

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		10 September 2025	
PORTFOLIO:		Councillor Stephen Button, Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Susan Gardner, Policy & Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Additional Climate Funding	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 That, during planning for the Council's budget for 2026-27, Cabinet give consideration to extending the Council's Climate budget in order to facilitate the Council's ability to achieve its net zero targets.

2. **Recommendations**

That Cabinet consider recommending additional funding for the Climate Action fund as part of its preparations for the 2026/27 budget

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 A Communities and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 14th July 2025 and was consulted on the 'Draft Climate Strategy & Action Plan' and updated on the Hyndburn wide CO2 emissions and the Council's transition to Carbon Net Zero. The Committee was informed of the importance of limiting global warming to 1.5c or staying well below 2c to try to achieve pre-industrial levels and to achieve a 7.6% annual reduction in carbon emissions that would be required to achieve net zero targets. The Committee considered that further funding would be required to achieve its net zero targets and made a recommendation that Cabinet gave consideration to providing additional funding for the Climate Action fund during its budget planning process.

- 3.2 In September 2019 Hyndburn Borough Council declared a climate emergency and committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030. This pledge is a series of recommendations to help limit global warming.
- 3.3 One Carbon World carried out a carbon footprint study between 2020 and 2023 and an initial review indicated the Council's buildings were responsible for some 75% of its operational carbon emissions and the highest priority was to decarbonise energy usage, particularly from gas. The Council set aside a £1m climate reserve pot to help to achieve Hyndburn's target to make the Council's activities net zero carbon by 2030. The Council has been very proactive and has made great advances in reducing the Borough's carbon emissions. Since 2019 carbon emissions have been reduced by 55% by decarbonising our building stock, procuring renewable energy tariffs, replacing diesel within our vehicle fleet with hydro veg oil and working towards sustainability, carbon capture and offsetting and habitat creation through various projects.
- 3.4 The climate reserve pot was also used to appoint two officers, a Home Energy Reduction Officer and a Natural Spaces Project Officer over a 3 year period and both have contributed to the Council's successes in reducing or offsetting carbon emissions.
- 3.5 However, there has been a plateauing in the reduction of carbon emissions and without further funding the Council will be limited in how much more it can achieve and it may not be able to meet the 2030 net zero target. The Council has completed much of its work in decarbonising its Council buildings and many of the natural solution programmes delivered by external organisations are due to be completed within the next couple of years. As such, there is going to be a greater reliance on working towards net zero through a range of new smaller projects.
- 3.6 The Council's vision for a sustainable future is identified within the Corporate Strategy and focusses on: Making the Council's Activities and Operations Net Zero by 2030, reducing fuel poverty – Home Energy Efficiency and Green Open Spaces and the Natural Environment to balance growth with sustainability.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The Council could decide to provide no additional funding but this would limit the Council's ability to achieve its target of net zero by 2030.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee (14th July 2025)
Net Zero Working Group

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	Additional funding will be required to continue the Council's climate objectives but any decision would be for Council when it sets the budget for 2026/27.
Legal and human rights implications	None
Assessment of risk	The Council's biggest risk will be to ensure the Council work towards its Climate Emergency pledge. This will be mitigated by monitoring arrangements. Progress and spend will be monitored closely by the Council to ensure compliance.
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and • advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and • foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't. For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers

- 7.1 *Copies of documents included in this list must be open to inspection and, in the case of reports to Cabinet, must be published on the website.*

<https://democracy.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=129&MIId=3039&Ver=4>

[Scrutiny report draft Climate Strategy and Action Plan.pdf](#)

8. Freedom of Information

- 8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.