

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	2 NOVEMBER 2021	7

CARBON NEUTRAL WORKING GROUP UPDATE

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

There are a number of actions for delivery by 2023/24 within the Corporate Plan on the carbon neutral agenda. This report gives an update on work in this area – the actions as articulated within the Corporate Plan are set out below:

- *Implement carbon reduction policies including plastics reduction, tree planting, energy efficient and recycling;*
- *Design education and awareness programmes to support carbon reduction policies and actions; and*
- *Work with partners to deliver carbon reduction.*

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Corporate Plan and the previous meeting of the Carbon Neutral Working Group.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

This Committee has been designated the lead Committee on coordinating work on carbon reduction. This report aims to keep all members updated on work in this regard.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact - Tracy Manning tel: 01253 658521 email: tracy.manning@fylde.gov.uk

Notes

Carbon Neutral Working Group

Date:	Thursday, 7 October 2021
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes
Present:	<p><u>Councillors</u></p> <p>Tommy Threlfall (Chairman), Frank Andrews, Mark Bamforth, Noreen Griffiths, Karen Henshaw, Stan Trudgill and Viv Willder.</p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <p>Tracy Manning, Kathy Winstanley, Mark Evans, Steve Fulton, Andrew Loynd and Gareth Matthews.</p>
Note Taker:	Hannah Kirk

1. Introductions and apologies

The Chairman, Councillor Tommy Threlfall, welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Bobby Rigby.

2. Presentation from Blackpool Transport

James Carney, Finance and Commercial Director at Blackpool Transport, was invited to introduce a presentation to all members of the Council on their work towards net-zero public transport across Fylde. In doing so, he highlighted the Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA), a £126 million fund which set out to promote electric bus transportation across England. Blackpool Council was one of the 17 authorities selected for phase 2, which required the development of a business case for investment. It was planned for to fund an overhaul of the Rigby Road Depot, installing electric charging points and introducing 115 electric buses.

Further to this, Mr. Carney also provided an overview of the National Bus Strategy (NBS), which encouraged Local Transport Authorities to commit to enhanced partnerships with the public transport operators. This would see an increase in the frequency, reliability and affordability across bus services. It was explained that Blackpool Transport had been making improvements in line with the NBS for some time, including a whole fleet of new buses and contactless payments on board.

Following questions, the Chairman offered his thanks to Mr. Carney for his presentation and extended an invitation for him to return to the Working Group with further updates in the future.



3. Consideration of the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy

Tracy Manning, Director of Resources, invited Kathy Winstanley, Head of Health and Environment, to introduce the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy for consideration by members. In doing so, Mrs. Winstanley highlighted that Lancashire County Council were the waste disposal authority, which limited the options with regards to the waste and recycling that could be collected. At this juncture, it was noted that the paid for green waste collections had continued to increase year on year since introduction, with a noticeable increase in wheeled bins for recycling, as opposed to green boxes.

Mrs. Winstanley informed those in attendance that whilst the goal was to reach 100% of properties across the borough having wheeled bins, this will be challenging to achieve logistically due to access and storage issues. However, it was reported that 97% of properties within Fylde had wheeled bins and the team had been working on extending this wherever possible, in keeping with the corporate plan. She further reported that Fylde Borough Council had been able use their own resources to operate battery collection and large bulky item services in partnership with local charities, with the latter having been suspended following the Covid-19 pandemic. Further to this, she informed members that a report was due to go to the next Operational Management Committee meeting, detailing other options for consideration as it is a statutory responsibility for a local authority to provide this (bulky) service. It was hoped that a solution would be found, and a new system would be in place by early 2022.

Residents who cannot have a wheeled bin due to access issues are provided with recycling boxes/bags. It was reported that Gareth Matthews, Senior Waste Prevention and Enforcement Officer, was responsible for investigating any service issues, such as the bags being put out for collection ahead of the advised time. These matters were to be dealt with in an educational way in the first instance, with the need to become firmer if the problem persisted. It was further reported that a system was in place to support residents with a genuine need for extra wheeled bins, due to extenuating circumstances or having a large family. This could be determined by conducting a waste audit over a two-week period and engaging with residents with regards to what can be recycled.

In response to questions, Mrs. Winstanley informed those in attendance that the average lifespan of a wheeled bin was 14 years. It was reported that a project was undertaken several years ago that saw 20,000 bins replaced FOC, as the grey and green bins had been in place since 2002. It was highlighted that it had been a logistical challenge, which had required budgetary support, as the initial Government funding that saw residents provided with wheeled bins was no longer in place.

At this juncture, Mr. Matthews provided an update on the recycling bin trial that had been taking in place in Lytham, advising that the bin had been in place for 6 weeks and were being checked 3 times a week. It was reported that almost every visit saw the bins a quarter full but various items of household waste were also being found. However, the previous week had seen the best quality material. It was further advised that Mr. Matthews would keep the trial under review and continue to update the Working Group on the progress.

Following the conclusion of the report, the Chairman extended his compliments to Mrs. Winstanley and the team on the provision of a high-quality service. Further to this, the draft Domestic Waste and Recycling Policy was approved, and it was agreed that it would be referred to a meeting of the Operational Management Committee for approval.

4. Any Other Business

The Chairman informed those in attendance that he had expressed an interest in exploring Government-funded schemes for residents to install solar panels on their homes. It was agreed that this topic be discussed in further detail at the next meeting of the Working Group.

It was advised that the Chairman had been invited to attend a virtual meeting of the Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster Youth Council to discuss the council's carbon neutral work. An update would be provided to the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.