sub stations – this is being mapped

initially against the local Plan and Council owned land. An advisor from the Midlands Energy Hub will be assisting the Alliance Councils to make an initial assessment of potential locations for solar farms. (Proximity to a sub station is one of the key factors in determining the commercial viability of a solar farm - or wind farm).

- **EV charge points**

The following EV charge sites are now complete.

1. Hope car park
2. Station Road car park, Hadfield
3. Miry Meadow car park, Chapel en le frith
4. Municipal Buildings car park, Glossop
5. Edwards Street car park, Glossop
6. Victoria Park road shops, Buxton
7. Canal Street car park, Whaley Bridge

One more to complete:

8. Due on 30/9/2020 - Sylvan car park, Buxton

An initial meeting has been held with the Energy Saving Trust to secure their assistance to develop a strategy and consider the viability of installing more EV charging points in the Borough. There is also an ongoing link through the County Partnership in relation to this work.

- **Local offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions (none CO2)**

There is an opportunity through the review of the local plan – the Energy Saving Trust has offered assistance with planning policy.

**5.4.12 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.**

Covid-19 has impacted the County partnership focus on climate change - renewed discussions are now ongoing about potential projects and the involvement of Midlands Energy Hub.

**5.4.13 Council Heads of Service to encourage staff over the course of the year to identify and take practical actions to reduce CO2 emissions – encourage suggestions, investigate measures, share good practice across the organisation, flag good ideas which require authorisation.**

Covid-19 has impact on this priority however there will have been a significant reduction in CO2 emissions from staff travel as a result of home working and virtual meetings. The lessons learned from this experience are being actively considered as part of the Council's Covid-19 recovery work.

**5.4.14 Encourage local community initiatives to tackle climate change with the aim of mobilising community support.**

To be considered through Working Group

**5.4.15 Support the work of the Council's Climate Change Working Group (including citizen panel/community engagement) and produce a comprehensive climate change plan and budget for 2021/22.**

The Working Group has been impacted by the need to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.