

## HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

### The Executive

1 July 2021

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Change Plan (Part 1)</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 Wards</b>

### **Appendices Attached – Appendix 1 Climate Change Plan (Part 1) 2021/22**

1. **Reason for the Report**
  - 1.1 To present the Council's 2021/22 Climate Change Plan (Part 1) 'Towards Carbon Neutrality 2030'.
2. **Recommendation**
  - 2.1 To approve the 2021/22 Climate Change Plan (Part 1) subject to comments received at the next Climate Change Working Group which the Executive Councillor for Climate Change will consider for inclusion in the Plan.
  - 2.2 To give approval for the Executive Councillor for Climate Change, to make any subsequent amendments and additions to part one of the plan, subject to agreement at the Climate Change Working Group.
3. **Executive Summary**
  - 3.1 On October 15th 2019 High Peak Borough Council passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency.
  - 3.2 The Council has initiated a series of actions to procure data, analyse options and introduce measures to reduce its own Carbon emissions.
  - 3.3 The Plan has been developed in two parts: Part 1 considers the Council's own greenhouse gas emissions and is presented to Executive for approval (**Attached**). Part 2 will consider the wider greenhouse gas emissions from the

Borough and remains in development.

- 3.4 By its nature the Climate Change Plan is a dynamic document with additional actions and milestones to be added in year in response to new opportunities for earlier action, new information and the results of option studies.

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

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

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

- 5.1 To approve the Climate Change Plan (Part 1).
- 5.2 To amend or delay approval of the draft Climate Change Plan (Part1) pending further development (Not recommended – by its nature the Plan needs to be dynamic with further actions to be developed and included as more analysis is completed and in response to opportunities such as may arise from new Government policy initiatives).

#### 6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications

6.2 Workforce

Heads of Service working with their teams are responsible for the delivery of various elements of the Plan. As an additional resource the Council will be creating a specialist Climate Change Officer post.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

No implications

6.4 Financial Considerations

The measures proposed are within current budgets including the Climate Change reserve fund.

6.5 Legal

No implications

6.6 Climate Change

The report recommends the approval of a plan to enable the Council to work towards its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 in relation to its own greenhouse gas emissions.

#### 6.7 Consultation

All Heads of Service have been involved in the process of developing the Climate Change Plan (Part 1). The Climate Change Working Group including representatives of the High Peak Green Network received and commented on action plan table (pages 18 to 31) of the plan (**Attached**).

#### 6.8 Risk Assessment

There is a risk that public expectation of the Council's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the district level is not matched by the Council's current powers and resources.

MARK TRILLO

**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)**

#### **Web Links and Background Papers**

Various background papers and reports

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### 7. **Detail**

7.1 In 2015, the UK adopted the Paris Agreement, committing to:

- Strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre industrial levels.
- Encouraging efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.
- Tackling the climate crisis is a long-standing issue in the UK, reflected in the legally binding target in the 2008 Climate Change Act. This was updated in 2019 to reflect an updated target of net zero carbon by 2050.

7.2 On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 High Peak Borough Council passed a resolution declaring a climate emergency as follows:

*Climate Change is an existential threat. Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above the 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be safe for humanity. Extreme weather events have already caused damage and destruction in this country. Locally the effects of climate change are seen in falling water levels and erratic*

*weather conditions affecting farming and infrastructure. Natural habitats, wildlife and biodiversity are in peril not only from Climate Change but also from human intervention, which in turn is increasing the effects of the climate and biodiversity crises.*

*Scientists warn that we have little over a decade to implement urgent action to reduce and limit CO2 emissions before we reach a global tipping point. Action is required at international, national and local level to achieve the carbon reduction levels needed. Councils around the world and in UK are responding by declaring a Climate Emergency and committing the resources to address this emergency.*

### 7.3 Actions to date

- 7.3.1 Due to the Covid response, the initial development of the plan was delayed, and Officers have worked to both develop the plan, and also put in place practical actions to address issues around climate change.
- 7.3.2 Housing: The Council has submitted a proposal to the Midlands Energy Hub for Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery 2 scheme. The scheme will focus between July and the end of December on up to 84 council houses/properties with the lowest energy efficiency ratings. The Council will be installing energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and triple glazing and is supported by a Government grant of £485,000 with the Council also committing its own funds. The Council also continued to support the Derbyshire Healthy Homes scheme which focuses on those households in fuel poverty with low energy efficient housing and suffering from ill health.
- 7.3.3 Leisure Centres: The Council has commissioned work which includes an assessment of options and measures to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's leisure centres. This is due to be completed in July 2021.
- 7.3.4 Council fleet vehicles: AES, the Council's direct services company, is currently trialling an electric light goods vehicle and an electric refuse vehicle. The Council has engaged with the Energy Saving Trust to undertake an analysis of the Council's vehicle fleet and options for decarbonisation to inform the Council's fleet replacement programme. This is due to be completed in December 2021.
- 7.3.5 New ways of working: The response to Covid-19 has accelerated the Council's move to new ways of working – staff home working and increased use of virtual meetings have reduced staff business miles by over 60%, an increase in customer self-service, reduced use of paper and printing. Work began in 2020 to sustain these ways of working post pandemic.
- 7.3.6 The Council has re-joined the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and APSE Energy the specific climate change network.

7.3.7 The Council's Climate Change Working Group including representatives of the High Peak Green Network has been meeting and has mainly focused on the Borough wide greenhouse gas emissions, the actions of key agencies and development of potential actions to be taken by the Council. This work will inform part 2 of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

7.3.8 The Council has also established a Biodiversity group which brings together representatives from a range of local groups to offer support for the Council in developing and improving its response to Biodiversity issues. Work is also underway to develop a green infrastructure plan and ensure that climate change issues are more developed in the local plan.

#### 7.4 Data

7.4.1 Council CO2 emissions: During 2021 further work will be undertaken to establish an as complete as possible estimate of the Council's CO2 emissions, including direct and indirect emissions such as the CO2 embedded in the products and services the Council procures, technically referred to as Scope 1,2 & 3 emissions. The current known figures for emissions related to Council buildings, fleet and travel for 2019/20 are included as an initial baseline in the plan for 2021/22.

7.4.2 Borough wide CO2 emissions: The UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes annual data for the estimated CO2 emissions by local authority area. This is currently available from 2005 to 2018. The CO2 emission sources are split into four main categories – Industry and commerce, domestic, transport, land use and land use change and forestry. There are numerous sub categories which allow for a closer analysis.

The Council has commissioned Anthesis to produce an analysis of the Borough greenhouse gas emissions including the current baseline data and a series of projections based on scenarios – 'do nothing' through to 'ambitious' actions to address climate change locally. This analysis will be available in July 2021.

#### 7.5 The Climate Change Plan.

The plan will be in two parts.

7.5.1 Part 1 (**Attached**) concerns the Council's own CO2 emissions – i.e. where High Peak Borough Council has direct control and responsibility. Part 1 is in the form of an action plan to cover the period 2021/22 but leading to the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target.

7.5.2 Part 2 remains in development and will focus on the broader greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough. The Council has levers of influence over some causes of the emissions but the role of others, including the community and voluntary sector, business sector and other statutory agencies such as the County Council and the Government, is critical.

7.5.3 Both parts of the plan will be published as one document in a more publicly accessible format in time for COP 26 in November 2021.

7.5.4 It should be noted that both parts of the plan will be living/dynamic documents with the potential for targets and actions to be added as work progresses and in response to opportunities – such as changes in Government policy or new funding opportunities.