

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	26 th September 2024 7 pm	LOCATION	Congleton Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Streetscape Development Manager – Ruth Burgess		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	13 Carbon Neutral Council		
Update	<p>In November 2019, we committed to becoming carbon neutral as a council by 2025. We also pledged to raise awareness of the importance of taking action to combat climate change across the Town, working with others to consider and tackle their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and promoting carbon efficiency. Our resolution to do this remains, however we now have to accept that achieving this by 2025 is impossible due to the financial landscape and hurdles within the council setting. The works that we committed to in 2019 are continuing, but we would like to move the target date to 2030, which still remains an ambitious target but hopefully more realistic.</p> <p>We believe we have made enormous progress in understanding the key elements of our carbon footprint and investigating the options we have to reduce or mitigate them but we are still some way away from being carbon neutral and many of those big-ticket items are not fully in our control.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Town Hall Decarbonisation will be a huge chunk of carbon removed but the project will not be complete until early 2026 and, as you know, there are still significant barriers to overcome before we can guarantee it will go ahead.2. We have not yet managed to secure an economic green electricity tariff for 2025 onward.3. Replacement of our fleet with electric vehicles is a large financial hit that we will struggle to meet in the short term. The ability to piggyback on CEC procurement has not materialised due to the financial situation at CEC.4. Identification of an Offsetting Project is still proving elusive and we do not have a budget line for Offsetting accepted as an essential yet with other councillors. <p>With all of the above in mind, I believe we need to push back our target for Carbon Neutrality. CEC have also done something similar and pushed back to 2027. We could do the same or we could give ourselves some breathing space and go for 2030.</p>		
Financial Considerations	The financial impact still needs to be ongoing and calculated in each of the above areas		
Environmental Considerations	All actions being considered are to have a positive impact on the environment		
Equality Considerations	There should be no negative equality impact however this needs to be taken into consideration in each of the areas being investigated		
Decision Request	To agree a target date for Carbon Neutrality subject to endorsement by Council		