wyre council

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plans 2024 – 2035

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A message from the Leader of the council

Foreword

Climate change is one of the greatest threats we are face. Our geography in Wyre means we are at particular risk from rising sea levels and more unusual and intense storms. It is vital that we all work together to reduce our carbon emissions in a responsible and sustainable way and prepare ourselves for the increased risks we now facing.

As the Leader of Wyre Council, and a father to two young children, tackling climate change is high on my agenda – we need to protect our children's future. In July 2019, we declared a Climate Emergency and made a unanimous, cross-party commitment to cut our emissions.

This strategy outlines how we plan to tackle climate change by reducing our emissions, both internally and in collaboration with key stakeholders within the community. We have broken this down into eight objectives that we plan to target, including buildings, transport, our council processes, planning, biodiversity, engagement, waste and adaptation. Each of these brings their own challenges as well as multiple positive outcomes that benefit the area, such as cleaner air, warmer homes and greener jobs.

I am proud of the work we have already achieved in reducing our carbon footprint by 17% since 2018. This includes £4m of redevelopment and investment at Fleetwood Market, installing heat pumps and solar panels for renewable energy, as well as a new roof and many other insulation measures. The council have transitioned our fleet over to new HVO biofuel, which will help to make significant reductions estimated at up to 30% of our carbon footprint. We have also been named as the first Carbon Literate authority in Lancashire, following the roll out of Carbon Literacy training to our staff to educate them on the basics of climate change and what they can do in their roles to make a difference.

Within the community, we have invested in nature-based solutions to prevent local flooding in St Michael's on Wyre and Churchtown, and work is well underway on a £40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme to protect thousands of homes from coastal flooding.

I am hopeful that we can transition away from fossil fuels to a better low carbon future for Wyre, but we need help to make this happen. Where we are limited in our powers as a borough council, we look to the government, Lancashire County Council and our key stakeholders for funding and assistance. We also rely on our individuals, communities and businesses to get involved in cutting emissions where they can so we can build a better future together.

Councillor Michael Vincent
Leader of the council

Introduction

What we want this document to achieve

Introduction

“If we don't act now, it'll be too late."

David Attenborough

Climate change is our greatest threat. The use of dirty fossil fuel energy has been releasing heat-trapping gases into our atmosphere, forming a thick blanket of pollution around the earth. This is causing our planet to rapidly overheat, impacting our weather systems and causing irreversible damage.

The coastal, low-lying nature of our borough means we are at significant risk of flooding from more regular and intense storms, with approximately 11,000 Wyre homes vulnerable to sea level rise[1].

As a council, we declared a **Climate Emergency** in July 2019 - committing to urgent action to reduce our emissions within Wyre and protect our community from the threats caused by climate change (Appendix 1).

What we want to achieve

As part of our commitment, we have created this Climate Change Strategy to outline how we plan to reduce our levels of polluting emissions locally and to also prepare ourselves and the community for the growing risks of climate change.

What is included in the strategy

The strategy highlights the main risks we face from the changing climate within Wyre, including the costs to our community, our local wildlife and impacts on our council services. We also outline the opportunities we have for reducing our pollution through a variety of ways, as well as the positive outcomes of doing so; by creating jobs, improving our lifestyles and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

Our action plans

We have created eight objectives that will help us to tackle climate change among the main areas we can influence as a council. Separate action plans for each objective outline how we plan to achieve them.

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

How you can help

As your council, it is our duty to rapidly reduce our levels of pollution and do all we can to protect the community from the risks of the changing climate. We have already made good progress towards our target, but we have a long way to go and cannot achieve this alone. For this to be a success across the whole borough, we need to work together with residents, businesses, communities and stakeholders to fight against pollution, preserve our environment and create a cleaner, safer home for all.

Our changing climate

The context of climate change

Our changing climate

What is climate change?

The UK has a temperate climate. This means we generally get cool, wet winters and warm, wet summers. We rarely experience hot or cold temperatures, droughts or tropical storms like other climates around the world.

The world's climate has naturally fluctuated throughout history. However, the widespread burning of fossil fuels across the world has created a **blanket of pollution** in the atmosphere, causing the planet to heat up faster than ever recorded. As the earth overheats, our weather systems are thrown out of sync and our usual climates shift, leading to devastating impacts. This is climate change.

Only by rapidly reducing our use of polluting fossil fuels can we ease the worst of these risks.

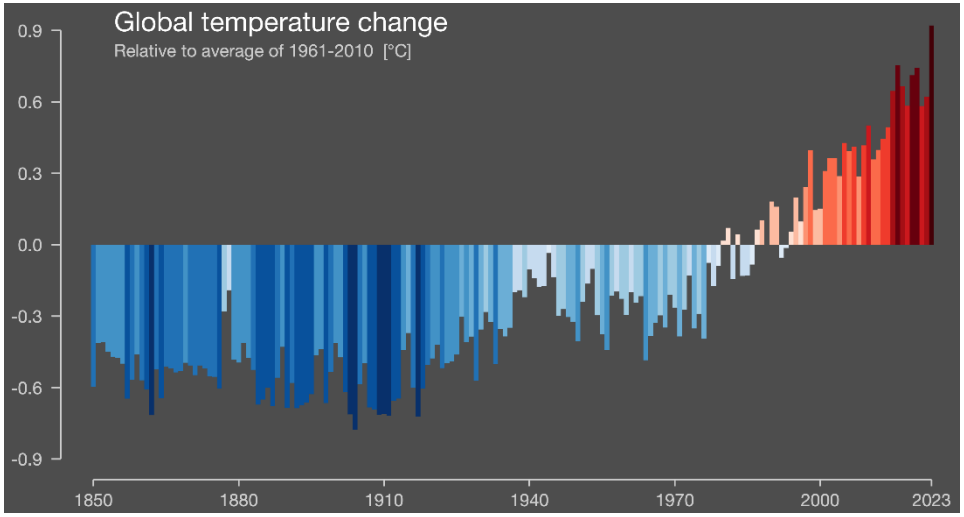


Figure 1: Global temperature increases since the industrial revolution.[2]

Greenhouse gases

Since the industrial revolution began in the UK in the 1700s, humans have been polluting our planet by burning fossil fuels to create energy. This has released vast amounts of polluting greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. These gases are named this way because they act like a greenhouse, by trapping heat from the sun. This causes the planet to overheat and threaten our livelihoods.

The more of these polluting gases we release, the more the earth warms up, causing more problems for people and the environment.

The four main greenhouse gases and their sources are:

- **Carbon dioxide** (CO_2), released from burning oil, coal and gas, deforestation and cement production.
- **Methane** (CH_4), emitted by cows and decaying food waste.
- **Nitrous oxide** (NO_2), released from the overuse of fertilisers.
- **Fluorinated gases** (F-gases), from refrigeration and aerosols.

We group these greenhouse gases together to measure our **carbon footprint** – which tells us how much we contribute to the planet overheating.

Impacts of climate change

If we don't stop polluting, many things we depend upon are at risk:

- As our atmosphere gets hotter, our usual weather patterns see big differences including; more frequent, intense and unavoidable **extreme weather events**, such as heatwaves, droughts, heavy rainfall and flash flooding.
- Our **sea levels are rising** as our oceans overheat, expand and ice caps melt. This puts coastal communities, low-lying areas and even entire countries at risk, creating thousands of **climate-refugees**.
- Unnatural increases in water temperatures threaten **marine wildlife**, arctic ecosystems and are causing irreversible damage to crucially important coral reefs.
- Together, these impacts are causing vast **social and economic damage** as we struggle to cope with the effects of extreme weather on our homes and vital infrastructure (buildings, roads and power supplies), rising food costs and shortages from crop failures at home and abroad, water shortages during droughts, high heating bills, poor air quality and more climate-refugees as places become unsafe to live.
- Unfairly, the biggest impacts are being felt by the **poorest and most vulnerable populations**, despite having polluting the least.

"Field Fire" by Marc Gilbert, used under CC0 1.0 DEED / Cropped from original.

Locked-in impacts

Even if we were to suddenly halt all our emissions, the amount of pollution that we have already released into the atmosphere mean that some impacts of climate change are already locked in. As a result, by 2050, it is predicted that the UK will still see 59% more winter rainfall and previously 'once-a-century' sea level events becoming a yearly occurrence by 2100[3].

We must drastically cut our levels of pollution to reduce the severity of these impacts before it is too late to make a difference for now and the future.

What is net zero?

Reducing our emissions to absolute zero is not currently possible with the technology available to us. Instead, a target of 'net' zero emissions ensures we achieve a **balance** of emissions between:

- Emissions that are still added into the atmosphere from activities that cannot be fully decarbonised yet, such as air travel.
- Removal of emissions from the atmosphere from activities such as tree planting, peatland enhancement or carbon capture technologies.

However, it is crucial that we reduce emissions to as low as possible before relying on as yet uncertain technologies for capturing emissions, to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

"COP26 President - Alok Sharma" by Bank of England, used under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED / Cropped from original.

Targets

Global target

Recognising the rapid rise in temperatures and the severe impacts these are causing on the planet, countries across the world signed the **Paris Agreement** to limit further global temperature rise to "well below 2°C" and to aim for a maximum rise of only 1.5°C.

Put simply, this means that if we only allow earth to warm up by 1.5°C, rather than 2°C, 3°C or 4°C, it helps to limit the worst impacts of climate change, so we can have a better, safer and more prosperous future.

However, the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report highlighted that unless there are immediate large-scale reductions in polluting emissions, limiting global warming to safe levels, will be beyond reach[4]. Instead, the world is currently on track towards **a catastrophic average 4°C rise**.

UK target

In 2008, the **Climate Change Act** was introduced in the UK - the first legally binding climate change mitigation target set by any country. This commits the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to **net zero** by 2050, based on 1990 levels. It also includes a series of five-year carbon budgets for total greenhouse gas emissions, which cannot be exceeded, in order to meet the reduction target of net zero.

Wyre target

The council aims to reduce our emissions by at least 78% by 2035, before achieving net zero by 2050. We commit to support and work with all other relevant agencies to achieve **net zero emissions for Wyre borough** within the same timescale.

National legalisation:

- The UK's **Net Zero Strategy** sets out how the UK will deliver on its commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050, outlining measures to transition to a green and sustainable future, help businesses and consumers to move to clean power and reduce Britain's reliance on important fossil fuels by boosting clean energy. This includes measures to support local authorities to implement low carbon actions locally.
- In 2023, the **Environmental Improvement Plan** was created to build upon the statutory targets within the Environment Act 2021. This includes a plan on how to best work with landowners, communities and businesses to support nature restoration and reduce pollution.

Local legislation:

- Local authorities are committed to a statutory **Biodiversity Duty**, meaning we must consider what we can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, agree policies and specific objectives based on this, and deliver these locally.
- Emerging legislation will require councils to request **Biodiversity Net Gain** on all future developments, ensuring these have an overall positive rather than negative ecological impact.
- In Wyre we follow a **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** (LNRS) which covers Lancashire, with 47 other LNRS across England. These determine priorities and actions for achieving local nature recovery.
- Each local authority has adopted a **Local Plan** to guide decisions on future development. Within section 19(1A) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, it is required that local planning authorities incorporate "policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the local planning authority's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaption to, climate change".

Risks to Wyre

How will climate change affect us?

Risks to Wyre

Climate change is often associated with the image of a polar bear on a melting ice cap – which may make the climate emergency seem like a distant threat. However, in reality the impacts are far closer to home, as households in Wyre are some of the most at risk of rising sea levels in the UK[1].

Key trends

In Wyre and across the UK, the risks of climate change are listed in five key trends:

Rainfall and flooding

A warmer atmosphere can hold more water, meaning we will experience heavier downpours and more flooding. As a borough defined by the River Wyre, some of our communities including St Michael's on Wyre and Churchtown are already frequently affected by flooding, which is likely to worsen with climate change. Other low-lying areas and those with paved impermeable surfaces and fewer trees or vegetation to intercept rainfall, will also be affected by **surface water flooding**, where current infrastructure cannot cope with increasing rainfall.

Sea level rise

Melting ice caps and thermal expansion cause sea levels to rise. This is a particular worry for Wyre, as a coastal borough with low-lying flood plains, a large river estuary and communities living all along the coastline. Wyre is identified as **one of ten UK local authorities with the most properties at risk** of sea level rise[1].

"Rainfall patterns are changing, causing more frequent flooding, and while we continue to protect and prepare coastal communities from rising sea levels, it is inevitable that at some point some of our communities will have to move back from the coast."

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency

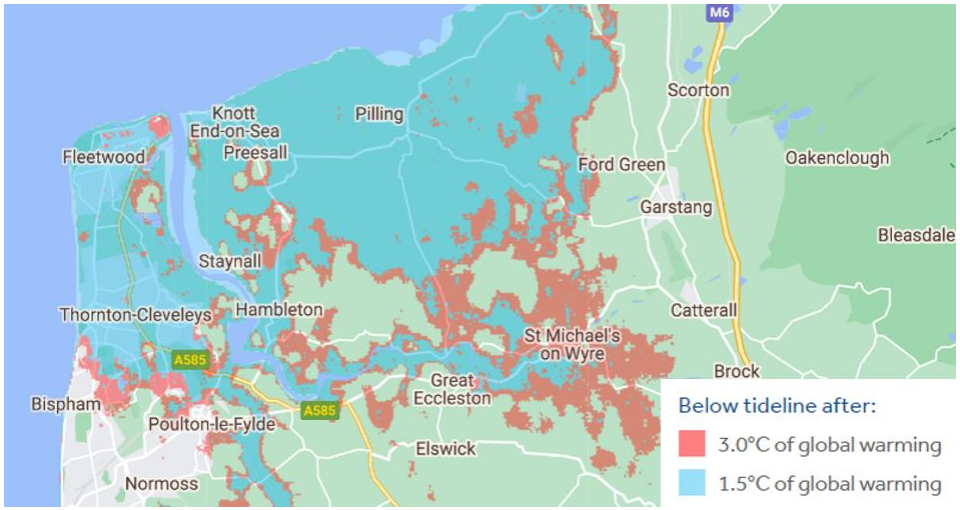


Figure 2: Potential sea level rise related to degrees of global warming in Wyre, not including current coastal defences[5].

Extreme heat

Dangerous heatwaves will become more common, affecting our food and water supplies. Populated areas around the UK will be affected by the **urban heat island effect**, where temperatures are even higher within built-up surroundings without naturally cooling green spaces. A lack of air conditioning and infrastructure able to cope with extreme heat will further impair our struggle to adapt.

More people will be affected by heatstroke and high UV exposure which will increase the risk of skin cancer. Our oldest and youngest residents, who struggle to regulate their own temperature, are most at risk. This is particularly significant to Wyre as the number of people **aged 65 and over** locally has increased by 16.8% within a ten-year timeframe (2011-2021)[6].

Drought and water scarcity

Rising temperatures will also lead to more regular and prolonged droughts and water scarcity. Despite our coastal location, Wyre is not excluded from drought conditions. Without careful management to increase water storage within our green spaces and encourage natural cooling, water will quickly evaporate during heatwaves and dry our habitats, damaging our fragile ecosystems. This increases the risk of crop failures within our local farming community, as well as **food security** from droughts elsewhere across the world where our food is grown and exported, threatening our health and livelihoods.

Diseases

Global temperature rises will also lead to a shift in biodiversity, allowing invasive species such as **mosquitoes** to travel further from their native habitat. This increases the risk of more tropical diseases and pandemics among the UK population. Changes in temperature, humidity and rainfall also increase the risk of transmission, which will escalate the pressure on our healthcare system.

The cost to our community

Economic costs

The increase of these trends will have huge economic costs particularly for our agricultural sector and properties along the coastline in Wyre. Whilst significant investment will be required to move away from a fossil fuel-based system to low-carbon technologies, inaction on climate change will have much greater costs. Severe weather events and rising sea levels will cause costly damage to critical infrastructure, as well as affect supply chains for goods and food production, costing billions of pounds to the UK.

The **cost-of-living crisis** is also challenging how we respond to climate change. This is often viewed as a separate issue. However, ultimately both challenges have the same root cause – a reliance on fossil fuels. Phasing out oil and gas would reduce energy bills and improve energy security, as well as significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Research indicates that failing to act on climate change not only locks the country into higher energy prices in the medium term, but it will also have a long-term impact on the cost of living[7].

Social costs

The impacts of climate change will also have immense social costs, as it affects our homes, health, education and employment. Cold and heat-related illnesses, increased risk of disease, water scarcity and health conditions from air pollution will put greater strains on public services including the National Health Service. In addition to our physical health, the impact of losing loved ones, potential damage to our property and uncertainty about the future will also affect our mental health.

Who will be most impacted?

Climate change does not affect everyone equally and, whilst we may all be in the same storm, we are not all in the same boat. These impacts will particularly affect the most vulnerable residents in our community, including the elderly, people with disabilities, isolated adults with poor access to key services such as healthcare and affordable transport, ethnic minority groups, pregnant women, babies and young children, and outdoor workers. This is also exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing effects from COVID-19, which will have limited many people's capacity to make the necessary changes to adapt to a changing climate.

As Wyre is home to the **highest number of residents aged over 65 and 75 in Lancashire**[6], together with an ageing population more generally across the UK, this brings a host of different challenges related to healthcare, safety and mobility, that may affect the council's approach to climate adaptation in future.

Of those most affected, climate change will have the greatest impact on **future generations**. Whilst young people will have contributed the least to climate change, they will bear the burden of the severe impacts during their lifetimes. Involving young people in decision-making to help shape the future they grow up in, is therefore key to this strategy.

Ecological emergency

Alongside the impacts of climate change, we are also experiencing an ecological emergency, which is intrinsically linked to the climate crisis. The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world and nearly 1 in 6 species are at risk of extinction in Great Britain[8]. Both climate change and human activities are destroying vital habitat and causing biodiversity loss, which in turn accelerates climate change and its effects. To address these challenges, we need to change the way we manage our landscape to protect wildlife.

Nature underpins our livelihoods, providing us with vital **ecosystem services** including food, oxygen, water, protection from flooding, a stable economy and our health and wellbeing. As a rural farming borough, our food production and security rely upon nature, in the form of healthy soils, with plenty of invertebrates for pollination, supported by native wildflowers, fresh water and a stable climate.

Climate change impacts on wildlife:
Spring and summer occurring earlier each year, meaning animals are increasingly **out of sync** with each other and food sources are unavailable when animals need it.
Temperature change causing **species ranges** to shift northwards, limiting the habitat of many important pollinators like our butterflies and bumblebees. This also brings risk of spreading harmful pests and diseases such as Asian hornets and ash dieback that will affect our native species.
Extreme summer heatwaves forcing our trees and plants into **false autumn**, shedding their leaves as a sign of tremendous stress to try and conserve water, whilst younger trees without established roots die off.
Increased frequency of severe flooding, droughts and wildfires causing prolonged **loss of habitat**, which our wildlife is unable to cope with.

The importance of Wyre's landscapes

Wyre borough is a heavily modified landscape. Despite this, we are lucky to host a wide range of natural landscapes, including sand dunes, saltmarshes, grasslands, meadows, peatlands, moorlands and woodlands – all containing many key species of flora and fauna. Together, we regard these as our valuable **blue and green infrastructure**.

Many of these habitats act as vital **carbon sinks**, storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and actively preventing climate change. One of our largest carbon stores in Wyre is from our **peatlands**. Peat stores twice as much carbon than all the world's forests but is extremely slow forming[9]. Yet, development or land management that disturbs and drains peaty soil can release these crucially stored emissions.

Enhancing our habitats through careful planting and restoration provides crucial natural protection against extreme heat, rainfall and rising sea levels – avoiding costly large-scale engineering projects whilst providing a wealth of tangible benefits to society. Addressing the climate and ecological emergencies together is essential solving these dual problems.

Impacts on our council services

The impacts of climate change are also likely to cause potential knock-on effects upon our council services, including:

Emergency planning	- Greater need for emergency planning due to extreme events. - Will need to identify sites for **community shelter** from extreme events, as well as warm and cool spaces for those in need.
Spatial Planning	- More **policies** will be needed to ensure homes and developments include a range of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. - Additional **pressure on planning teams** to understand and efficiently review applications for their impact upon climate change.
Built environment	- Risk of **subsidence** from increased rainfall and wet ground conditions. - Increase in **dangerous trees and structures** from storms, flooding and weakened foundations. - Buildings will require significant **retrofitting** to conserve energy and adapt to temperatures extremes. - Wet weather will lead to increases in dampness, **mould** and poor living and working conditions. - Risk of **energy supply shortages**.
Public car parks	- Increased rainfall causing surface water **flooding**. - Poor weather affecting infrastructure, such as **melting surfaces** during heatwaves or cold weather causing potholes. - Greater demand for **EV charging points** as petrol and diesel vehicles are phased out.
Business support	- Businesses will need support to adapt to **new markets**, increased impacts on supply chains and greater requirements and regulations.
Tourism	- Extreme weathers impacting frequency of outdoor markets and **cancellation of events** affecting the local economy.
Waste services	- Increased risk of **heat stress** for outdoor staff. - Requirement to review **working practices** to avoid extreme weather conditions.
Grounds maintenance	- Increased **growing season** impacting grass mowing patterns. - Intense and prolonged rainfall **limiting access** to sites for routine mowing and maintenance. - Shifting wildlife **species ranges** and introduction of new species may impact site management. - Drought conditions reducing survival rates of newly planted **tree saplings**. - Annual **bedding** schemes will require review to account for extreme weather ranges. - Increased **water management** needs on open spaces. - Increased risk of **heat stress** for outdoor staff.
Environmental health	- Increase in **flooding** and associated public health impacts. - Increased cases of **food poisoning** from heat. - Increase in dust conditions requiring hosing down of areas during droughts and heatwaves.
Community safety	- Potential **neighbourhood nuisance** issues during warmer evenings. - Greater risk of outdoor **swimming** in reservoirs and other dangerous places during heatwaves. - Disruption of **sports and physical activities** from increased flooding and severe weather.

Opportunities for Wyre

Positive outcomes from creating a sustainable borough

Opportunities for Wyre

Whilst tackling climate change presents many challenges, it also provides a unique opportunity to shift away from our dependency on dirty, expensive and polluting fossil fuels – switching instead to safer, cleaner energy that provides a host of community, health, business and environmental benefits for all.

Our vision

As a council, our vision is that Wyre is a place where everyone can prosper. We want everyone in Wyre to have access to jobs and share the benefits of economic growth; live in thriving, safe, more environmentally sustainable and welcoming communities; and be healthier and independent for longer.

Taking action on climate change is key to achieving the four main priorities that support this vision:

Our priorities	Links to climate action
People and communities	Enables residents to live happier, healthier and safer lives from the risks of climate change.
Growth and prosperity	Encourages a thriving local economy and town centres as we upskill our workforce and support local producers.
Place and climate	Ensures Wyre is a cleaner, greener and more sustainable place.
Innovative and customer focused	Demonstrates that we are innovative and forward thinking, putting the needs of our residents first.

Positive outcomes of climate action

In addition to limiting the threat of climate change, there are many other positive outcomes – also known as **co-benefits** – that we also gain from reducing our emissions. These actions help us to achieve our vision for a sustainable future for Wyre, involving:

- Quiet, **safe streets** for children to play.
- Warm **efficient** homes.
- An **upskilled** workforce with more jobs and a thriving local economy.
- Healthy residents and strong communities that are **resilient** to the effects of climate change.
- Reduced **inequalities**.

This table gives an example of the positive outcomes we create from implementing different climate actions.

Climate action	Positive outcomes
Upskilling workers in green industries - such as cleaner, cheaper and local renewable energy generation.	- Creation and retention of jobs - Diversification of industry - Development and reduction in cost of low carbon technologies - Boosted local economy
Retrofitting homes - by improving energy efficiency and upgrading to renewables, making them warmer and less dependent on dirty, expensive energy.	- Reduced energy bills - Increased energy security and independence - Warmer, healthier homes - Alleviation of fuel poverty - Less demand on healthcare services
Enhancing biodiversity - through planting trees, wildflowers and preserving areas of peat and mossland to store polluting carbon and reduce the risks of flooding and heatwaves.	- Increased biodiversity - Slowing the flow of water to protect against flood risk - Shading and cooling during extreme heat - Cleaner air and water quality - Greater water security - Better mental wellbeing and access to nature
Changing our food habits - to eat healthier diets with more locally sourced seasonal vegetables, more alternatives to meat and dairy and less food waste.	- Healthier diets - Less demand on healthcare services - Supporting local farmers and producers - Resilient local economy - Reduced waste
Changing the way we travel - by switching to cleaner and safer travelling options.	- Creation of jobs to support this transition - Cleaner air quality - Quieter, safer streets - More active, outdoor lifestyles - Fitter, healthier residents - Improved mental wellbeing - Less demand on healthcare services

Wyre's potential

Whilst Wyre faces monumental challenges from climate change, it also has great potential for climate action across the borough, including:

- Increased **carbon storage** within our natural landscapes, such as peatland, grasslands, saltmarsh and via our trees and hedgerows.
- We benefit from our **farming** community, who provide local sources of food and have potential to combat climate change whilst generating profits via new government Environmental Land Management schemes.
- **Natural flood protection** along our coastline through saltmarsh enhancement as well as on our uplands and green spaces within the borough.
- Opportunities for increased **water storage** within our natural habitats to reduce water stress during prolonged droughts.
- Potential for **renewable energy generation**, via solar farms, wind farms, or harnessing the power of the sea via tidal energy, which can be utilised for community benefit.
- Close-knit, strong **communities** across Wyre who are key to enabling climate action and improving their local area.

A just transition

Achieving our climate change targets within the UK will involve tangible impacts on people's lives, as 60% of emissions reductions will need to come from societal change[10]. Polluting industries that extract or use fossil fuels will need to change or even disappear, which could have a knock-on impact on the lives of workers and communities, when the climate change crisis is already worsening existing inequalities.

It is therefore crucial that we achieve a 'just transition'. This means moving to an environmentally sustainable economy **without leaving anyone behind**, particularly those most vulnerable. As local areas are reshaped, we will collaborate with workers, employers and other stakeholders to support those in carbon intensive industries to transition into low carbon sectors and ensure no one is unfairly disadvantaged by climate action.

Sustainable Development Goals

The actions within this strategy are all designed to achieve our eight objectives, which also contribute towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs were developed in 2015 as an urgent call to all countries, aiming to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. The target to reach the SDGs is 2030, which requires a collective global effort to achieve success.

Altogether there are 17 goals. Some of the main goals that relate to our strategy and action plan include health and wellbeing, affordable clean energy, economic growth, industry innovation, creating sustainable communities, responsible consumption, life below water and on land, alongside climate action. Taking urgent action to combat climate change is an essential part of achieving these goals locally.

How we contribute to climate change

Measuring our current emissions

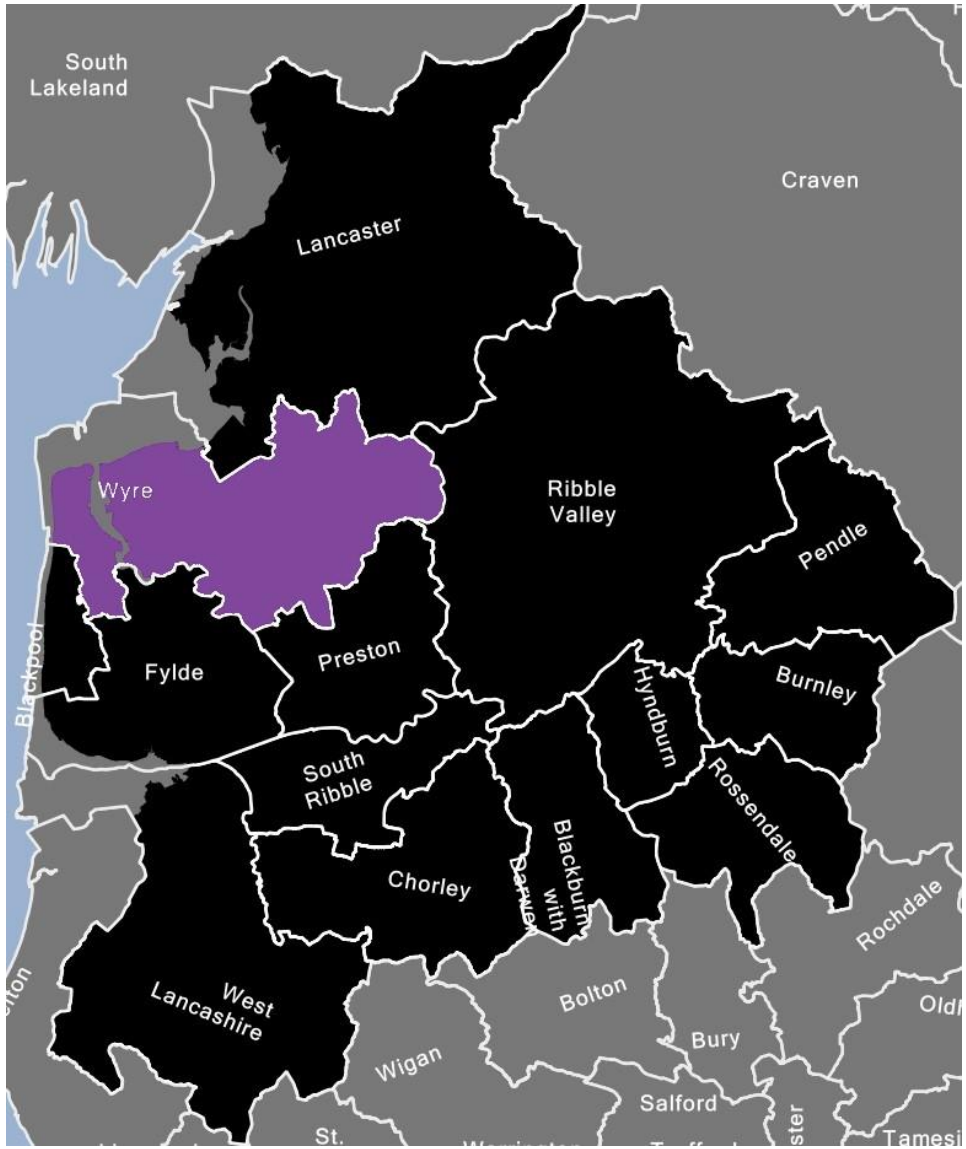
How we contribute to climate change

Borough emissions

Emissions that are generated within the borough of Wyre are calculated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, who produce yearly emission estimates for each local authority boundary across the UK[11]. Although this information is published annually, there is a 2-year time lag whilst the data is analysed.

In 2022, the borough of Wyre as a whole produced 792 kilotonnes of CO_2e emissions. Compared with the 14 borough/unitary areas within Lancashire, Wyre has the **5th largest carbon footprint** in the county.

Local Authority Area Emissions ($ktCO_2$)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ribble Valley	1,170.7	1,155.3	1,054.2	1,128.3	1,059.7
West Lancashire	1,103.1	1,093.4	1,026.4	1,061.9	1,003.9
Lancaster	1,065.3	1,029.4	932.8	994.7	945.1
Preston	947.8	904.5	849.2	858.3	809.3
Wyre	893.9	853.8	799.4	834.0	792.3
Chorley	824.9	808.5	714.2	759.3	722.2
South Ribble	739.1	709.3	642.2	657.5	624.3
Fylde	696.2	665.4	617.4	628.8	610.0
Blackburn with Darwen	721.0	747.1	694.1	669.9	577.3
Rossendale	604.0	582.9	545.2	564.8	527.6
Blackpool	563.0	552.2	489.7	517.0	473.4
Pendle	519.0	497.7	446.6	463.4	439.0
Burnley	481.9	490.3	426.9	442.1	422.9
Hyndburn	465.3	461.3	410.5	443.7	408.0
Lancashire Area Total	10,795.1	10,550.9	9,648.9	10,023.7	9,415.2



Wyre's emissions are split across eight main sources:

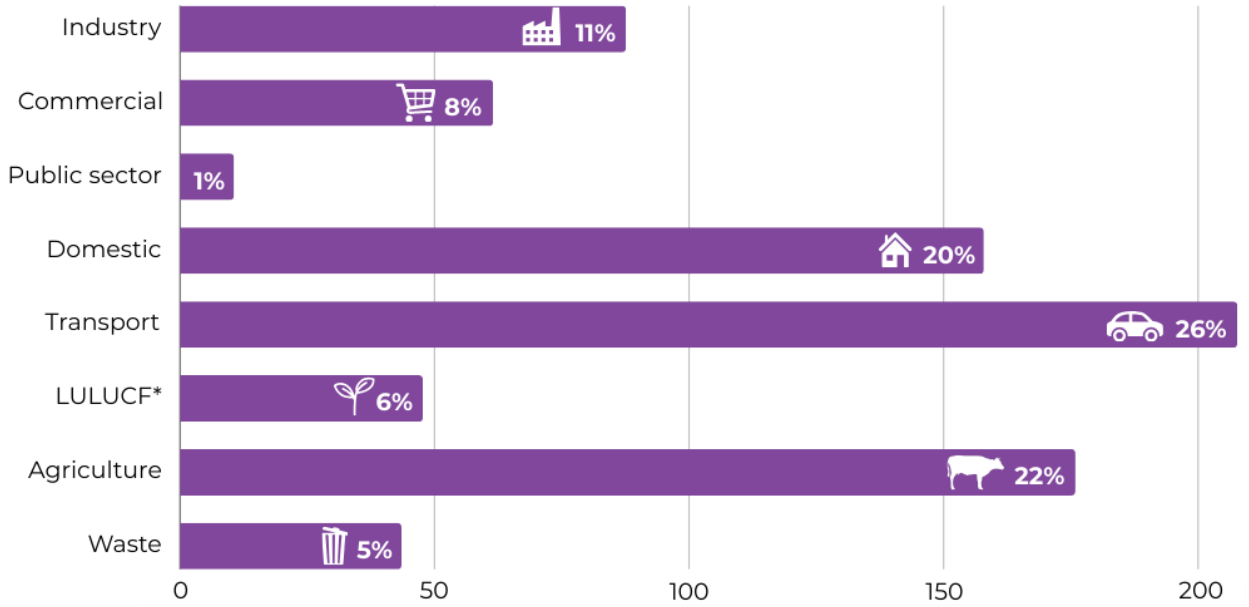


Figure 3: Emission sources across the borough of Wyre.
*LULUCF = Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

Our sparse geography means that a high percentage of our emissions come from both minor and A road **transport**, particularly where there is limited public transport or active travel infrastructure in place. A proportion of emissions from the M6 motorway are also attributed to Wyre where it intersects our borough.

A large proportion of **domestic** emissions are generated from the use of gas to heat our homes, which is a polluting fossil fuel. Emissions are even higher in rural households without a gas grid connection, as they rely on solid fuel or oil for heat.

Home to a large farming community, we generate a large proportion of **agricultural** emissions from local cropland and livestock. Most conventional farming practices release greenhouse gases from the use of chemical fertilisers and as a byproduct from cows and sheep.

Land use changes (LULUCF emissions) from historic drainage of land for farming and redevelopment have degraded crucial peatland. Rather than safely storing carbon, these habitats now release emissions into the atmosphere.

Wyre Council emissions

As a council, we are responsible for reducing the emissions we generate from our own operations, as well as leading on emission reductions across the different sectors within the borough.

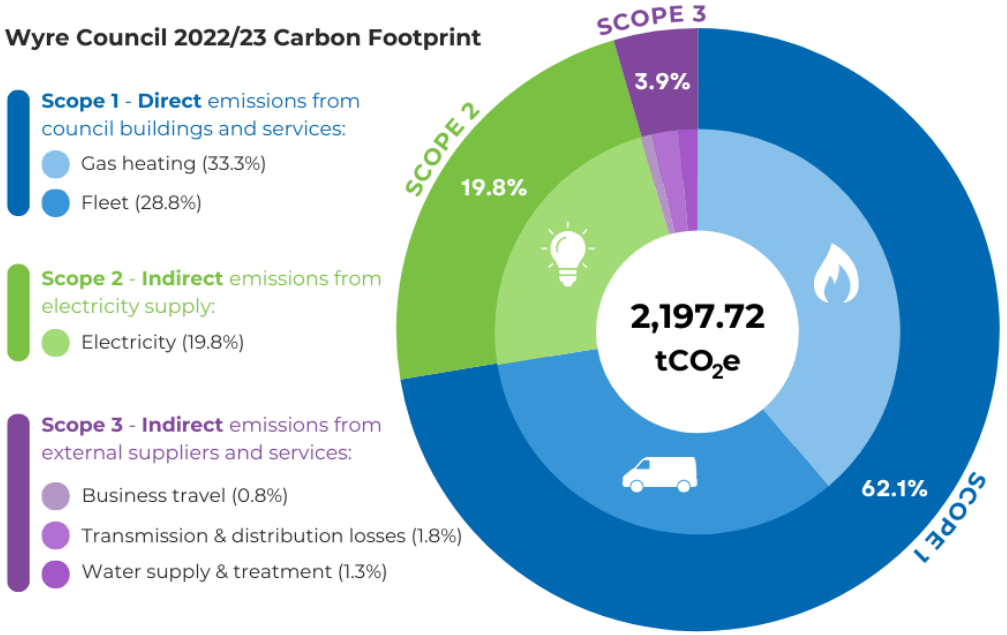
Calculating our emissions

Our emissions are calculated using the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool[12] and cover Scopes 1, 2 and 3 from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. We have measured the following emission sources, to allow for comparison with our original baseline calculated in 2018/19:

Scopes	Explanation	Included Sources
1	**Direct emissions** from sources owned by the council	- Gas heating - Vehicle fleet
2	**Indirect emissions** from owned assets	- Electricity use
3	**Indirect emissions** from council activities that are not owned/controlled by the council	- Business travel - Transmission and distribution losses - Water supply & treatment

In the 2022/23 financial year, Wyre Council produced **2,197.72 tonnes of CO_2e emissions**, primarily from our:

1. Gas heating (33.3%)
2. Vehicle fleet (28.8%)
3. Electricity use (19.8%)



In addition to our carbon footprint, we continue to measure more emission sources within the council as tools and calculations improve. These include areas such as staff commuting, waste, fuel and material use. Whilst these additional sources are not included within our final total for consistency, they help us to gain a more accurate picture of our overall carbon footprint and allow us to target areas for emissions reduction internally, through interventions such as hybrid working and cycle to work schemes.

Our carbon budget

As part of our Climate Emergency declaration, we have committed to a target to reduce our emissions by at least 78% by 2035, before achieving net zero by 2050. To do this, we must stick within an overall carbon budget. This means limiting the amount of emissions we produce each year, ensuring we don't 'overspend' our emissions budget, until we achieve our net zero target. By adhering to the carbon budget, we can limit the negative impacts of climate change to people, the environment and the economy.

Council carbon budget

Based on the council's baseline emissions from the 2018/19 financial year, we have 31,411 tonnes of CO_2e emissions remaining in our carbon budget until 2050.

To meet our interim target by 2035, we must stay within the green area on this graph – representing our carbon budget. This means reducing our emissions on a cumulative basis, decreasing incrementally by at least 4.6% each year from 2018 until we reach 78% in 2035. We then have a final 15 years to reduce any remaining emissions to net zero for 2050.

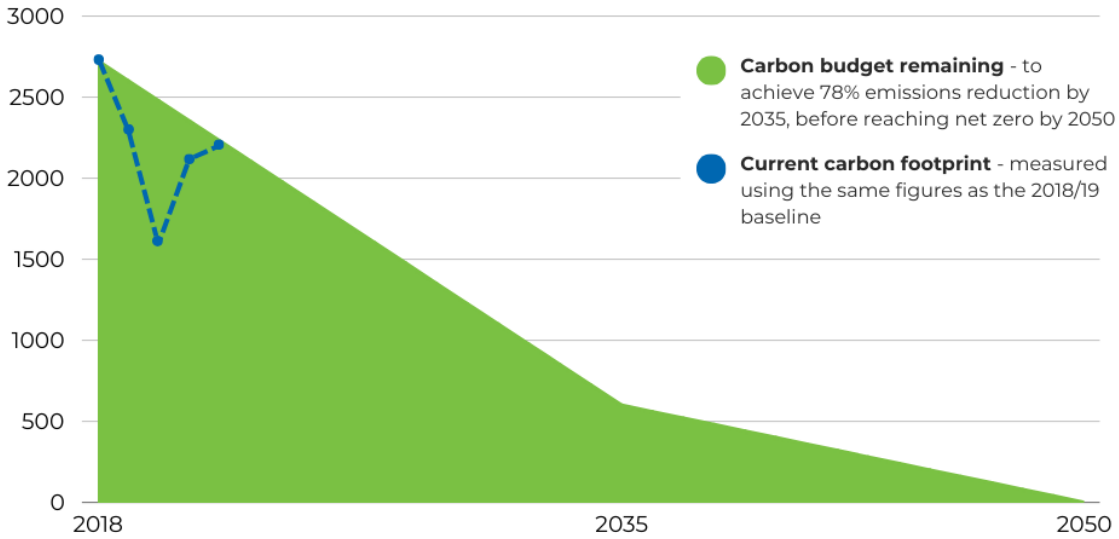
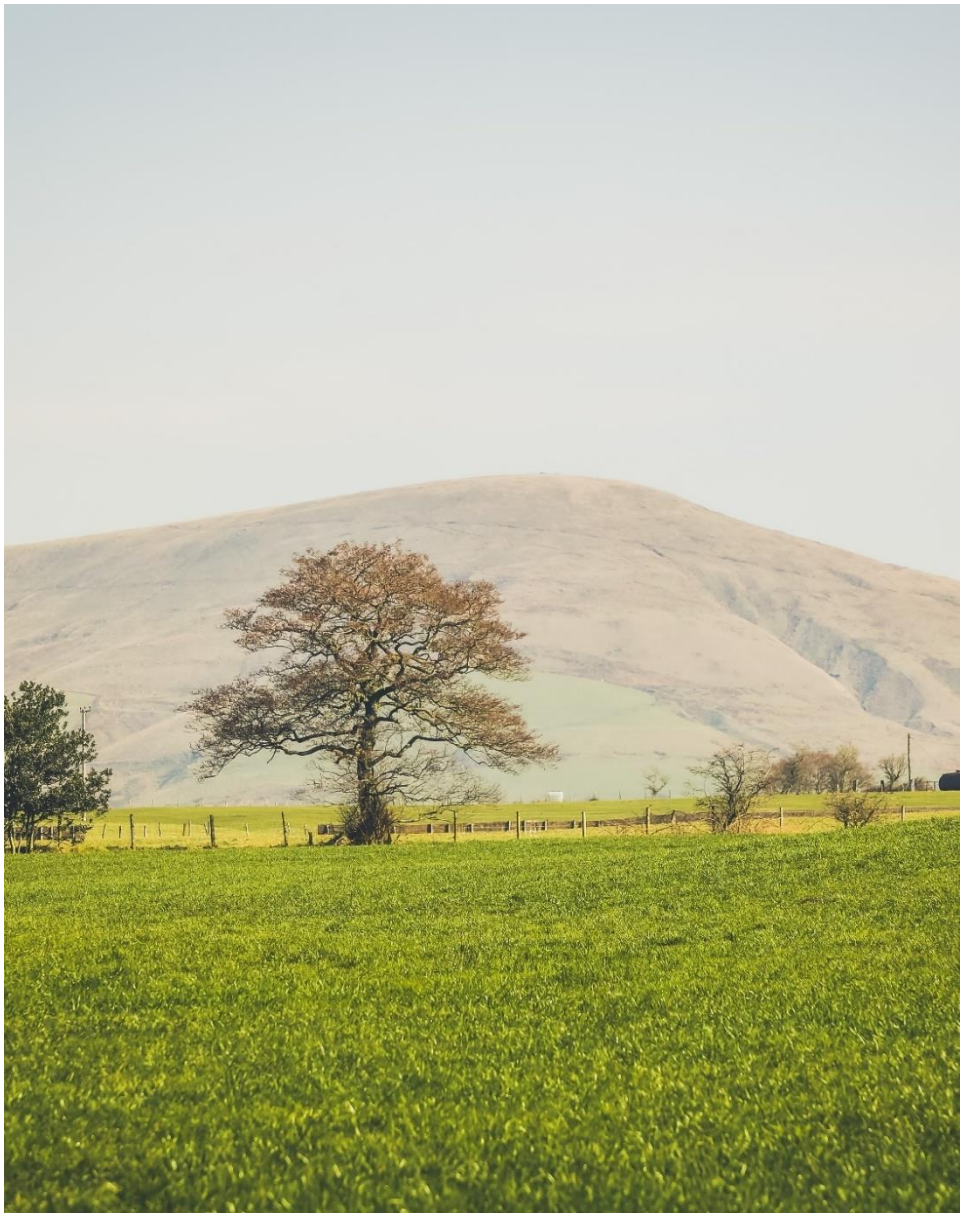


Figure 4: Limit of emissions within the council's carbon budget, alongside our current carbon footprint.

Using the same parameters as our 2018/19 baseline, the council's footprint has so far **dropped by 19%**, keeping within our target figure for 2022/23.

We have stayed within our budget owing largely to a significant drop in emissions during the pandemic, whilst our leisure centres and other key sites were closed, although emissions have steadily increased since reopening.

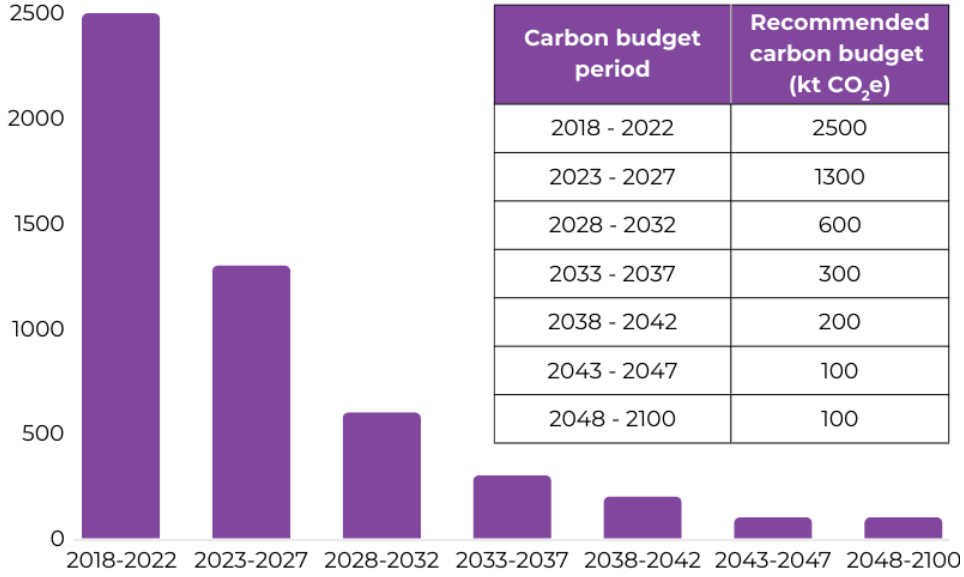


Borough carbon budget

Following the United Nations Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to "well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C", UK emission reduction targets have been calculated across UK local authorities[13].

To make our fair contribution towards the agreement, Wyre borough must stay within a tight emissions budget throughout 2018 and 2100. This means consistently reducing borough emissions by 13.2% each year until the end of the century.

However, emission levels since the study was completed in 2017 have shown that Wyre borough will **exceed** its entire recommended budget within 3 years from 2024. It is therefore crucial that we work together across Wyre to help influence an immediate and rapid programme of decarbonisation.



Carbon budget period	Recommended carbon budget (kt CO_2e)
2018 - 2022	2500
2023 - 2027	1300
2028 - 2032	600
2033 - 2037	300
2038 - 2042	200
2043 - 2047	100
2048 - 2100	100

Figure 5: Recommended carbon emissions budget (kt CO_2e) for the borough, from 2018 to 2100.

Delivering our plan

How we will achieve our target

Delivering our plan

Objectives

To achieve our target, we have identified **eight key objectives** for both our council and the wider area:

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

These objectives were chosen to best reflect the main areas that local authorities can influence to reduce emissions internally and across the local area. They target key sources of emissions, such as buildings, transport and waste; opportunities to reduce carbon and mitigate against climate impacts by enhancing our biodiversity; and the need to adapt and plan for our changing climate. They also align closely with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Each objective contains a detailed **action plan** which together will help us to achieve our overall target. These are outlined below with a summary of the current work in each area, any barriers we need help to overcome and opportunities each objective brings.

Challenges we face

Tackling climate change is an enormous challenge, which we cannot hope to achieve alone. Whilst the risks of inaction are far higher, we want to be transparent in highlighting what we can and cannot control.

The main challenges we face in implementing these actions are outlined below. More specific barriers are incorporated within each action plan, with a column stating **what else needs to happen**, to draw attention to any additional funding, resources or legislation required to meet each action.

Finance

We have estimated the costs of actions where possible and highlighted what else needs to happen externally for these to succeed. As exact costs are likely to vary, estimated costs have been split into four categories, as shown in the table below.

Estimated cost	Meaning
£	Up to £10,000
££	Between £10,000 and £100,000
£££	Between £100,000 and £1 million
££££	Over £1 million

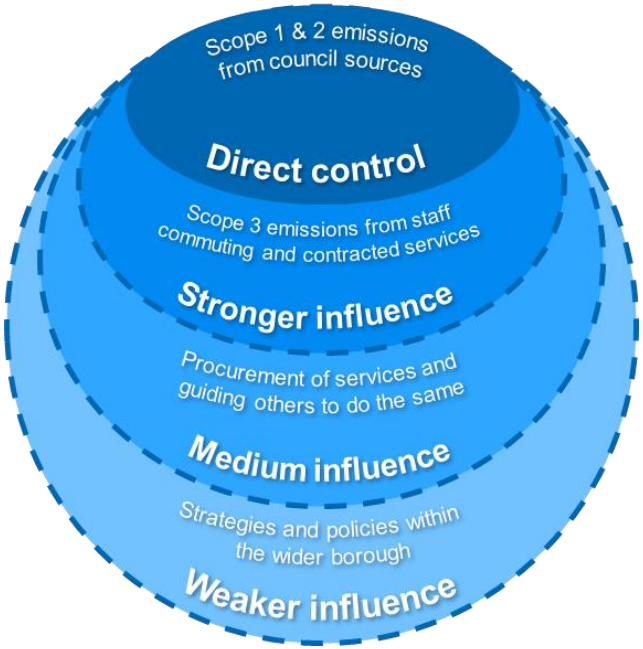
However, whilst we will endeavour to fund actions where we can through internal budgeting, financing these action plans will be a **significant challenge**. Tackling climate change requires work at all levels of the council and across the wider borough. As highlighted above, our budgetary constraints and limitations in our powers as a borough council mean we cannot hope to fund these actions ourselves. We are therefore reliant on external grant funding opportunities and utilising the strong partnerships with Lancashire County Council and our key stakeholders to achieve our target.

Legislation

As a borough council, we are restricted in what we can do by current government legislation. For instance, national planning policy limits our current powers to encourage new development to be low carbon. Until new national policies are put in place to tackle climate change, we are limited in what we can achieve.

Our spheres of influence

Spheres of influence represent the levels of control we have over emissions reduction for the council and the wider area. Our Scope 1 and 2 emissions, primarily from our vehicle fleet, and gas and electricity usage in our council buildings, are easier to target as they are within our direct control. We have a stronger influence on our staff and contracted services, and a medium influence on our procurement of services and contractors.



As a borough council, we have a weaker influence on reducing emissions within the wider borough. This is because we have fewer powers than Lancashire County Council, who are responsible for services we do not cover, such as public transport, highways, schools and libraries and disposal of the waste we collect.

Nevertheless, **local authorities have the potential to influence around a third of UK emissions**, through our policies, practices and partnerships[14]. We will therefore be realistic about what we can and cannot achieve as a council and group our actions based on our spheres of influence. Where we have weaker influence, we will raise this as a specific challenge within our

action plans and endeavour to work with partners, key stakeholders and the wider community to get the help we need to achieve our collective target of net zero.

Recognising our differing levels of control across emissions within the wider area, we have **grouped actions** into our main areas of influence for each objective. This arranges actions into those we can directly control and those that we can influence using the different tools at our disposal, such as via policy or engagement using our social media platforms.

Area of Influence	Meaning
A: Direct control	Reducing emissions from our own activities, including our buildings, staff activities, council commissioning and procurement
B: Place-shaping	Using policies to help shape new developments, regeneration plans, green infrastructure and Economic Development.
C: Showcasing	Bringing people together to create effective partnerships and to demonstrate and reward good practice in the community.
D: Engaging	Communicating locally to encourage and motivate behaviour change, educate others and raise awareness on climate change impacts and opportunities, and provide leadership.
E: Partnerships	Working with key stakeholders to achieve a joint goal.

Including your voice

As a strategy for the whole of Wyre, it is vital that we include your voice as residents, businesses, young people, communities and stakeholders. Over recent years multiple surveys have been run to voice your opinions on climate change, which have helped to shape this strategy.

Public survey: Local resident's views on climate change, 2021

In 2021, a survey on local resident's views on climate change in Wyre sought to understand local knowledge, perceptions, views on individual actions and invited suggestions for the council to implement[15].

Of those who took part in the survey, respondents considered their knowledge on the topic was moderately broad, with limited scepticism about the causes of climate change. They indicated that their main motivation for changing their behaviours was the concern for **future generations**, followed by health and saving money.

"It's not just drought, we seem to be a lot wetter and have had to take flood prevention measures in Fleetwood to stop ingress into our house after downpours."

Within the last five years, respondents found that climate change had already impacted the local area with increased flooding from rainfall, less biodiversity and worsening weather. They also noted other changes including milder winters, stranger behaviours from plants that are flowering or fruiting twice a year, longer dry spells and droughts effecting crops.

It was widely supported that the council should introduce measures that encourage people to adopt environmentally friendly behaviour, rather than leaving it to individuals and businesses to adapt their own behaviour. Of these measures, respondents widely supported setting tougher environmental standards for new developments, planting more trees and plants, introducing more recycling options and renewable energy generation.

Over half of the actions individually suggested in the survey have been incorporated into the action plans. The remaining actions were either unsuitable, fell outside of the influence of the council, or required further exploration.

"My main motivation is to reduce pollution, protect the environment and reduce carbon emissions so that future generations will not be too adversely affected by the effects of climate change."

Public survey: Life in Wyre, 2022

In the 2022 Life in Wyre resident's survey[16], respondents were asked how strongly they would support or oppose a range of different actions that the council might take to address climate change. The most popular measures, supported by over three-quarters of respondents were:

- Offering schemes for residents to **install renewable energy**.
- Supporting **renewable energy generation**, e.g., solar power.
- Offering **advice for reducing bills** and improving home energy efficiency.
- Safer **walking and cycling** routes.
- Setting **tougher environmental standards** for newer developments.

Public survey: Let's talk about climate, 2024

In early 2024, a public consultation was carried out to give residents a chance to have their say on the draft Climate Change Strategy[17].

Several in-person events took place across the borough, encouraging residents to complete an online survey. Key stakeholders were invited to the Civic Centre for a presentation on the strategy and a chance to comment on the action plans in more detail. Primary and secondary schools also visited the council to learn more about climate change and get involved in the consultation. 228 responses were received to the online survey and over 100 residents and stakeholders attended in-person consultation events.

Overall, being environmentally friendly was important to most respondents, but barriers like the standard of public transport, awareness, availability and cost of environmentally friendly alternatives and access to recycling and waste facilities may stop them from doing more.

The biggest worries about climate change in Wyre are flooding and loss of wildlife. Almost two-thirds of respondents felt climate action should be a high priority for the council, although a quarter were unsure of the impact the council could make or were sceptical about climate change.

“It's important for everybody. If we don't act now there won't be a future.”

Of the objectives in the strategy, Planning, Biodiversity and Waste were seen as the highest priorities. In particular, concerns were raised about the need to prioritise environmental or climate change impacts when making planning decisions.

A wide range of suggestions were put forward, including more emphasis on pollution, local business and industry, education and engaging young people, local partners and experts, and development of the action plans with business cases for each action. Overall, there was a clear desire for ongoing and increased engagement from residents and key stakeholders.

“Wyre BC need to lead by example to encourage others to do the same.”

The results of these surveys have been incorporated into the strategy where suitable and will be used to inform future campaigns, actions and engagement within Wyre.

Future voices

Including the **voices of young people** in Wyre is crucial, as the actions we take today directly impact upon future generations. We will work with youth councils, schools, colleges and other organisations to capture their opinions and involve them in decision-making.

Keeping you in the loop

We plan to regularly communicate and consult with the public on climate change work and any key strategy updates. This will help us to understand local opinion and bring you with us on our low carbon journey.

Visit our website to find out more about actions we’re taking to tackle climate change and how individuals, communities, businesses and schools can get involved.

Successes so far

As part of our ongoing work to tackle climate change, we have achieved a number of successes, including:

Achievements within our **internal operations**	- Completed the retrofit and redevelopment of **Fleetwood Market**, using £1m funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and £3m of UKSPF and council investment to install a new roof, solar panels and air source heat pumps. - Secured Phase 4 Low Carbon Skills Fund of £177,728 to create **Heat Decarbonisation Plans** and detailed designs for council buildings heated by gas. - Transitioned to **HVO biofuel** to significantly cut tailpipe emissions by up to 90% and added **Electric Vehicles** to our fleet where suitable. - Certified as the first Lancashire local authority to become a Bronze level **Carbon Literate Organisation** following ongoing staff training, including senior leaders. - Improved the sustainable management of our own green spaces by achieving **Green Flag** awards for five of our parks and introducing meadow creation and natural flood management measures within our land. - Installed **pool covers** within our leisure centres to prevent wasted heat, alongside securing funding from the Swimming Pool Support Fund for **solar panels** at Fleetwood Leisure Centre. - Introduced an internal **decision-making tool** to identify any climate change impacts for projects and reports and mitigate any negative effects. - Encouraged sustainable **staff commuting**, via a cycle to work scheme, secure cycle storage and discounted bus and tram travel.
Achievements across the **wider borough**	- Successfully secured £1.3m for a Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme to improve **social housing** stock in Wyre and engaged residents on other energy saving and retrofitting schemes via the Cosy Home in Lancashire partnership. - Planted approximately 19,342 **trees** as of April 2024, bringing us 77% towards our target to plant 25,000 trees by 2025. - Installed electric vehicle **charging points** on nine of our council car parks, in addition to four dedicated taxi charging locations. - Leading a £40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme, constructing **sea defences** to protect 11,000 properties and key infrastructure from the threat of sea level rise and coastal erosion. - Established the **Our Future Coast** innovation project in partnership with the government, to use nature-based solutions along the coast to restore our saltmarshes and protect communities from flooding. - Offered **businesses** the opportunity for fully funded specialist sustainability advice through the Chamber Low Carbon UK Shared Prosperity Funding project. - Invested in the Wyre Catchment **Natural Flood Management** project, a government pilot scheme working with local farmers to slow and intercept flood water upstream to Wyre. - Continued to engage with schools and volunteers with climate change and conservation activities, including **Young Wyre in Bloom**.

Leading the plan

The strategy and action plans will be delivered by both council staff and key stakeholders across the borough, coordinated by the climate change team.

A councillor Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee will monitor the strategy progress and explore the potential to incorporate further measures into action plans.

Internal delivery

Each council service area will hold responsibility for specific actions, led by their Assistant Directors. An officer working group will collaborate internally to support and drive progress on the action plans.

Carbon Literacy training will be provided for both staff members and councillors, to ensure a strong understanding of the climate crisis. This is vital for cross-party and departmental collaboration to deliver our action plan. We are already a Bronze level Carbon Literate Organisation and we are actively working on progressing our certification.

Links to our other work

Climate action must lie at the heart of all council strategies to deliver the scale of urgent emissions reduction. Key documents that will feed into the climate change strategy include:

- Council Plan
- Local Plan review
- Asset Management Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Wyre Moving More Strategy
- Wyre Urban Core Flood Management Strategy

Key stakeholders

For the plan to succeed, collaboration will be needed with a range of stakeholders across the borough and the surrounding area. This involves partnerships with a range of stakeholders, including but not limited to:

- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Contractors for key council infrastructure projects and utilities
- Cosy Homes in Lancashire
- Countryside Landowners Association
- Environment Agency
- Forest of Bowland National Landscape
- Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board
- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Local Schools and Colleges
- Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership
- National Farmers Union (North West Region)
- National Highways Natural England
- North West Net Zero Hub
- Regenda Homes
- The North West Coastal Group
- Town Centre Partnership Boards
- Town and Parish Councils
- Transport service operators
- United Utilities
- Volunteers
- Wildlife and Rivers Trusts
- Wyre Flood Forum
- Wyre Rivers Trust
- Wyred Up business network
- YMCA leisure centres in Wyre

Additionally, collaborative partnerships and commitments will be sought with different sectors including voluntary, educational, health, faith organisations, businesses (both large and SMEs) and other anchor institutions within Wyre. This ensures these actions tie into a holistic strategy of climate action across Wyre.

Creating our targets

The actions set out below are written as SMART targets, which ensures that they are:

- **Specific** rather than generalised actions.
- **Measurable** with different performance indicators for each action.
- **Achievable** within the constraints of the council.
- **Relevant** to our target.
- **Time-bound** with specific timescales given per action.

Prioritising actions

Each action has been **scored** from 1 to 9 based on its estimated carbon savings and measurable impact on the council's carbon footprint.

Prioritisation scoring		Estimated carbon savings		
		High	Medium	Low
Measurable impact on council carbon footprint	Direct	1	4	7
	Both	2	5	8
	Indirect	3	6	9

In line with our target to reduce council emissions by 78% by 2035, actions with high estimated carbon emissions savings and a direct numerical impact upon the council footprint have been prioritised. Indirect impacts refer to those that are felt externally or considered to impact areas upstream/downstream of our current carbon footprint calculation.

Prioritising actions with higher estimated carbon savings ensures **mitigation** measures are prioritised before considering offsetting. This is key to rapidly reducing emissions from the council and borough and staying within our carbon budget targets. Although important, actions to offset emissions will be used as a last resort, to account for any remaining emissions that cannot be reduced. Put simply – when a bath is overflowing, you must turn off the taps before trying to mop up the water.

A note on offsetting

The concept of offsetting is still largely in development. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology cannot yet operate at scale and Carbon Credits for tree planting schemes are not yet reliable or guaranteed in the long term. This means offsetting cannot be relied upon for effective emissions reduction.

Where we plan to offset, we will focus this within the local area to provide both wildlife and community benefits in the form of natural flood management and community energy projects.

Monitoring our progress

The action plans within this strategy are **live documents**, which will be reviewed and updated annually by the climate change team to reflect emerging technologies, guidance, best practice and policies.

The officer working group will discuss progress and drive forward climate action. This will include a review of actions by our councillor Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee. Actions will be measured via different performance indicators for each action. Discontinued or amended actions will be kept in an actions log, to keep track of changes.

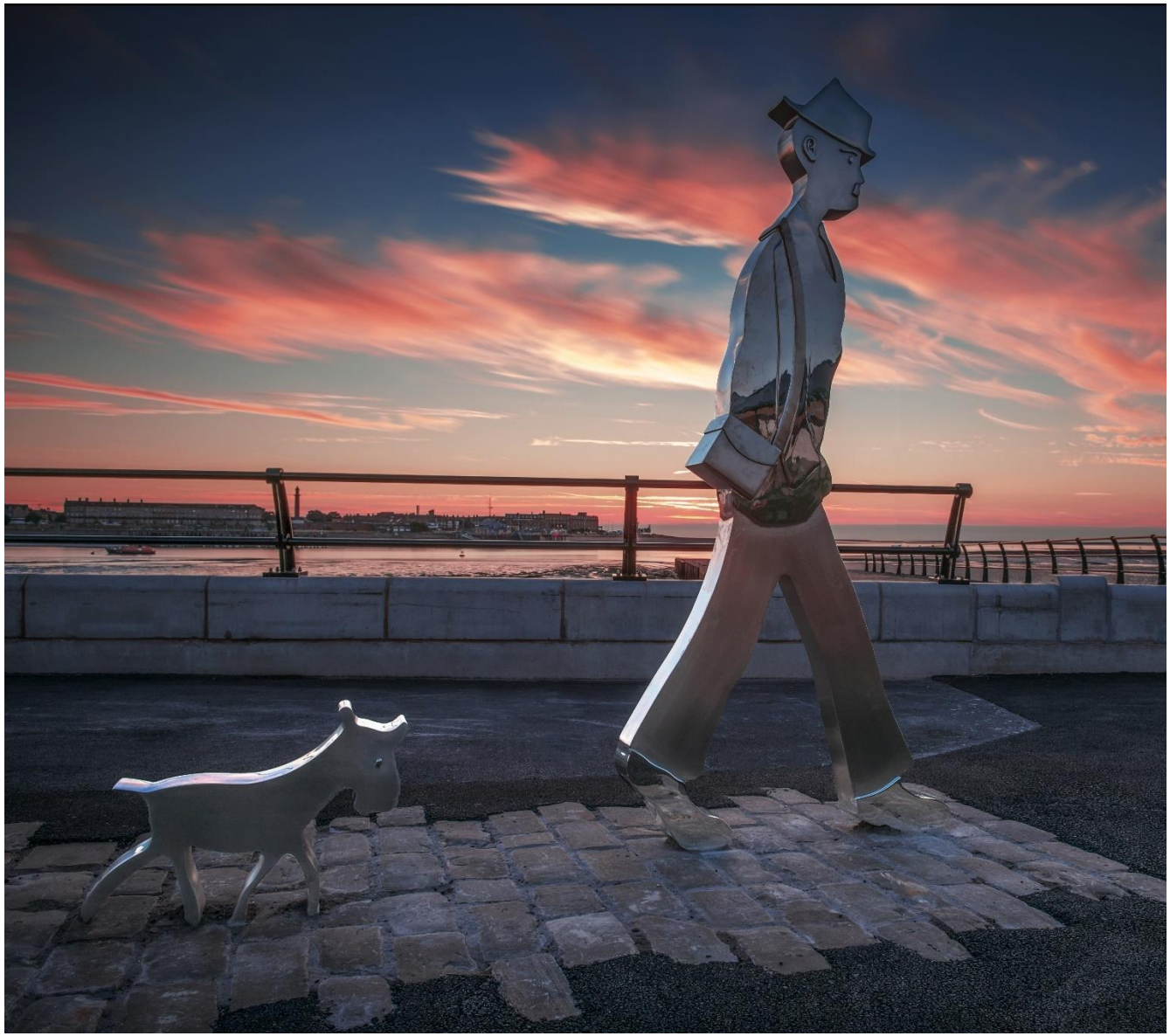


Photo credit: A Carr.

Our action plans

Eight action plans to meet our key objectives

Our action plans

Within this section, we outline separate action plans to meet our **eight key objectives** for both the council and wider borough:

1. **Buildings**
   Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.
2. **Transport**
   Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.
3. **Net zero council**
   Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.
4. **Planning**
   Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.
5. **Biodiversity**
   Protect and increase biodiversity.
6. **Engagement**
   Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.
7. **Waste**
   Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.
8. **Adaptation**
   Adapt to our changing climate.

Objective 1: Buildings

Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.

One of the largest sources of emissions in the UK comes from our poorly insulated and drafty homes, typically heated by fossil fuel gas. Across Wyre, a large proportion of homes are not connected to the gas grid and are instead heated by oil or liquid petroleum gas (LPG), which are not only expensive but highly polluting.

Retrofitting homes and buildings to include better insulation, draft-proofing and renewable heating systems can significantly reduce emissions alongside a range of positive outcomes, including warmer homes, reduced heating bills and a boost to jobs in the sector.

Current progress

As one of our main sources of emissions, and a high cost to the council in fuel bills, we have been focusing on identifying ways to improve the efficiency of our council buildings and plan for full retrofit projects where possible.

So far, we have been successfully awarded £1m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to carry out significant work at our historic **Fleetwood Market**. With additional finance from the council, Heritage Action Zone and UK Shared Prosperity Funding, we have completed a whole building retrofit with new windows, doors and a brand-new roof to improve energy efficiency. We have also installed solar panels and air source heat pumps to heat the building sustainably, alongside other building improvements for traders and visitors to enjoy.

In addition to our improvement work at Fleetwood Market, we have been awarded £177,728 from the Government's **Low Carbon Skills Fund** to help us plan for decarbonising our remaining council buildings. Using specialist consultants, this funding will help us to understand more about our current buildings and what we need to do to improve their efficiency and switch to renewable heating systems. This will prepare us for future funding bids to carry out the costly improvements, which will provide significant carbon and cost savings.

Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL)

Our partnership with Cosy Homes in Lancashire is helping residents across the borough to improve their home energy efficiency. Their website provides a one-stop shop for local residents to learn more about different energy saving measures, apply for funding for eligible properties or access free insulation to reduce heating bills and make our homes cosy.

Challenges to overcome:

- High upfront cost of retrofitting and installing renewable heating systems as a barrier for residents.
- Capacity of the current electricity grid to manage demand for renewable energy installations.
- Limited council influence over houses already built within the borough, aside from enforcing energy efficiency standards among private landlords.
- Current skills shortage among the workforce and supply chain issues for suitable materials.
- Level of education and awareness for homeowners on energy efficiency measures and renewable heating alternatives.
- National building regulations limiting planning decisions that favour energy efficiency and renewable energy in new homes.
- Lack of guidance and legislation from the Government regarding a heat strategy for the UK.

Positive outcomes:

- Significant emissions reduction.
- Warmer, more efficient homes and buildings.
- Fewer cold and damp-related illnesses and social referrals to the NHS.
- Cheaper energy bills.
- Reduced levels of fuel poverty.
- An increase in local jobs and opportunities to upskilling workers in retrofitting and renewable installations.
- Potential income from renewable energy generation.

Objective 1: Buildings – Retrofit and decarbonise buildings and heating systems.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
1.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
1.A1	Ensure the council's **electricity supply** is powered by renewable energy.	Review electricity supply to council buildings, leisure centres and leased buildings where the council pays the energy tariff. Switch remaining sites on brown energy to green tariffs where feasible when contracts are up for renewal.	Short term (2024-26)	All energy supply contracts powered by renewable energy.	20% of the council's meters currently use a green tariff, although these are low consumption sites. The majority of sites use a brown tariff with non-renewable energy. There are opportunities in 2025 and 2027 to procure a green tariff where feasible.		££	**Procurement**; Assets & Development Projects; Finance; Climate Change.	9
1.A2	**Audit** council buildings and leisure centres to identify energy waste, estimate costs and savings and create design plans in preparation for low carbon retrofit.	Complete an audit of key sites, identifying suitable measures such as on-site renewable energy generation (including heat pumps, solar panels and solar car ports) and whole building retrofit to improve energy efficiency.	Short term (2024-26)	Results of Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs) and detailed designs for main council buildings and leisure centres included within Asset Management Strategy.	Heat Decarbonisation Plans and detailed designs completed for 8 key sites (including 5x leisure centres, Civic Centre, Copse Road and Thornton Little Theatre), following a £177,728 Low Carbon Skills Fund grant.		££	**Assets & Development Projects**; Procurement; Finance; Climate Change.	1
1.A3	**Retrofit** and redevelop council buildings and leisure centres to make them low carbon.	Carry out retrofit and decarbonisation work to key council buildings, prioritising those that have the highest energy consumption.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of buildings retrofitted. Number of buildings heated by renewable technology (decarbonised).	Successfully completed the retrofit and installation of renewable energy to power and heat Fleetwood Market, following a £1.2m grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Solar panels are also due to be installed at Fleetwood Leisure Centre following a grant from the Swimming Pool Support Fund.	Government grant funding schemes required to cover significant costs for multiple retrofit and redevelopment works.	££££	**Assets & Development Projects**; Procurement; Finance; Climate Change.	1

1.A4	Work with tenants to improve EPC ratings of **leased assets**.	Compile a list of the council's key leased assets and work with **tenants** to identify and implement measures to improve energy efficiency. Use "trigger points" such as lease breaks and planned refurbishments, where we can encourage retrofits to take place.	Medium term (2027-29)	Audits completed for key leased sites. All sites to achieve an EPC rating in line with government guidelines and to implement additional efficiency measures where feasible and economically viable.	All EPCs have been updated and any works required are being considered.	Cooperation with tenants.	£~~£~~£	**Assets & Development Projects**; Legal; Climate Change.	9
		Explore the use and viability of **green leases** for our leased assets with the inclusion of additional sustainability measures.	Medium term (2027-29)	Working group in place. Inclusion of sustainability measures within leases.				**Assets & Development Projects**; Legal; Climate Change.	9
1.A5	Ensure all council-owned amenity **lighting** is energy efficient.	Switch all remaining inefficient lighting to LEDs. Review where we are providing amenity lighting and what duration to identify potential savings.	Medium term (2027-29)	Amenity lighting review carried out. All council-owned amenity lighting switched to LEDs.	Currently 50% of council owned amenity lighting is LED. Lighting is replaced as and when needed.		~~£~~£	**Engineering**; Assets & Development Projects; Caretakers.	7
1.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
1.B1	Ensure private sector **landlords** are aware of responsibilities to guarantee rented properties are adequately heated and insulated according to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES).	**Signpost** landlords to guidance and funding opportunities to improve energy efficiency in rented properties within the borough.	Short term (2024-26)	Advice available on the council website.				**Housing Services**; Climate Change; Communications.	9
		Issue **enforcement** notices and fines for landlords renting out homes with an EPC rating of F or lower.	Ongoing	% of Category F homes (or lower), that the council is aware of, improved by informal or enforcement action.		Government support.		**Housing Services.**	9

1.B2	Aim to retrofit and decarbonise existing **empty homes** and building stock where possible within the borough.	Utilise allocated Section 106 sums for affordable housing to provide grants to retrofit and install energy efficiency measures within empty homes to lower running costs and improve living conditions for future residents where possible.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of affordable houses retrofitted via this scheme.		Developer support.	££	**Planning.**	9
1.C: Area of Influence – Showcasing									
1.C1	Create **local case studies** of successful building retrofit examples.	Collaborate with volunteers to create local case studies of retrofit examples and lessons learnt among local residents, communities and businesses.	Short term (2024-26)	Case studies available online, at events and shared within local networks.	Fleetwood Market case study to be compiled by end of financial year 2024/25, to allow for the site to be operational for a year.	Collaboration with volunteer residents, businesses and community groups to gather case study material.		**Climate Change**; Communications; Volunteers.	9
1.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									
1.D1	Support residents to **retrofit homes** with energy efficiency measures and renewable energy.	Provision of guidance and **signposting** to advice and funding opportunities on the council website.	Ongoing	Advice available on website.	Advice and signposting on home energy efficiency and retrofitting is available on the climate change section of the website.			**Climate Change**; Communications.	9
		Create a 'green list' of **trusted traders** to signpost residents and organisations towards for retrofitting homes and buildings, with disclaimers where appropriate.	Short term (2024-26)	Trader list, disclaimers and advice available on website.				**Climate Change**; Communications, Legal; Economic Development.	9
		Hold **events** and roadshows offering residents and businesses energy and retrofitting advice and an opportunity to ask experts questions.	Ongoing	Number of roadshows and events per year.	The Climate Change team attend multiple events throughout the year to raise awareness of climate actions.	Support from partners such as Cosy Homes in Lancashire and Blackpool and Fylde College.	£	**Climate Change**; Communications; Economic Development; Cosy Homes in Lancashire; Blackpool and Fylde College; Net Zero Hub.	9

		Train frontline workers visiting homes to give **advice** on energy efficiency and signpost residents to appropriate avenues for support.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of frontline workers trained.		External training.	£	**Housing Services**; Climate Change.	9
		Work with **partners** to promote energy efficiency improvements to households in need. Provide funding for partners such as Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL) to offer households help on accessing grants, advice on efficient heating and insulating their homes.	Ongoing	Number of energy saving measures installed by CHiL in Wyre. Number of targeted mailings and social media posts.	CHiL representatives regularly attend council events throughout the year to help promote energy efficiency improvements.	Ongoing provision of the Household Support Fund by the Government.	££	**Housing Services**; Climate Change; Communications; Cosy Homes in Lancashire.	9
1.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									
1.E1	Work with communities to support **community energy** projects.	Provide advice and **guidance** on community energy to residents, town and parish councils and community groups to encourage new schemes.	Ongoing	Advice available online and promoted via networks. Number of in-person sessions per year.	The council have supported several events raising interest in community energy for residents at Calder Vale.	Collaboration with external stakeholders.	£	**Climate Change**; Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities; Communications; Key partners.	9
		Provide funding or other **support** to facilitate community energy projects where appropriate and economically viable.	Ongoing	Number of community energy schemes in Wyre. Amount of support given by the council.	The council is currently working with a community group in Calder Vale to explore renewable energy alternatives.	Government support and external grants.	££	**Climate Change**; North West Net Zero Hub.	6
1.E2	Explore schemes to allow residents to purchase renewable energy cheaply, through **collective buying**.	Research and consider partnering with other local authorities to support a collective buying project for renewable energy, utilising projects such as Solar Together.	Short term (2024-26)	Review of viability of scheme. If feasible, achievement of sign-up threshold by residents across Wyre.		Support from other local authorities to achieve threshold for the scheme.	£	**Climate Change**; Legal; Finance; other Local Authorities.	3
1.E3	Evaluate local **capacity** for renewable energy.	Commission a joint Local Area Energy Plan (LEAP) or similar review to assess the capacity for renewable energy infrastructure across the Fylde Coast.	Long term (2030+)	Creation of Local Area Energy Plan or similar local review of energy capacity.		External expertise, funding and collaboration with nearby authorities.	££££	**Climate Change**; Lancashire Local Authorities.	3

Objective 2: Transport

Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.

Across Wyre, current transport methods cause a significant amount of polluting emissions within the borough. This is also true for the council, as our vehicle fleet is one of the top three contributors to our internal carbon footprint.

Reducing emissions from transport in Wyre is a particular challenge, as residents are limited in public transport options. Demand for individual car-ownership is also increasing across the UK, particularly for heavily polluting SUVs. Not only does this increase emissions, but it congests our roads, reduces our safety and directly pollutes the air we breathe.

As a borough council, we are not responsible for transport in Wyre. However, we can use our influence to work with key stakeholders such as Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Blackpool Transport to support our residents with better public and active transport alternatives. We can also lead by example in addressing the emissions from our own fleet and waste collection vehicles.

Current progress

Internally, our vehicle fleet accounts for one of the largest sources of emissions within the council. We are tackling this through a phased replacement of our fleet to Electric Vehicles (EVs). However, this is a costly process, particularly for our larger waste collection vehicles. Until a more financially viable solution is available, we have switched to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) biofuel to significantly reduce our emissions and fitted electric bin lifts to improve efficiency on our waste vehicles.

We have installed EV charging points across our main council car parks, facilitating residents and visitors to go electric. We have also assisted in the development LCC's EV strategy to support the transition across the wider area.

As part of our Wyre Moving Strategy more work, we have been implementing an **active travel** programme to encourage people to walk, cycle and wheel more across the borough. This includes bike donations and repairs, health and social rides and many other initiatives to help residents to be more fit and active.

On a wider scale, we jointly offer the Fleetwood to Knott End ferry with LCC and have contributed to recent LCC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans. We are also a stakeholder in the National Rail project exploring the reinstatement of the Poulton to Fleetwood railway line, aiming to improve transport links, boost employment and tourism, access to further education institutions, and encourage regeneration of the area.

Driving the move from fossil fuelled transport

In 2024, the council made the swap from diesel for Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as the primary fuel source for our vehicle fleet – cutting a massive 30% from our carbon footprint.

HVO is made from fats and vegetable oils, which undergoes a process called hydrogenation to create a biofuel that we can use to power vehicles. No engine changes are needed and the HVO we use is palm oil free, so it is simple to make the change.

Whilst this is more expensive than diesel, it is a great alternative until electricity grid connections improve and EV technology becomes more affordable for our larger waste collection vehicles.

Challenges to overcome:

- We are not the direct transport authority for the area. However, we can use planning powers to influence the connectivity of future development, work in partnership to facilitate improvements and engage with residents to encourage sustainable and active transport.
- The rural nature of Wyre means it is challenging to provide cost-effective sustainable transport options to the whole area.
- Changing travel behaviours alongside rising demand for private cars and SUVs.
- High upfront cost of electric vehicles, particularly larger wagons, and embedded emissions from manufacturing new electric batteries (although significantly less than petrol and diesel vehicles).
- High cost of alternative biofuel for council owned vehicles.
- The M6 motorway intersects part of the borough, contributing to the area's emissions.

Positive outcomes:

- Increasing levels of active travel through connected networks leads to healthier, more active residents and less pressure on public health services.
- Fewer polluting petrol and diesel cars allows for improved air quality and quieter, safer streets for children to play in.
- Potential money savings from using sustainable transport.

Objective 2: Transport – Support decarbonised, safe and sustainable transport.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
2.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
2.A1	Reduce emissions from **council vehicles**.	Transition of diesel council vehicles to **Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil** (HVO) biofuel.	Ongoing	Number of vehicles using HVO or alternative fuel source.	The council's diesel-powered vehicle fleet were transitioned to HVO in April 2024. A small handful of vehicles remain on diesel due to proximity to vehicle depot.		££	**Transport Maintenance.**	1
		Carry out phased **vehicle replacement** following individual evaluation of the best option to reduce emissions by either purchasing electric, using an alternative fuel type, or removing unnecessary vehicles.	Ongoing	Changes to vehicle fleet. Reduction in carbon footprint.	As part of the phased replacement: the fleet has reduced by three vehicles; four electric vans and one electric car have been purchased; and the majority of diesel vehicles have been transitioned onto HVO.		££	**Transport Maintenance.**	4
		Where there is service update or significant changes with fleet vehicles, **route optimisation** will be carried out.	Annually	Annual review of fuel usage and estimated annual mileage of electric vehicles.	Vehicle routes for the waste collection service have optimised for maximum efficiency.			**Transport Maintenance**; Waste Collection; Street Cleansing; Grounds Maintenance.	7
		Annually review vehicle tracking software to identify **idling** time by vehicle type. Work with drivers to understand reasons for idling and introduce measures to reduce this.	Annually	Annual review. Reduction in vehicle idling times.				**Transport Maintenance**.	7
2.A2	Reduce emissions from **business travel**.	Creation of a **Green Travel policy** to encourage sustainable staff business travel between meetings and work events.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of Green Travel policy.				**Climate Change**; Human Resources.	7

		Facilitate **hybrid working** by requiring all meetings to have an online option where possible.	Short term (2024-26)	Include requirement within Green Travel policy. Amend Hybrid Working Policy.	A Hybrid Working Policy is in place, allowing staff members to work flexibly from any location.			**Human Resources**; Climate Change.	7
2.A3	Reduce emissions from **staff commuting**.	**Review** current commuting practices and identify areas to improve upon.	Short term (2024-26)	Staff commuting survey. Identification and implementation of improvements.	An initial staff commuting survey was conducted in 2022 providing a baseline for commuting emissions.			**Climate Change**; Staff working group.	7
		Introduce and promote staff sustainable commuting **initiatives** such as the cycle to work scheme, discounted public transport and Love to Ride Lancashire.	Ongoing	Promotion of initiatives. Staff survey indicating knowledge of schemes.	Staff have access to several initiatives to encourage sustainable commuting.			**Communications**; Climate Change.	7
2.A4	Explore initiatives to encourage staff to **travel sustainably** during annual leave.	Explore membership schemes that encourage staff to travel sustainably by land or sea instead of flying, to help reduce staff carbon footprints.	Short term (2024-26)	Membership of suitable scheme.			£	**Human Resources**; Climate Change.	3
2.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
2.B1	Reduce transport-related emissions by encouraging **sustainable development**.	Through the Local Plan prioritise development in locations close to high quality places, spaces and services to reduce the number and length of car journeys for all residents and ensure future developments are well-connected to bus routes and safe walking, cycling and wheeling networks.	Ongoing	Percentage of new dwellings approved within 1km of key services. Percentage and number of dwellings built within 1km of a bus stop. Number of developments receiving planning permission with a travel plan.	We have adopted an up-to-date Local Plan which has allocated sites in sustainable locations. Access to sustainable transport options and local services will be a key consideration to the new Local Plan review.	Government regulations to support sustainable development.		**Planning.**	3
2.B2	Encourage and support the increased use of **EV and low emission vehicles**.	Licencing Committee to review the **Taxi Licensing** Policy regarding EVs and low emission vehicles.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of taxis registered as EVs or low emission vehicles. All taxis will be within the age limit unless granted an exception.	Current Taxi Licencing Policy requires new or replacement vehicles to meet Euro 4 (petrol) or Euro 6 (diesel) emissions standards and encourages hybrid or EVs when	Government legislation to require stronger licencing standards.		**Licensing**; Public Protection; Climate Change.	9

					purchasing new vehicles.				
		Installation of public EV charging points on appropriate **council-owned land** and car parks.	Ongoing	Number of EV charging points available on council-owned land and car parks.	23 charging points have been installed on nine council car parks. An additional 4 sites have been installed for the taxi industry.	External funding and grid capacity.	££	**Engineering.**	6
		Explore the viability of installing **solar car ports** and batteries on council car parks where possible.	Medium term (2027-29)	Viability review taken place. Number of solar car ports installed where possible.		External funding and grid capacity.	££	**Engineering**; Climate Change; Assets & Development Projects.	5
		Encourage town and parish councils, businesses and **communities** to utilise opportunities for installing EV charging points on their land.	Ongoing	Information available on website and published across networks. Number of publicly available EV charging points in Wyre.	Two charging points have so far been installed in Hambleton and Great Eccleston via the Charge My Street community scheme.			**Climate Change**; Communications.	6
2.B3	Monitor and work to improve **air quality** across the borough.	Monitor air quality data across the borough, implement any actions necessary to improve.	Annually	Air quality monitoring and compliance.	Wyre has one Air Quality Management Zone in Poulton. However, since the completion of the nearby bypass, air quality in this area has improved and the intention is for this to be formally revoked.		£	**Public Protection.**	9
2.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									

2.D1	Support the community to use **active travel**.	Work with the community to offer a range of **cycling, walking and wheeling initiatives** as part of the Active Travel programme, such as health and social rides, disability sessions, bike repairs and donations.	Ongoing	Number of people participating in active travel schemes.	A wide range of Active Travel schemes are available as part of a funded government initiative.		£	**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities**; Communications.	9
2.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									
2.E1	Support delivery of wider transport schemes and projects across Wyre by working in **partnership** to reduce travel and transport related emissions.	Support Lancashire County Council to deliver **transport decarbonisation schemes** and encourage people to utilise existing and proposed transport systems. Contribute to development of the Lancashire EV Strategy.	Ongoing	Number of Lancashire Enhanced Bus Partnership Forum meetings attended. Number of other strategies contributed to and forums attended.		Lancashire County Council support.		**Engineering**; Climate Change.	6
		Support the Government and key stakeholders in progress the reopening of the Poulton to Fleetwood **railway line**.	Ongoing	Involvement in scheme development.		Government support.		**Management Board.**	6
		Support the development of **cycling and walking infrastructure**, such as the Wyre Way cycle loop and the Lancashire Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plans with Lancashire County Council.	Ongoing	Length of total and new dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes created in Wyre.	Work has commenced on the LCWIP. A draft plan has been released following public consultation.	Government and Lancashire County Council support.		**Engineering**; Planning; Economic Development.	9
		Explore the feasibility of community **shared transport schemes** such as car sharing, car clubs and other initiatives to substitute individual car ownership and support those that already exist across Wyre.	Medium term (2027-29)	Engagement with key stakeholders.		External grant funding.		**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities**; Climate Change.	9

2.E2	Work with local **schools** to reduce transport emissions.	Work with schools to implement initiatives to reduce transport emissions, such as walk to school weeks, tackling vehicle idling and helping pupils to review local air quality.	Ongoing	Initiatives implemented and schools involved.		External grant funding where necessary. Support from transport authority (LCC).	£	**Climate Change**; Communications; Lancashire County Council; Local schools.	9

Objective 3: Net zero council

Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.

Our Climate Emergency declaration committed the council to delivering a range of actions to support emissions reduction both internally and across the wider borough. This is a huge undertaking, which can only be truly achieved by shifting our mindset as a council. If we are to effectively coordinate the rapid emissions reduction we need, climate change needs to be at the heart of our decision-making.

This means looking inwardly at our policies, strategies and processes to identify how we might be contributing to climate change and make improvements. This includes considering emissions within all decision-making, project design, procurement of services and carrying out our day-to-day operations.

Current progress

We are already making strong progress in raising the profile of climate change among staff in the council and within key processes. Place and Climate is one of four key priorities within the 2024 Council Plan, facilitated by a yearly council budget for climate action.

An internal Climate Change Impact Assessment tool is in place to help staff determine the potential impacts of proposed decisions or projects and put in place any necessary measures to prevent a negative outcome. In addition to legal and financial implications, all council reports now require a mandatory summary of any climate change implications.

Our staff are also engaging in comprehensive **Carbon Literacy** training sessions to understand more about climate change and what they can do to make a difference at home and in the workplace. Participants have included directors, senior managers and a range of staff members within the council. As the first Carbon Literate Organisation in Lancashire, we plan to build upon our bronze level achievement by training more staff and councillors to embed a low carbon culture.

The first Carbon Literate Organisation in Lancashire

In 2021, we became one of over 5,000 organisations registered as Carbon Literate. This is because we began engaging our directors, senior managers and members of staff in Carbon Literacy training days.

This is a one-day course designed to raise awareness of the science of climate change, as well as the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities. Most importantly, participants are empowered with knowledge of potential solutions and actions we can take in response to the climate crisis, both individually and within the workplace.

At the end of the training, learners commit to two pledges to reduce emissions within their roles and areas of influence in the council. Following successful assessment, staff are certified as Carbon Literate.

This is a crucial step towards creating a low carbon culture within the council and enabling staff to identify and make positive changes within their own roles.

Challenges to overcome:

- Lack of government regulation, funding and support, particularly as the actions within this strategy cannot be funded by the council alone.
- Capacity and resource constraints for accessing available grant funding.
- Behaviour change required among staff and councillors to enable a low carbon culture.

Positive outcomes:

- Innovative measures that improve the efficiency of council services.
- Potential financial savings and income generation.
- A cascade of positive impacts to the local area among Carbon Literate staff through committed pledge actions.
- Better understanding of wasted energy within the council, where to improve and save money.

Objective 3: Net zero council – Embed climate action across council governance and financial decision-making.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
3.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
3.A1	Measure and monitor the **council carbon footprint**.	**Report yearly** on the council carbon footprint and identify high emission sources to target for reductions.	Annually	Council analysis using the LGA Carbon Accounting Tool measured against the 2018/19 emissions baseline. Submit results to LG Inform.	Using the same parameters as our 2018/19 baseline, the council's carbon footprint has dropped by 19%, which is within our target figure for 2022/23.	Development of Government targets and measuring guidelines for Local Authorities.		**Climate Change.**	7
		Review the council's data **processing procedures** and implement improvements to enable more accurate carbon footprint calculation.	Short term (2024-26)	Improved data processing.				**Procurement**; Spending Officers; Climate Change.	7
3.A2	Create an officer **delivery board** to progress the council's climate action plan and encourage collaboration across departments.	Establish an officer delivery board that meets regularly to discuss progress on climate change actions, identify issues and solutions, collate staff suggestions and coordinate delivery of the strategy.	Ongoing	Establishment of officer delivery board. Number of meetings held annually.				**Climate Change**; Senior Leadership.	4
3.A3	Ensure climate change is at the heart of council **decision-making**.	Review all key reports using the internal decision wheel impact assessment tool. Assist staff to understand the tool and make informed decisions about projects based on their impact on climate change.	Ongoing	Review all Portfolio Holder reports, Key Decisions and other high level reports. Annually review average assessment tool scoring.	An internal decision wheel tool is required with all reports, alongside a comment summarising the decision's impact on climate change.			**Climate Change.**	1
3.A4	Ensure climate change is listed as a **core budget priority** for the council.	Embed the net zero target within our Mid Term Financial Plan (MTFP).	Short term (2024-26)	Inclusion within the MTFP.				**Finance**; Corporate Management; Cabinet.	7

3.A5	Embed climate action and waste reduction into the council's **procurement strategy**.	Review the current **procurement strategy** to embed guidance to support climate action. This may include reviewing a supplier sustainability statement or strategy to ensure minimal environmental impact, before being awarded a contract.	Medium term (2027-29)	Updated procurement policy available.		Release of updated procurement legislation, due October 2024.		**Procurement**; Climate Change.	1
		Produce **guidance for spending officers** to consider local and sustainable alternatives in their purchase process where possible.	Medium term (2027-29)	Guidance in place.				**Procurement**; Spending Officers; Climate Change.	7
		Encourage our **service providers** to establish decarbonisation and environmental strategies and/or policies by signposting to advice and guidance.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of service providers engaged. Number of suppliers with environmental strategies/policies.				**Procurement**; Climate Change.	9
3.A6	Deliver staff and councillor **training** on climate change.	Ensure all **senior management**, Cabinet and member committee chairs receive Carbon Literacy training.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of key leaders certified as Carbon Literate.				**Climate Change**; Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Support; Democratic Services; Human Resources.	2
		All **staff and members** to receive Carbon Literacy training.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of staff certified as Carbon Literate. Achievement of Silver/Gold level Carbon Literate Organisation status.	Awarded Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation in 2021.			**Climate Change**; Senior Leadership Team; Corporate Support; Democratic Services; Human Resources.	5
		Develop mandatory **online e-learning** course on climate change for all new starters.	Short term (2024-26)	Development of personalised course to Wyre.				**Climate Change**; Human Resources.	8
		Invite **experts** to speak at pre-council meetings to provide information on a range of climate topics.	Annually	Number of information sessions provided.				**Climate Change**; Democratic Services.	8

3.A7	Explore opportunities for **income sources** to fund climate action.	Research potential **income generation** sources for climate action, such as Section 106 funding and Community Infrastructure Levy.	Ongoing	Amount of funding obtained.		Government support.		**Climate Change**; Finance; Legal.	6
		Create a **project portfolio** to attract private investment for climate action.	Medium term (2027-29)	Creation of project portfolio. Number of expressions of interest from private investors.		Lancashire County Council support where necessary.		**Climate Change**; Finance.	2
3.A8	Apply for **funding and grants** to further our climate change ambitions.	Proactively search and apply for funding and grants to further our climate change ambitions.	Ongoing	Number of grant applied for and successful applications.	So far we have successfully brought in up to £2m of funding bids for building decarbonisation work, as well as £40m government funding for the Wyre Beach Management Scheme.			**Climate Change.**	2
3.A9	Consider environmental sustainability with regards to all council **investments**.	Review the environmental sustainability pledges of partners that we invest with.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of environmental sustainability pledges of all the partners we invest with.				**Finance**; Climate Change.	3
3.A10	Review **council-owned land** and buildings to deliver potential renewable energy schemes, carbon storage, water storage, nature recovery and biodiversity enhancement.	Review current **council-owned land**, buildings and leases for potential environmental schemes and list suitable locations for further exploration.	Medium term (2027-29)	Review complete.		Creation of a working group to move this action forward.	££	**Assets & Development Projects**; Finance; Legal; Public Realm; Parks & Open Spaces; Coast & Countryside; Climate Change.	4
		Assess the viability of **purchasing** additional council-land and delivering environmental schemes.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of environmental schemes on council-owned land.		Availability of suitable land for purchase.	£££	**Assets & Development Projects**; Finance; Parks & Open Spaces; Coast & Countryside; Legal.	5
3.A11	Ensure climate action is embedded within **council culture**.	Ensure the Climate Change Strategy actions are	Short term (2024-26)	Incorporation into Service Plans.				**Senior Leadership**;	2

		integrated into all **Service Plans**.						Assistant Directors.	
		Include climate change action within all new staff **job descriptions**.	Short term (2024-26)	Inclusion within staff job description and person specification templates.				**Human Resources**; Climate Change.	8
		Update staff personal development management plan templates (121+) to include an **employee pledge** on climate action.	Short term (2024-26)	Template updated.				**Human Resources**; Climate Change.	8
3.A12	**Lobby** the government for climate change action.	Use the council's influence to lobby the government on issues such as funding, planning, pollution, pensions and resourcing local climate action.	Ongoing	Number of lobbying letters and consultation responses fed back to central government.	Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee have previously contacted the government on issues including recycling and litter.			**Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee**.	9
3.A13	Sign up to **membership** of an organisation sharing best practice climate action between councils.	Explore membership options and associated requirements for organisations such as UK100, ICLEI and the Carbon Disclosure Project.	Short term (2024-26)	Membership of an appropriate organisation.	The council are currently members of APSE Energy, the Cross Government Climate Hub and the Lancashire Climate Action Network.		£	**Climate Change.**	9
3.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
3.B1	Monitor and report on the **borough carbon footprint**.	Report yearly on the borough carbon footprint and identify high emissions sources to target for reductions. Analyse local authority emissions data produced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (released with a two-year time lag).	Annually	Publish new figures on the website on an annual basis.				**Climate Change.**	9
3.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									

3.E1	Work with LCC and the Local Government Pension Scheme to support divestment from fossil fuels within staff **pension funds** where possible.	Review the annual investments report from the Local Government Pension Scheme on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry. Council to pass a motion in support for divestment from all fossil fuels within the council's pension funds.	Short term (2024-26)	Review complete. Motion of support for divestment.		As the council does not have control over its own pension investments, cooperation is needed with the Local Government Pension Scheme.		**Cabinet**; Finance.	3
3.E2	Work with the Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board (EPB) to support economic growth and attract **greener investment** to Wyre.	Continue to support Hillhouse Technology Enterprise Zone and other projects as requested by the EPB.	Short term (2024-26)	Dependant on project.				**Economic Development**; Climate Change; Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board.	6

Objective 4: Planning

Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon future.

Planning is one of our key areas of influence for climate action in the wider borough. Future decisions and development in the area are all guided by a **Local Plan**, which is required by government. This is a local guide to what can be built within Wyre, shaping development of housing, employment, retail, the environment and protected areas across the area.

Current progress

Wyre's current Local Plan contains a number of policies that have a climate mitigation and adaptation aspect. This includes policies that aim to create sustainable development by:

- Reducing energy demand and utilising renewable or low carbon energy sources.
- Limiting carbon consumed through the implementation and construction processes, e.g., by reusing existing on-site materials or sourcing materials locally.
- Ensuring that building design and layout has been optimised for energy efficiency whilst maintaining heat stress.
- Minimising water use and ensuring the sustainable management of water.
- Ensuring that biodiversity, green infrastructure and landscaping proposals are designed in a way that is resilience to climate change impacts now and in the future and provide adaptation benefits now.
- Reducing air pollution.

The council is required by government to review policies in the Local Plan every five years to assess whether they need updating. This process will provide the opportunity to consider afresh how spatial planning can embed climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience into new development.

The Local Plan must be supported by a robust and up to date evidence base and a consideration of climate change impacts and the planning response will be an integral part of evidence we prepare. This strategy will be updated to reflect the outcome of emerging climate change evidence prepared to support future editions of the Wyre Local Plan and to reflect the national planning policy regime extant at the time.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on new developments

BNG is a new piece of government planning legislation commencing in 2024. It requires developers to improve the biodiversity of any land being developed by at least 10% - meaning that at the end of the development, land will be in a better ecological condition than when it started.

Biodiversity is vitally important because it supports a range of habitats, species and significant ecosystems, providing us with the basics of life – clean air and water, good health and wellbeing, healthy soil for good food production, water storage, protection from extreme weather events and much more.

Challenges to overcome:

- Requirement to work alongside industry to embed climate actions within new development and overcome any reluctance to do so.
- Limitations imposed by national planning policy and legislation.
- Uncertainties with regard to the future direction of national planning policy.
- The risks of climate change we are designing for are not fully known and it is difficult to design for uncertainty.

Positive outcomes:

- Less fuel poverty from better built homes and improved regulation.
- Healthier residents, less pressure on NHS and other public services.
- Change in behaviour from the developers, with low carbon building practices becoming the norm.
- Better adaption and resilience to extreme weather conditions.
- Better water management and water storage.

Objective 4: Planning – Use our planning powers to plan for a low carbon and climate resilient future.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
4.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
4.A1	Embed climate change as a "golden thread" running through future reviews of the **Local Plan**.	Review the Local Plan and embed climate change and nature recovery as a central theme.	Ongoing	Reviewed Local Plan which includes policies on mitigation, adaptation and resilience to address climate change in Wyre. Include policies that support biodiversity and nature recovery in Wyre.	Review underway.	National Planning policy and guidance provides strong support for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures.	££	**Planning**; Climate Change.	3
4.A2	Prepare **planning guidance** that addresses climate-related themes.	Create appropriate guidance documents for relevant areas in line with existing government policy for example: design and flooding.	Short term (2024-26)	Additional planning guidance on climate-related themes.			££	**Planning**; Climate Change.	9
4.A3	Explore the need for a **design code** to embed mitigation and adaptation opportunities for climate change and biodiversity.	Review in light of government policy and guidance the need for a design code to facilitate embedding mitigation and adaptation opportunities for climate change and biodiversity within Wyre.	Short term (2024-26)	Initial review in light of changing government policy of need for design code carried out within 18 months.		Understanding of new government guidance and policies.	££	**Planning**; Climate Change.	3
4.A: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
4.B1	Require new development proposals to show how they intend to mitigate against climate change and adapt to its impacts via a **climate change statement**.	Development proposals must demonstrate through a **climate change statement** how they respond to climate change through appropriate design, making best use of resources and assets including incorporation of water and energy efficiency measures through construction and operational phases and reuse and recycling in	Ongoing	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.	We have adopted a local validation checklist for planning applications which requires a climate change statement to be submitted with all developments except for householder applications.	Developer support.		**Climate Change**; Planning.	6

		construction both in selection of materials and management of residual waste.							
		Review and update the **Local Validation Checklist** to ensure any missing climate impacts are included.	Short term (2024-26)	Updated Validation Checklist.				**Climate Change**; Planning.	6
		Provide **training** and guidance to Development Management teams to appropriately review climate change and other relevant statements.	Short term (2024-26)	Training and guidance provided.				**Climate Change**; Planning.	9
4.B2	Continue to work with partners to reduce the risk of **flooding** to local communities.	Direct development away from land at greatest risk of flooding from all sources and explore implementing Natural Flood Management techniques to new developments and infrastructure where appropriate.	Ongoing	Number and percentage of dwellings and other buildings permitted in flood zones 2 and 3. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in areas at risk of flooding.	Updating evidence base on flood risk. Planning Policy on flood risk will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.			**Planning.**	6
4.B3	Promote the sustainable management of **water**.	Developments to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.	Ongoing	Number of planning permissions incorporating SuDS.	Planning Policy on SuDs will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.			**Planning.**	9
4.B4	Review opportunities in Wyre to develop **renewable energy** schemes e.g., wind, solar and wave.	Support the development of new renewable energy schemes in line with the Local Plan Policy (EP12 Renewable Energy).	Ongoing	Number and type of renewable energy schemes approved or refused.	Planning Policy on renewable energy will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.	Government support for renewable energy through national planning policy and guidance.		**Planning.**	6
4.B5	Encourage sustainable **transport** measures; walking, cycling, access to	**Maximise opportunities** for safe pedestrian and cycle movement and reduce car reliance, including the	Ongoing	Number of applications with an acceptable transport	Planning Policy on sustainable transport will be considered as	Government, Blackpool Council and LCC support.		**Planning.**	9

	public transport and low carbon options into developments.	consideration of the needs of older people and people with disabilities.		assessment or statement.	part of the Local Plan review.				
		Developers contribute to the transport network enhancements, incorporating sustainable transport measures where necessary.	Ongoing	Number and type of financial contributions secured through legal agreement.	Contributions secured to improve sustainable transport, such as upgrades to bus stops.			**Planning.**	9
4.B6	Promote the efficient use of **resources** in development including the use of recycled materials.	Develop Local Plan climate change policy that requires developers to make the best use of resources and assets and minimise wastage.	Ongoing	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.	Planning Policy on the efficient use of resources will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.	Government support.		**Planning.**	9
4.B7	Protect and promote **Green Infrastructure** (GI) across the borough.	New residential developments required to provide green infrastructure in accordance with Local Plan Policy HP9 and its associated guidance for applicants.	Ongoing	Amount of green infrastructure created on-site and off-site. Amount of green infrastructure lost to development. Total and number of new Green Flag status parks. Length of total and new public rights of way.	Guidance for applicants July 2024 update published. Updated annually. Updated GI evidence base, including publishing a Planning Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy, GI Audit and GI Strategy. Planning Policy on GI published July 2024.	Developer support.	££	**Planning**; Parks and Open Spaces.	9
4.B8	Protect and enhance **biodiversity** and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across the borough.	Through the Local Plan and associated guidance, encourage developers to provide BNG locally to benefit Wyre and the people who live, work and visit the borough.	Ongoing	Number of planning applications approved each year in compliance with the biodiversity objective. Annual report on how the council is meeting its biodiversity duty.	Guidance for applicants on BNG has been published. Annual report on biodiversity duty published. Planning Policy on BNG will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.			**Planning.**	6
4.B9	Promote the use of design to minimise **energy consumption** and adapt to climate change impacts including heat stress.	Consider developing Local Plan policy regarding minimising energy consumption in relation to development. Development proposals must demonstrate through a climate change statement how they are to respond to climate change through	Ongoing	Percentage and number of proposals supported by an acceptable climate change statement.	Planning Policy on designing for climate change will be considered as part of the Local Plan review.			**Planning.**	6

		appropriate design including density, siting, layout, height, scale, massing, orientation, landscaping and use of materials.							
4.B10	Review Local Plan policy in relation to the impact of development on the borough's **peat deposits**.	Consider developing a new **peat policy** within the Local Plan. Consider the presence of peat when considering Local Plan allocations and in light of above, if necessary, update the Local Validation Checklist to reflect any new policy.	Ongoing	Implementation of policy.	This is being considered as part of the development of the Local Plan review.			**Planning.**	3

Objective 5: Biodiversity

Protect and increase biodiversity.

“1 in 6 species are at risk of going extinct in Great Britain”

Natural History Museum

The climate and ecological emergencies are intrinsically linked. A strong, biodiverse borough is vital for both capturing emissions and protecting ourselves from the worst impacts of climate change.

Our coastal and marine environments, from the Wyre coastline all the way to Morecambe Bay, are experiencing the impacts of climate change and pollution. This interferes with the oxygen production of marine plankton, carbon sequestration and the availability of food sources for wildlife and people.

Common farming practices across the UK often include methane-producing cattle and the overuse of fertilisers, releasing harmful pollutants into the atmosphere and our waterways. As a large agricultural borough, much of our habitats in Wyre are degraded and, rather than sequestering carbon (like our forestland), our croplands and grasslands are currently generating emissions.

However, our farmers are an essential part of the rural economy and local food supply in the face of increasing extreme weather events affecting imports from overseas. In the move away from fossil fuels, we need to ensure a **just transition** that enables farmers to embrace new technologies, diversify crops for soil health, produce food more efficiently and be part of the solution for climate change.

Current progress

With the help of our many volunteers, we are working to improve how we manage our Parks & Open Spaces through meadow creation, tree planting and reduced mowing schedules on our grasslands to allow for wildlife to flourish. We are transitioning to electric hand tools and have stopped using peat compost.

We are also working towards our commitment to plant 25,000 trees by 2025 – although we recognise that tree planting is certainly not the only solution to climate change. We are therefore working closely with partners across the borough to contribute towards the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, invest in the Wyre Natural Flood Management project in our uplands, and pioneer projects such as Our Future Coasts to enhance our coastal habitats and protect against sea level rise.

Across the borough, communities are closely involved in the annual Wyre in Bloom contest, including committed children in our primary, secondary and nursery schools. This aims to improve

the surrounding environment through enhancing local biodiversity, such as creating wildflower meadows, wildlife ponds, composting, growing food and making space for nature. This is a great example of the strength of our community and young people, who are keen to get involved and inspire others on green gardening.

Making space for nature at King George's Playing Fields

Work is underway on a project at King Georges Playing Fields in Thornton Cleveleys to improve the site for people and nature. The playing fields are often wet and hold little value for wildlife. We are working with Wyre Rivers Trust to reduce flood risk, improve access and create valuable habitat.

We plan to restore Royles Brook, which runs through the site, and create new areas of wetland and woodland that can naturally store water in times of drought and flooding – protecting nearby residents. The wetlands also naturally filter water to remove pollutants and store carbon from the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change. As well as increasing biodiversity, including reintroducing the rare Black Poplar tree species, we will also make new wheelchair-accessible paths for people to enjoy the park.

Challenges to overcome:

- Capacity, resources and funding.
- Lack of coherent legislation, leading to a reactive approach to managing flood risk and climate change action.
- Polluters are not adequately penalised for their bad practices and government legislation is required to support change.
- Biodiversity Net Gain delivered through the planning system is in its infancy.

Positive outcomes:

- Greater food security from improved farming techniques, less pollution, healthier soil and less reliance on foreign imports.
- Natural resilience to extreme weather events from nature-based solutions such as habitat restoration, providing water storage, flood protection and shading in extreme heat.
- Natural carbon storage from trees and other habitats.
- Improved mental wellbeing from wildlife and green spaces.

Objective 5: Biodiversity – Protect and increase biodiversity.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
5.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
5.A1	Review the use of **pesticides and herbicides** with a view to limit use on all council owned and managed land.	Review current use and produce guidelines to limit and mitigate against the use of pesticides in parks, open spaces and on road verges in our control where appropriate. Trial and investigate alternative methods of herbicide and pesticide use.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of herbicide policy and guidance for operating procedures.			££	**Grounds Maintenance**; Parks & Open Spaces; Climate Change; Coast & Countryside.	9
5.A2	Commit to enhancing Wyre's **biodiversity on council land** through a range of measures.	Regularly review existing **management plans** to consider biodiversity and carbon sequestration in all our habitats on council land. Introduce biodiversity enhancement measures where appropriate, including: wildflower habitats, reduced mowing schedules and an increase in native low-maintenance bedding displays.	Ongoing	Review of management plans every two years. Consider biodiversity in future development works.	All main public spaces have management plans detailing mowing schedules, which are reviewed regularly.		£	**Parks & Open Spaces**; Public Realm; Climate Change; Coast & Countryside.	6
		Monitor nature and wildlife on council land through the Wyre Estuary Bioblitz.	Ongoing	Complete a Wyre Estuary Bioblitz to record wildlife every three years.	We have recently undertaken the 2024 Bioblitz in partnership with Wyre Rivers Trust and the Royal Society of Biology to better understand local wildlife.		£	**Coast & Countryside**; Climate Change; Wyre Rivers Trust and the Royal Society of Biology.	9
5.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
5.B1	Ensure new qualifying developments achieve **Biodiversity Net Gain** (BNG).	Utilise Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) as advisors for the development management service to ensure new developments meet BNG requirements.	Ongoing	Monitoring the approval and delivery of the amount, value and type of habitats created. Monitoring system in place.	GMEU have been appointed as advisors to the development management services. Senior management, officers and members have been trained in BNG. Guidance	Government guidance and regulation required. Potential increase in staff capacity to offset consultancy fees.	££	**Planning.**	9

					published for applicants.				
5.B2	Use **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** to accurately plot council land and key sites of importance.	Use GIS to plot council assets, land, tree protection orders, green infrastructure and key sites of importance.	Medium term (2027-29)	GIS layers created.			££	**Assets & Development Projects**; Planning; Tree Officer; Parks & Open Spaces; Coast & Countryside.	9
5.B3	Deter residents, landowners and businesses from polluting our **waterways**.	Signpost and raise awareness of the issues of pollution on biodiversity. Encourage the public to report pollution incidents.	Ongoing	Number of engagement posts and leaflets. Number of reports filed through the council.			£	**Environmental Enforcement**; Communications; Coast & Countryside; Environment Agency.	6
5.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									
5.D1	Showcase Wyre's natural environment through the yearly **Great Outdoors programme**.	Produce an annual programme of events and activities to raise awareness of the value of our habitats in Wyre.	Annually	Annual creation of Great Outdoors programme.	The Great Outdoors programme is released annually and details many events across Wyre.		££	**Coast & Countryside**; Climate Change; Communications and partners.	9
5.D2	Work with local **schools and community groups** to raise awareness of the natural environment and to help increase biodiversity.	Engage with local schools, colleges and community groups externally and at **Wyre Estuary County Park** to learn about the importance of biodiversity and our key habitats.	Ongoing	Number of outreach events and group visits to Wyre Estuary Country Park.			£	**Coast & Countryside.**	9
		Encourage and support schools and communities to take part in the annual **Young Wyre and Britain in Bloom** competitions.	Annually	Number of schools taking part in Young Wyre in Bloom and awards given. Number of community groups taking part in Britain in Bloom.	The competitions have been running successfully for several years.		£	**Climate Change**; Parks & Opens Spaces; Coast & Countryside; Communications.	6

		Support our **partners** to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity. Explore opportunities to work with the new Eden Project Morecambe to link with schools and colleges.	Ongoing	Number of engagement sessions and schemes supported by the council. Partnership established with Eden Project Morecambe.			£	**Coast & Countryside**; Climate Change.	9
5.D3	Communicate with the public to **reduce recreational disturbance** of wildlife.	Raising awareness to dog walkers and other recreational users about the impacts of disturbance on wildlife.	Ongoing	Public engagement and awareness campaigns.	Dog restriction areas are in place on our beaches during breeding bird season. We also encourage dogs to be on leads in the countryside and in some of our important public open spaces.			**Communications**; Coast & Countryside; Enforcement officers; Planning.	9
5.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									
5.E1	Create a **Biodiversity Strategy**.	Create a Biodiversity Strategy in partnership with our key stakeholders to help protect, preserve and enhance local biodiversity.	Medium term (2027-29)	Strategy created.		Identify external resources required.	££	**Public Realm**; Climate Change; Coast & Countryside.	3
5.E2	Increase **tree cover** across the borough.	**Plant 25,000 trees and hedgerows** across the borough in partnership with key stakeholders by 2025.	Short term (2024-26)	Achieve target of 25,000 trees planted by 2025.	Over 77% of the tree planting target has been achieved, as of 2024. However, saplings have been affected by extreme heat and drought conditions.	Source additional suitable land for tree planting and coordinate with partners.	££	**Tree Officer**; Parks & Open Spaces; Coast & Countryside; Woodland Trust; Wyre Rivers Trust; Lancashire Local Nature Partnerships; Forestry Commission; Trees for Cities.	6
		Continue to implement and review **tree management and maintenance plans** to support our new and existing woodlands and to protect saplings from extreme weather events as they grow.	Ongoing	Creation and implementation of tree management and maintenance plans. Monitor tree	Ongoing implementation and review of management plans.	Additional funding and resource required to deliver this action.	£	**Tree Officer**; Parks & Open Spaces; Coast & Countryside and partners.	6

				establishment rate.					
		Explore schemes to engage with **residents** to help with planting trees, such as tree giveaways, seed collections and volunteer tree wardens.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of schemes and resident uptake.			ff	**Climate Change**; Tree Officer; Parks & Open Spaces; Communications; Coast & Countryside and partners.	9
5.E3	Use **nature-based solutions** to manage and make space for water, sequester carbon and protect against flooding in Wyre.	Work in partnership with key stakeholders to implement natural solutions to mitigate against the effects of flooding.	Ongoing	Number of completed projects.	Redevelopment works at King George's Playing Field, Thornton in partnership with Wyre River's Trust to restore Royles Brook, create wetland habitat and increase floodwater storage. The council have also partnered with Our Future Coasts to create natural coastal buffer strips and reduce flooding.	Government support.	fff	**Engineering**; Coast & Countryside; Parks & Open Spaces; Wyre Rivers Trust; Environment Agency; Natural England.	3
5.E4	Help **landowners** to improve biodiversity and carbon storage on farmland and reduce emissions through changes in land management practices.	Work with partners to support, advise and signpost landowners to apply for available grants and schemes such as the Environmental Land Management scheme to improve natural habitat and carbon storage on their farms and open spaces.	Ongoing	Engagement with relevant stakeholders.	Our partners are already advising farmers through the development of clusters and land manager groups.	Government support.	£	**Coast & Countryside**; Economic Development; Climate Change; Wyre Rivers Trust; Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Farmers Union; Country Landowners Association; Myerscough College.	3
5.E5	Work closely with **partners** to protect and improve biodiversity on land, watercourses and wetlands throughout Wyre.	Continue to work with partners to enhance levels of biodiversity within Wyre.	Ongoing	Numbers of projects with partners.			£	**Coast & Countryside**; Parks & Open Spaces; Wyre Rivers Trust; The Bay Wellbeing programme.	3

5.E6	Support the creation of the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy** (LNRS).	Support the creation and delivery of LCC's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by offering knowledge and expertise.	Short term (2024-26)	Policy in place.		Lancashire County Council support.		**Coast & Countryside**; Lancashire County Council.	3

Objective 6: Engagement

Collaborate and engage with others to take climate action.

Tackling climate change requires everyone's help. Urgent emission reductions are needed in all aspects of society, from policies to businesses, homes and individual actions. Collaborating and engaging with others to take climate action is therefore a key objective in this strategy.

Parish and town councils are important stakeholders within this objective, who understand their communities best and can engage residents on the council's behalf. This could be achieved through take up of local schemes such as Greening Campaigns and repair cafes. Community renewable energy schemes also have significant potential to reduce emissions from off-gas grid households. Whilst these are ultimately driven by the community, the council can support these projects to succeed.

Current progress

We already work closely with the community in many areas of the council's work. We regularly engage with volunteers at Wyre Estuary Country Park and at events like Wyre Wheels to encourage cycling, as well as delivering sessions on key topics such as recycling at schools and community events.

In 2020, through partnership with councils across the Fylde Coast, we engaged a sample of residents to understand their views about climate change. Most respondents were **willing to make individual changes** to reduce climate change and would most likely consider actions such as home-energy efficiency improvements. However, the perceived cost of these actions, and the worry that their individual contributions would have little effect, were the main barriers to action. Effective communication campaigns can address these barriers by sharing significant, cost-effective actions and funding sources that people can use – highlighting how, collectively, our actions can and do make an impact.

Engagement with businesses is also critical for emissions reduction. Our Economic Development team already have networks with many local businesses through the successful relaunch of Wyred Up. Ongoing partnership work with East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce is providing fully funded **Chamber Low Carbon** business support. This work is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and will focus on helping businesses to achieve net zero by calculating and reducing their carbon footprint, reducing costs and improving performance, upskill and train workers and more.

Climate change actions are already embedded into three of Wyre's Town Centre Regeneration Plans under carbon reduction and sustainability themes and will continue to be part of the next emerging Town Centre Regeneration Plan for Poulton.

Challenges to overcome:

- Resources, capacity and funding constraints.
- High upfront costs of more significant climate actions such as retrofitting.
- Potential misconceptions about climate change and suitable climate actions.

Positive outcomes:

- Enhanced community spirit and reduced loneliness as community groups work together to take action.
- A range of funding grants are often available specifically for communities, which can quicken the pace of action.

Celebrating Great Big Green Week

Each year, tens of thousands of people across the UK get involved in Great Big Green Week – the largest celebration of community action in tackling climate change and protecting nature in the UK. Events range from festivals to football matches, foraging and bake sales, all aiming to raise awareness of climate change, its impact on the local community and its importance to local decision makers.

Wyre Council recently hosted The Big Green Get Together at Wyre Estuary Country Park, involving climate-themed performances, a higher or lower carbon footprint game, crafts to build your own bug hotel and interactive activities with our partners the Wyre Rivers Trust and Cosy Homes in Lancashire.

Anyone can host an event and groups are welcome to run their own activity, invite the community to get involved, start exploring local climate actions and maybe learn something new.

Objective 6: Engagement – Collaborate, educate and engage with others to take climate action.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
6.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
6.A1	Create an **internal communications** plan to educate and encourage staff to take climate action.	Provide regular communications to staff via the internal staff hub and hold informal events to raise awareness of climate change and actions that can be taken at work and at home.	Ongoing	Number of climate change posts on internal staff hub. Number of internal climate events held.			£	**Climate Change**; Communications.	9
6.A2	Explore the potential to offer **funding** for community climate action.	Explore the creation of an annual ring-fenced grant to spend on climate action locally, either in partnership with the council or with other organisations, volunteers, or community groups.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of climate action initiatives supported and groups benefitting from grant funding.		Funding support and grant administration.	££	**Climate Change**; Finance; Legal.	6
6.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									
6.D1	Create a **communications strategy** to engage the public on climate change.	Create a **communications strategy** to inform the public of council climate action and encourage behaviour change among our residents, businesses and communities.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of strategy.	A draft strategy has been created and distributed to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Climate Change Sub-Committee.			**Communications**; Climate Change.	9
		Engage with the local community to create a series of **case studies** of climate actions from residents, schools, communities and businesses to address frequently asked questions and encourage behaviour change. Distribute these on the council website, social media, newsletters and physical leaflets.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of case studies produced and shared annually.		Examples from the community.		**Communications**; Climate Change.	9

		Advise residents about tangible actions and top tips they can take to reduce their carbon emissions, signpost towards relevant funding opportunities and provide information to educate the public on climate change. Make information available via the council website, social media, newsletters and physical leaflets.	Ongoing	Availability of information on council website. Number of social media posts. Creation of online newsletter. Number of leaflets distributed across locations and events held in Wyre.	Advice on a range of climate actions is currently available for residents, schools, businesses and communities via the council website.			**Communications**; Climate Change.	9
		Promote and support **national campaigns** to residents to raise awareness of climate change and related environmental issues.	Ongoing	Number of national campaigns supported.	Key national campaigns we have promoted include the Great Big Green Week and Plastic Free July.			**Communications**; Climate Change.	9
		Regularly update the public on the **progress** of council and key stakeholder climate action. Publish annual progress reports online and celebrate key achievements via social media and press releases.	Ongoing	Number of social media posts and press releases. Production of annual reports available on the council website.				**Communications**; Climate Change.	9
		Provide frequently asked questions and myth-busting information to tackle **misinformation** on climate change.	Ongoing	Information available on website.				**Climate Change**; Communications.	9
6.D2	Allow for ongoing **community involvement** and influence in the council's climate strategy and action plan.	Explore suitable methods to allow residents, businesses and the community to influence decision making on climate action, such as via a Citizen's Jury/Assembly, consultation surveys, resident workshops within the community or an online suggestions form.	Ongoing	Number of consultation exercises held within 2 yearly periods.	The public were invited to comment on the draft Climate Change Strategy as part of a consultation exercise in January/February 2024.		££	**Climate Change.**	5

6.D3	Identify and engage **residents most affected** by climate change and climate action policy.	Assess the climate action plan with an equality impact assessment to identify who is most affected by climate change and climate action policies and include them within decision making.	Short term (2024-26)	Completion of equality impact assessment. Number of consultation exercises held across different neighbourhoods in Wyre.				**Climate Change**.	9
6.D4	Hold regular in-person **climate events** to reach residents across Wyre.	Run climate-specific events and attend other events to increase awareness of climate action among residents, visitors and communities throughout Wyre.	Ongoing	Number of events attended, and number of climate-specific events held annually.				**Climate Change.**	9
6.D5	Train volunteers to be **trusted messengers** to communicate climate knowledge and encourage individual action at community events.	Develop and deliver a training course to volunteers to build knowledge on climate change and enable them to communicate directly with residents at events across Wyre.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of volunteers trained.			£	**Climate Change**; Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities.	9
6.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									
6.E1	Support **young people** to understand, take part in and help make decisions on local climate action.	Work with the **youth** mayor, youth council and local youth groups to involve young people in decision making on climate change.	Ongoing	Number of interactions with youth groups.		Support from the Youth Mayor and local Youth Councils.		**Climate Change.**	9
		Deliver engagement sessions and events with **schools** to increase awareness of climate change and climate action.	Ongoing	Number of schools engaged annually.	Schools were invited to climate change sessions at the Council Chamber as part of the draft strategy consultation in February 2024.	School involvement.		**Climate Change.**	9
		Explore the potential for local **youth climate panels** or summits.	Ongoing	Number of youth climate events held.	The council are supporting the 2024 Lancashire Youth Climate Conference as members of the steering group.		£	**Climate Change**; neighbouring Local Authorities; youth organisations.	9

		Set up an **eco-ambassador's** scheme with local young people to support the council's climate change communications.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of eco-ambassador's scheme.			£	**Climate Change**; Communications.	9
6.E2	Work with **businesses** to encourage decarbonisation.	Provide fully funded **support** and tailored advice to businesses in Wyre to reduce emissions through environmental audits and decarbonisation plans.	Short term (2024-26)	Meeting of UKSPF requirements for number of businesses supported, adopting new technologies, developing decarbonisation plans and reduction of greenhouse gases.	Partnership with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce to deliver the Chamber Low Carbon project as part of the UKSPF in Wyre, running from 2023 to March 2025.		££	**Climate Change**; Economic Development; Chambers of Commerce.	6
		Explore providing **funding** for further business support, such as Carbon Literacy training or grants to assist with the implementation of decarbonisation projects for business properties.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of businesses supported.		Funding support and grant administration.	££	**Climate Change**; Economic Development.	9
		Create a local **business climate pledge** to demonstrate commitment to climate action.	Short term (2024-26)	Creation of climate pledge scheme. Number of businesses engaged.		Administration support.	£	**Climate Change**; Economic Development.	9
		Signpost businesses towards external grant funding opportunities, accreditation schemes and the Wyre green business award through Wyred Up communications.	Ongoing	Availability of information on council website. Number of climate change communications on Wyred Up.				**Climate Change**; Economic Development.	6
		Assist local businesses to create a net zero **working group** to discuss opportunities for joint working, procurement and best practice advice for advancing towards decarbonisation.	Medium term (2027-29)	Discussions with businesses and creation of working group.				**Climate Change**; Economic Development; Chambers of Commerce.	6

6.E3	Work with other local authorities across Lancashire and the Fylde Coast to coordinate **regional climate action**.	Collaborate with other councils to initiate climate action across the region.	Ongoing	Number of meetings attended that offer local or Lancashire-wide collaboration.		Funding support for regional climate action.		**Climate Change**; Fylde Coast Economic Prosperity Board; Lancashire Local Authorities; other relevant partners.	6
6.E4	Work with **parish and town councils** and other community groups to encourage climate change action at a local level.	Work with groups to set up their own policies and climate actions, such as setting up a Greening Campaign, repair café, local reusable nappy library, or community energy scheme to engage residents on a smaller scale.	Ongoing	Number of community organisations engaging in climate action locally.		Funding support.		**Climate Change**; Town and Parish councils; Other community organisations.	6
6.E5	Raise awareness of **green career opportunities** to facilitate a 'just transition' into sustainable careers for the future.	Work with businesses, organisations and local colleges and schools to support green career events.	Ongoing	Number of events supported.		Collaboration with businesses, organisations and local colleges.	£	**Climate Change**; Economic Development; Local schools and colleges.	6

Objective 7: Waste

Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.

Our current 'linear' system, where everyday products are made, used and disposed of, no longer works for society. Growing, making, processing and transporting goods produces a huge amount of emissions, which go to waste when we throw them into landfill. Instead, moving to a circular economy would maximise the value of products, by sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling them, so they last as long as possible and are not wasted.

Our food has a significant contribution to our carbon footprint. Food waste emits **methane** as it rots in landfill, which is a potent greenhouse gas and has a much higher warming effect than carbon dioxide. Beef and dairy farming also generate a high carbon footprint, owing to the methane released by cattle as they digest their food.

Although successful food production directly depends on a stable climate and good biodiversity, industrial-level farming can cause significant degradation. It is crucial that we support sustainable food production by working closely in partnership with local food producers and organisations such as Myerscough College to facilitate learning on greener practices. This also involves working within the community to encourage local food growing and support for local suppliers.

Current progress

Approximately 40% of household waste is recycled, reused and composted within Wyre. We do not currently have the equipment and facilities to collect resident food waste, which is dictated by Lancashire County Council who arrange the disposal of our waste. However, upcoming government policy will influence changes to this. Commercial waste from businesses is collected and recycled independently.

Within the community, we regularly work within schools and other groups to reduce waste and educate residents on what can and cannot be recycled. We work in partnership with local re-use charity to offer Bulky Matters – a collection and recycling service for large household items designed to divert waste from landfill whilst helping local disadvantaged people.

As a council, we can influence levels of single use plastic used within our buildings and at events on our land due to our Single Use Plastic Policy. We are also able to use our procurement powers to benefit local food suppliers.

Challenges to overcome:

- Encouraging residents to minimise waste and adopt a mindset to reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Limited government funding and support for businesses to reduce waste and recycle, as this is not collected by the council.
- Slow introduction to government changes in policy regarding food waste and other incentives such as bottle return schemes to prevent waste.
- Limited funding and restrictive policies hindering farmers ability to diversify and reduce their emissions.

Positive outcomes:

- Waste diverted from landfill, reducing methane emissions as food and organic material decomposes.
- Better health and wellbeing and reduced social isolation through community initiatives such as repair cafes that support a circular economy.
- Financial savings and opportunities for workers and unemployed people to upskill.
- Improved local economy.
- Resilient local food supply.

Supporting a circular economy with Bulky Matters

Created in partnership with local re-use charity Furniture Matters, Bulky Matters is designed to help people dispose of unwanted household items, whilst also helping disadvantaged people and the environment in the process.

The scheme supports a circular economy by diverting unwanted items away from landfill. Instead, the charity will refurbish the items and sell them at a low cost to help those in need. As part of the project, unemployed workers are also given the opportunity to join the charity to gain work experience and develop new skills.

A range of items can be collected and saved from landfill, including wooden furniture, soft furnishings, domestic appliances, kitchen items, IT/ home entertainment equipment, bicycles and miscellaneous items such as gardening tools, outdoor play equipment, musical instruments, mobility aids, indoor toys and games, wheelchairs and bric-a-brac. Visit the council website for more information or to arrange a collection.

Objective 7: Waste – Reduce waste, support a circular economy and sustainable food production.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
7.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
7.A1	Review and implement the council's **single use plastic policy**.	**Review** current use of single use plastics at council facilities and update the council's policy to reduce single use plastics where possible.	Short term (2024-26)	Review complete. Policy updated.				**Climate Change**; Procurement; Spending Officers.	7
		Implement the single use plastic policy at **events** by limiting single use waste and where necessary giving preference to suppliers which use sustainable/reduced packaging.	Short term (2024-26)	Policy in place for events.		Collaboration with suppliers.		**Communications**; Procurement; Spending Officers.	9
		Explore the potential installation of **drinking fountains** on the council estate/public spaces.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of drinking fountains available. Reduction in plastic bottle litter.		Funding support.	£	**Public Realm**; Engineering.	8
7.A2	Review and improve **recycling rates** at council facilities.	Review current **recycling rates** and raise awareness amongst staff on correct recycling procedures.	Short term (2024-26)	Communications produced on recycling procedures. Monitor recycling rates.			£	**Climate Change;** Communications; Caretakers.	7
		Consider **other recycling schemes** within council buildings, such as TerraCycle.	Short term (2024-26)	Schemes set up.				**Climate Change**; Caretakers.	7
7.A3	Explore the potential for council **catering** to be sustainably sourced.	Review current catering requirements for council events and explore the potential to swap to local sustainable alternatives.	Short term (2024-26)	Catering guidance in place.				**Climate Change**; Spending Officers.	9
7.A4	To review the current **IT strategy** to reflect climate change action.	To update the IT strategy to include end of life or repurposing procedures, such as refurbishment, reuse and recycling measures.	Short term (2024-26)	Strategy updated.				**IT**; Climate Change.	7
7.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									

7.B1	Support **food waste recycling**.	Introduce household food waste recycling.	Short term (2024-26)	Introduction of food waste collection scheme to residents.		Government clarity and support.	~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~~~£~~	**Waste Management**; Communications.	6
7.C: Area of Influence – Showcasing									
7.C1	Support local **food growing**.	Encourage people to grow food locally using allotments, community gardens and back gardens. Explore the potential to set up new community gardens.	Medium term (2027-29)	Number of community gardens. Public guidance available.	We currently have 3 allotment sites and community gardens at Cottam Hall, Wyre Estuary Country Park and Memorial Park. Applications for council allotments are currently oversubscribed.	Funding support and community buy-in.		**Public Realm.**	9
7.C2	Support a local **circular economy**.	Support the setup of repair cafes or similar exchange shops to encourage sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling of existing materials and products for as long as possible.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of schemes set up.		External funding support.	~~£~~~~£~~	**Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities**; Climate Change.	6
7.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									
7.D1	Increase percentage of waste recycled via our collection service for large **bulky household items** to divert waste from landfill.	Ensure that residents are well informed about the bulky waste service to maximise the items collected and explore other opportunities for diversion and reuse.	Annually	Increased recycling and diversion of bulky waste.		Support from Lancashire County Council.		**Waste Management**; Communications; Lancashire County Council.	9
		Provide **advice** to residents on recycling, sustainable purchasing and the waste hierarchy, online and in-person at events and roadshows.	Ongoing	Number of online posts and events. Guidance produced on waste minimisation and food composting. Impact on council's waste arisings and recycling rate.	Regular leaflets are sent out to residents that provide guidance on correct recycling procedures and waste minimisation.			**Communications**; Waste Management.	9

		Deliver sessions with **schools** to educate children on waste minimisation and recycling.	Ongoing	Number of school sessions delivered.				**Waste Management**; Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement Ltd (WISE).	9
7.E: Area of Influence – Partnerships									
7.E1	Support initiatives to **redistribute surplus** food and other items to residents, in partnership with businesses.	Signpost residents and businesses to donate surplus food and items to food banks and online schemes such as Freegle, Olio and Too Good to Go, to encourage waste reduction.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of social media posts and leaflets.	We work closely with Wyre Food Banks to distribute food across the borough.			**Climate Change**; Communications; Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities; Waste Management; Economic Development.	9
7.E2	Work with local farmers and key stakeholders to achieve **sustainable farming** and combat climate change.	Investigate the ways in which the council and partners can support **farmers and land managers** to implement best practice to reduce waste.	Short term (2024-26)	Number of farmers engaged.	Partners are currently in the process of developing a Landscape Recovery Project, which will explore more sustainable approaches to farming and resilience.			**Climate Change**; Myerscough College; DEFRA; National Farmers Union (NFU); Country Landowners Association (CLA); Wyre Rivers Trust; Forest of Bowland AONB and others.	3
		Explore the potential to create **fertiliser from food waste** collections as an alternative to chemical fertilisers.	Medium term (2027-29)	Review complete. Scheme in place.			££	**Climate Change**; Waste Management; LCC.	6

Objective 8: Adaptation

Adapt to our changing climate.

Even if we were to suddenly stop emitting all polluting greenhouse gases, the amount already trapped in the atmosphere means that some of the impacts of climate change are already **unavoidable**. Crucially for Wyre, all predicted emissions scenarios show that sea levels will continue to rise beyond this century, although the severity of this depends on how fast we can lower our current emissions[18].

Other risks such as extreme weather events, heavy rainfall, flooding, droughts and the knock-on impacts of these are already occurring. We need to adapt our infrastructure, buildings and strategies to make sure communities are able to bounce back from these events.

With the highest population of residents aged over 65 and 75 in Lancashire, our elderly residents are most likely to feel the effects of climate change, alongside with people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and anyone feeling the strain under the cost-of-living crisis. High emission businesses may also struggle as we transition away from fossil fuels. To ensure a just transition where no one is left behind, we need to offer opportunities for workers to upskill, businesses to diversify, and for communities to access the support they need.

Current progress

To combat against high levels of flood risk, we have contributed to the Wyre Natural Flood Management Scheme taking place upstream of Churchtown. This has the added benefit of improving water quality, increasing biodiversity and carbon storage whilst restoring the peatland area. For communities vulnerable to sea level rise in Cleveleys and Fleetwood, work is underway on a £40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme. We also host regular meetings of the Flood Forum, to address concerns of individuals and communities at risk.

We also have multiple Emergency Plans in place to protect our communities. As part of this strategy, all of these will be reviewed and updated to include the risks of climate change and proposals to help our residents adapt and increase resilience.

To help businesses to prepare and adapt to climate change, we are also offering fully funded business support from Chamber Low Carbon, as part of our UKSPF grant funding. This allows any business to gain free expert advice and support to transition towards a low carbon future.

Challenges to overcome:

- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis reducing the resilience of residents and businesses to cope with the impacts of climate change.
- Upfront costs and capacity for businesses to make necessary investments to adapt to a low carbon future.
- The need for Government support in policies and funding.
- Behaviour change required to adapt to climate change impacts and move towards low carbon lifestyles.

Positive outcomes:

- Safer homes from flooding, sea level rise and other climate change risks.
- Informed residents, businesses and communities who are resilient to shocks and able to bounce back from disasters and negative impacts quickly.

There are many crossovers between adaptation and the other seven objectives. To avoid duplication, actions above that cover adaptation will not be repeated here.

Protecting residents with Wyre Beach Management Scheme

The Wyre Beach Management Scheme is a major £40 million coastal defence project, following successful government grant funding. The scheme will build on the success of the Cleveleys and Rossall Coast defence schemes, helping to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion of 11,000 properties and protect key infrastructure.

The scheme will be carried out in two stages before completion in 2026. This involves the creation of a rock wall and long rock armour groynes heading out to sea. This will help to trap sand and building a high, stable beach which reduces wave height and energy during storms. This will decrease the likelihood of waves damaging or overtopping the sea defences, protecting thousands of nearby homes.

Objective 8: Adaptation – Adapt to our changing climate.									
Ref	**What we will do**	**How we will do it**	**When we will do it**	**How will we measure it**	**Current progress**	**What else needs to happen**	**Est. costs**	**Who will ensure this happens**	**Priority score**
8.A: Area of Influence – Direct control									
8.A1	Publish a climate change **Risk Register** for Wyre.	Identify the environmental risks of climate change to the borough within our corporate or a separate climate change risk register, addressing flooding, extreme heat and other relevant climate impacts.	Short term (2024-26)	Published Climate Change Risk Register.				**Emergency Planning** with all plan owners.	9
8.A2	Review the council's **Emergency Plans** for climate change.	Review and update the council's Emergency Plans to reflect the risks of climate change and include measures to minimise these impacts where possible.	Short term (2024-26)	Reviewed documents.				**Emergency Planning** with all plan owners.	9
8.A3	Identify and make improvements to reduce the impact of **flooding** in Wyre.	Plan and apply for funding for **infrastructure improvements** that will reduce flood risk. Prioritise Natural Flood Management techniques over hard engineering where possible.	Ongoing	Number of infrastructure schemes. Number of properties protected from flooding.	£40m Wyre Beach Management Scheme currently under development to protect 11,000 properties from coastal flooding.		~~£££~~	**Engineering.**	3
		Work with flood forums and action groups to **identify sites** at risk of flooding and put plans in place for mitigation and adaptation.	Ongoing	Number of meetings held with Wyre Flood Forum. Number of flood mitigation measures implemented.	Wyre flood forum meetings are held once a quarter, making space for water (officers only) once a quarter. There are 11 flood action groups in Wyre which meet monthly.			**Engineering.**	9
		Invest in local nature-based solutions to protect Wyre residents from flooding.	Ongoing	Number of schemes invested in.	The council have invested approximately £80k as a buyer in the privately funded Wyre Natural Flood Management scheme.		~~£~~£	**Finance;** Climate Change; Engineering, Coast & Countryside.	6
8.A4	Review **working hours** of the council's frontline staff during extreme heat.	Review current plans for working hours and extreme heat adaptations for frontline workers.	Short term (2024-26)	Plan in place.				**Public Realm**; Emergency Planning; Human Resources.	9

8.A5	Adapt **council-owned infrastructure** to be resilient to climate change.	Identify climate change risks and implement adaptation measures for council infrastructure, including: supply of energy, plant and machinery, car parks, water storage and buildings.	Medium term (2027-29)	Review complete. Number of adaptation measures implemented.	Rainwater storage installed at Wyre Country Estuary Park.			**Assets & Development Projects**; Climate Change.	9
8.B: Area of Influence – Place-shaping									
8.B1	Incorporate mitigation and adaptation measures into **planning**.	Introduce policies into spatial planning to mitigate and adapt to climate change. For example, adapting to extreme heat.	Ongoing	Local Plan review complete and plan adopted.	Local plan review in progress.	Government clarity on climate change policy.	££	**Planning.**	6
8.B2	All **new council buildings and renovations** will be examples of climate resilience.	New buildings and renovation works will use sustainable materials where possible and be built to withstand the impacts of climate change, including measures such as rainwater storage, shading and cooling.	Ongoing	New buildings and renovations include climate change impact assessment, use sustainable materials and include measures to adapt to climate change.	Renovations are complete at Fleetwood Market, which include solar PV, air source heat pumps and a range of insulation measures. Pool covers have also been installed at our leisure centres to retain heat.	Funding support.	££££	**Assets & Development Projects.**	4
8.D: Area of Influence – Engaging									
8.D1	Improve **community resilience** to climate change impacts.	**Educate** residents online and at events across the borough about the impacts of climate change and practical ways they can adapt.	Ongoing	Signposting information available on council website. Resources available for residents at council events.				**Climate Change**; Communications; Leisure, Healthy Lifestyles & Communities.	9
		Identify **initiatives** to help local residents to adapt to climate change, such as: offering free water butt installation, compost bins and tree giveaways.	Ongoing	Number of initiatives in place.			££	**Climate Change;** Communications.	6
8.A: Area of Influence – Partnerships									

8.E1	Work with local partners to **upskill** workers and businesses to transition to a low carbon economy and technologies.	Signpost businesses and workers to training opportunities to upskill in low carbon technologies such as solar panel and heat pump installation and electric vehicle maintenance.	Ongoing	Promotion and availability of information online. Potential low carbon careers event.	The UKSPF 'Chamber Low Carbon' project with the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce provides funded support for businesses to upskill workers, diversify and transition to low carbon technologies.	External support from nearby education providers and partners.		**Economic Development**; Climate Change; Chambers of Commerce; Local training and education providers.	9

Climate emergency declaration

Appendix 1

Appendix 1: Climate emergency declaration

At the meeting of Wyre Council on 11 July 2019, it was agreed that:

The council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees centigrade, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018:
  a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5C rise, and
  b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and we congratulate His Majesty's Government (HMG) on being the first country to take a lead on this issue.
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions and this council tonight declares a Climate Emergency.

The council therefore commits to:

1. Make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2050*.
2. Achieve 100% **clean energy** across the council's full range of functions by 2050*.
3. Ensure that all **strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions** are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2050* as far as Planning Laws allow it.
4. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the **entire Wyre area** zero carbon within the same timescale.
5. Ensure the council take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the council's activities, ensuring that any **recommendations are fully costed** and that the Executive and Scrutiny functions review council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with **budget actions** and a **measured baseline**.
6. Where necessary officer reports to Cabinet and Full Council contain **impact assessments on Climate Change**, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible.
7. Continue its already agreed policy to report to the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** its progress towards a zero carbon emissions target.
8. Work with, influence and inspire **partners** across Wyre, Lancashire and the North West to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.
9. Request that the council and partners, take steps to **proactively include young people in the process**, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.

10. Continue its policy of having officers and departmental groups work on a **climate change action plan** which will report back to council on a regular basis as to its progress towards a target of zero emissions by 2050*.
11. Request an **annual investment report from our pensions administrators** Lancashire County council (LCC) on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry, such report to go to Cabinet who will make any appropriate observations thereon reflecting our zero carbon emissions target of 2050*.
12. Ensuring that all reports in preparation for the annual budget cycle and investment strategy will take into account the **financial implications** of the actions the council will take to address this emergency.
13. **Request the UK Government** to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.
14. Continue to **consider other actions within the council's remit** that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use, increasing the efficiency of all buildings, including housing in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net zero carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.
15. The council should if possible, **not allow its land to be used** for anything that would result in the council not meeting the target of net zero emissions by 2050*.
16. Monitor the advice of the Local Government Association, (and where possible implement) as to what steps can be taken quickly to have the greatest possible impact on **air quality**, a modal shift away from private cars, increased take up on public transport, and ensure that every aspect of the council's activities are sighted on the need to **preserve Wyre's ecological and environmental heritage**.
17. Use trees to **offset carbon emissions** arising from the council's activities and therefore to instruct our officers to report back on costings for the planting of trees and the maintenance of woodlands in the Borough, which is a matter of urgency because we need to start planting trees now**.

***** On 8 July 2021, the council agreed to include an **interim target** to reduce emissions by **78% by 2035**, before achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This aligned with the current UK government target.

** This statement relates to offsetting emissions. Trees do provide offsetting when planted in the right place, there are also other ways to achieve this, such as saltmarsh and peat restoration.

Glossary and references

Key terms used in this document

Glossary

Adaptation: Action that helps cope with and reduce the impacts of climate change. Adaptation is essential to address the 'locked-in' effects of climate change.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): a method to contribute to the recovery of nature whilst developing land. The habitat for wildlife should be in a better state than it was before development.

Biofuel: Fuel derived from biomass (plant material and other biological matter such as animal waste and leftover cooking fat). This is a source of renewable energy, unlike fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal and natural gas.

Blue and Green Infrastructure: Natural and semi-natural landscape elements of the environment. 'Blue' elements include rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands and floodplains. 'Green' elements include trees, forests, fields, parks, gardens and so on.

Brown energy: Energy produced from non-renewable sources, such as fossil fuels.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2): One of the main greenhouse gases contributing to climate change.

Carbon budget: The threshold for the maximum amount of greenhouse gases that can be emitted before global average temperatures increase to dangerous levels.

Carbon footprint: The total greenhouse gases caused by an individual, event, organisation, service, place, or product.

Carbon Literacy: A certification provided by the Carbon Literacy Project. This represents an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

Carbon sink: An area that absorbs and stores carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, such as a forest or peatland.

Circular economy: An approach to life and business where everything has a value and nothing is wasted. Rather than a linear economy of 'make, use, dispose' of a product, a circular economy would 'make, use, remake', with minimal/no waste produced.

Climate: The average weather conditions over a long period of time (~30 years+) in a particular location, such as tropical, temperate, or polar climates.

Climate Emergency: A situation where urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.

CO_2e: Carbon dioxide equivalent. A measurement to capture all greenhouse gas emissions from an activity.

Emissions: The release of greenhouse gases from human activities.

EV: Electric Vehicle.

Extreme weather: Weather that is unexpected, unusual, severe or unseasonal compared to average weather patterns.

Fluorinated gases (F-gases): Man-made gases used in a range of everyday products and

industrial applications. Despite being used to replace ozone-depleting CFC gases, they contribute greatly to climate change.

Greenhouse gases: Gases released from human activities, which trap heat from the sun and create a 'greenhouse effect' to the earth, causing global temperatures to rise dramatically since the industrial revolution.

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO): A biofuel made from used cooking oils, animal fats from food processing and non-food grade crops. Used as a direct alternative to diesel and shown to reduce emissions by up to 90%.

Mitigation: Efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases.

Net zero: Ending contributions to climate change by balancing emissions released with emissions removed from the atmosphere.

Offsetting: Activities to draw down emissions from the atmosphere, such as tree planting or enhancing other habitats that absorb carbon dioxide.

Resilience: The capacity to cope with and recover from climate-related events, such as floods and droughts.

Scopes 1, 2 and 3: Three categories of emissions. Scope 1 and 2 are emissions that are owned or controlled by an organisation, whilst Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of an organisation, but which occur from sources uncontrolled by them.

Single use plastic: Plastics designed for use only once before thrown away or recycled. They are made from fossil fuels like petroleum and can be hard to recycle.

Spheres of influence: The council's or an organisation's level of ability to influence emissions within different areas of society.

SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle): Large, typically four-wheel drive vehicles with poor fuel efficiency.

Thermal expansion: As the earth warms up, the ocean absorbs this heat and expands, causing sea level rise.

Urban heat island effect: Urban areas are generally warmer than surrounding rural landscapes, particularly in summer as unshaded roads and buildings radiate heat.

Weather: Short term changes in the atmosphere, over a period of minutes to months. This influences temperature, rain, clouds and so on.

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