Report to the Cabinet
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 1 December 2022

Report of the Executive Director of Growth, Environment & Transport

Part I

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities: Protecting our environment;

Lancashire County Council Environment and Climate Strategy
(Appendix 'A' refers)

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Brief Summary

This report presents a new Environment and Climate Strategy for Lancashire County Council to run from 2023 to 2025. It principally deals with the work covered by the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and presents a high-level view of how we will deliver against our corporate priority to Protect Our Environment.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Lancashire County Council Environment and Climate Strategy 2023-25 as set out at Appendix 'A'.

Detail

Appendix 'A' sets out a new Environment and Climate Strategy covering the county council's contribution to work in this area for 2023-2025.

The document follows similar strategies for health and education and is the second of three county council strategies covering the economy, environment and climate, and transport being brought to Cabinet from the Growth, Environment and Transport directorate. The linkages between the three strategies are recognised as well as the

contribution environment and climate action can have to wider corporate objectives such as health.

The strategy brings together for the first-time existing policies and programmes of work in one place and provides a single point of reference on the county council's environment and climate priorities. It gathers the action that is underway or proposed and organises it under three areas of activity and ten objectives:

Reducing waste and tackling pollution

- Reducing waste and increasing reuse and recycling
- Improving air quality
- Improving water quality

Climate change

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to lessen the impacts of climate change
- Ensuring our infrastructure, assets and services are resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Managing flood risk and water resources

Natural and historic environment

- Conserving, restoring and re-establishing habitat quality and species diversity
- Ensuring our residents have access to high quality, natural spaces
- Conserving and enhancing our historic environment and outstanding landscapes
- Using nature-based solutions to tackle climate change

The ten objectives will inform the county council's action planning, with progress measured through a set of milestones and key performance indicators within departmental and corporate performance dashboards dealing particularly with the county council priority to 'Protect Our Environment'.

Consultations

The strategy has been developed to form part of the suite of strategies supporting delivery of the county council's corporate priorities and has been informed by a wide-ranging evidence base, dialogue with key services and work with key stakeholders on the emerging Lancashire 2050 strategy.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The strategy sets out activities that the county council will take to meet statutory duties, such as those set out in the Environment Act 2021 and deliver the corporate priority to 'Protect Our Environment', providing a framework for action planning.

Without this strategy it will not be possible to measure progress on delivering against the council's environment and climate priorities.

Financial

The strategy does not contain any specific financial implications and assumes that activity can be contained within existing budgets. Any requirements for additional funding to support the strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Equality and Cohesion

Any subsequent action plans and projects resulting from this strategy will consider the need for an equality impact analysis.

List of Background Papers

Paper   Date   Contact/Tel

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A