

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Environment Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	2nd April 2026 7.00 pm	LOCATION	Town Hall
REPORT FROM	Cllr Suzy Firkin – Environment Committee Chair		
AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE	11 Decarbonisation Update		
	<p>The Council’s Town Hall Decarbonisation was a major part of the Council’s strategy to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.</p> <p>The project, substantially funded by a Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant via SALIX, allowed us to undertake a full feasibility and design study around the replacement of the Town Halls Gas Boiler based heating system with an Air Source Heat Pump system.</p> <p>At completion of the full grant-funded study and receipt of bids for delivery of the fully defined project, costs came in significantly beyond the £80k contribution originally budgeted. Despite £300k of grant funding, the council would still require £210k to complete the project. Council voted to defer the project until such time as more favourable grant funding might become available (for example, via Mayoral Devolution).</p> <p>Since then, we have continued to investigate opportunities to future-proof the Town Hall. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a study to understand the costs of replacing the existing gas boilers with new gas boilers, which came in at approx. £200k. It is important to stress that this was an information-gathering exercise and no decision to proceed was made. • a review of the economics of installing the solar power element of the SALIX project. • Installation of double glazing on the ground floor and planned for the top floor. • Revisiting the portfolio of small projects that improve the thermal efficiency and performance of the building. <p>The Town Council is now on a capped green tariff with our energy provider, West Mercia, and as such, all electricity bills carry a zero carbon status. However, as long as we continue to have a gas-based heating system, we will still have a long way to go to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>The second biggest contributor to our footprint is our fleet. Work has begun to investigate the feasibility of transitioning to an electric fleet. In order to do so, we need an extension to our contract with CEC, which gives us the ability to take out a 5 or 7-year fleet hire agreement on EVs. Despite the higher costs of EV’s, savings on fuel costs should still enable us to make operational savings as well as carbon savings if we can commit to a sufficiently long lease.</p> <p>The contribution of the public realm areas and the Paddling Pool to the carbon footprint are much smaller and subject to ongoing monitoring to ensure impact is minimised.</p>		

Environmental	Reducing the carbon footprint of the Town Hall and the Town Council's operational activities was the primary focus of the decarbonisation project. However, there are still many small projects that we can pursue to keep driving down the carbon footprint and contributing towards a reduction in greenhouse gases and a reliance on volatile fossil fuel supplies.
Equality	A commitment to reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment is a commitment to ensure that the most vulnerable in society, who may be living in fuel poverty, will live in a region supporting the drive to renewable, low-cost energy that will help to close the fuel poverty gap for the future.
Financial	Reducing energy usage (gas and electricity) and water and chemical usage has the potential to bring down not only the carbon footprint of the Town Council but also to make a cost saving on utilities bills.
Decision Requested	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the report. 2. To support the ongoing activities to reduce energy usage and utilities bills for the Town Hall and other CTC assets.