# Rossendale

Subject:	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan			Status:	For F	Publicat	ion
Report to:	Cabinet			Date:	1 <sup>st</sup> Jເ	ily 2020	)
Report of:	Director of Communities		Portfolio Holder:	Environment		t	
Key Decision:	$\boxtimes$	Forward Plan		General Exception	Special Urgency		al Urgency 🗌
Equality Impact	Equality Impact Assessment: Requir		Required:	no	Attac	hed:	no
<b>Biodiversity Im</b>	<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b> Required:		no	Attac	hed:	no	
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
	That members consider the attached draft Strategy and Action Plan and approve and adopt the same.

#### 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To allow members to consider and approve the adoption of the council's draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019, in response to growing concerns about climate change, a motion was put to Council declaring that *the impacts of climate change are already having a significant effect on Rossendale.*
- 3.2 The motion continued; We all have a duty to act on climate change and by having a strong policy to cut emissions, this also has associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
- **3.3** Consequently, Council therefore committed to:
  - Declaring a 'climate emergency' that requires urgent action
  - Working towards making the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030
  - Setting a 100% clean energy target, across the Council's full range of functions by 2030
  - Proactively promoting the need for businesses across Rossendale to take steps to be net-zero carbon by 2030
  - Writing to government asking them to bring forward new funding and devolved powers to help make the zero-carbon target a reality
  - Creating a new Climate Change Member Champion who will support the relevant Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council in delivery of the commitments (Councillor Julie Adshead was appointed the Member Champion at Full Council on 23rd December 2019)
  - 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
  - Assigning a lead officer to deliver the Council's commitments
- 3.4 In response to the motion, officers produced a draft Climate Change Strategy.

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Cabinet approved that the document be subject to a 4-week public consultation exercise.

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3.5 As a result of that consultation an amended document was produced (appendix A) which now forms the councils draft Climate Change Strategy and Action plan.

This sets out the Councils commitment to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale.

To achieve this target, the Council will focus on the following areas;

- Efficient energy consumption
- Sustainable transport
- Waste and the Wider Environment
- Working Together in Partnership

The action plan contains detailed, far reaching and challenging targets across a wide range of areas.

We will not achieve the impact that we all wish to see by acting alone, and we are committed to bringing together statutory partners, the voluntary, education and business sectors and our communities to reduce our collective impact on the environment.

To monitor progress and review actions, quarterly informal reviews will be carried out with the councils Climate Change Champion and portfolio holder, and formally through Cabinet on an annual basis.

#### 4. RISK

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
  - Failure to adopt a focused strategy and comprehensive action plan will have a serious impact on the Councils commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030

#### 5. FINANCE

5.1 Any future financial implications arising will have to be assessed separately as part of the Council's budget setting and resource allocations.

#### 6. LEGAL

6.1 All legal implications are covered in the body of the report.

#### 7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Climate Change Strategy may have an impact on a number of policy areas, including planning, operations and licensing and consultation with relevant officers in these areas is ongoing.

#### 8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Work to tackle Climate Change will continue to be a priority for all services of the Council and we will actively work with partners to tackle the threats of Climate Change. The adoption of a Climate Change Strategy will provide long term direction in reducing the impact of climate change across the borough and help achieve our carbon reduction targets.

No background papers

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Rossendale Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2030



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# 1.0 Foreword

'In September 2019, Rossendale Borough Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' and pledged to take action. This is a real emergency that we are facing and we need to act now to prevent devastating impact on our climate and our lives.

We are a small borough but we have our part to play as does every individual who lives here and every business that trades here.

As a Council, we can take action to make sure that we reach Carbon Zero by 2030 and this strategy sets the framework for achieving that goal.

We would like to see the whole borough reach the same target by the same date and we will be working in partnership with you to do that.

Everyone has a role to play simply by the personal choices we make - for example in the way we travel and use energy, by planting a tree or just passing on the message. Please join us and help us to reach our target and do our bit in the fight against climate change.'

#### Cllr Julie Adshead Member Champion for Climate Change

We recognise that our council has an important role to help our residents and businesses to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change. These include saving money on energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, supporting new sources of energy, managing local flood-risk and water scarcity and protecting our natural environment. This Strategy and Action Plan sets out our commitment to achieving our goals in relation to reducing our carbon footprint

#### **Neil Shaw**

Chief Executive for Rossendale Borough Council



## **2.0 Introduction**

As a council we are passionately committed to improving the environment. The world's climate is changing and we are keen to do all we can to take positive action locally to make a contribution to reducing our carbon consumption and tackling climate change.

We are clear that human activities are leading to climate change of a scale and pace that threatens our quality of life and that of future generations. Such a global challenge requires a global response, and we are keen to do our bit at a local level and provide leadership on this issue which is becoming of increasing public concern.

The UK Government has agreed to take a lead globally by setting a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2019 the council formally declared a 'climate emergency' and committed to taking urgent action.

Everyone has a role to play. We are keen to show strong local leadership on this issue but know this cannot be achieved alone. A crucial part of this strategy is to foster the energy of all those living and working in Rossendale to make a difference to all our futures. This will include working with local businesses on steps to become net-zero emitters of carbon. We will work with local communities to promote greater awareness of the role they can play in reducing their carbon consumption and providing practical approaches to reduce, reuse and recycle. Mobilising our young people will be a crucial aspect, and by working with our schools and colleges we can develop new and innovative ways to change behaviour and reduce our collective impact on the environment.



We are already doing much to make a positive impact on climate change, such as sustainable transport, recycling and insulating homes. This ambitious strategy and action plan goes further than ever before to protect our environment by working together to have a positive impact both locally and globally.

# 3.0 Our Commitment

Our ambition is to make the council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 and to work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions for the whole of Rossendale. Currently in Rossendale each person on average is responsible for an average of ten tonnes of carbon emissions each year. This equates to 24 million balloons per person. It is our aim through this strategy to reduce that figure as much as possible. Through its corporate strategy the council is committed and already working towards a cleaner and greener borough.

To reduce Carbon emissions, the Council will focus on the following areas:

- 3.1 Efficient energy consumption
- 3.2 Sustainable transport
- **3.3 Waste and the Wider Environment**



# 3.4 Working Together in Partnership

We will not achieve the impact that we all wish to see by acting alone, and we are committed to bringing together statutory partners, the voluntary, education and business sectors and our communities to reduce our collective impact on the environment.

Rossendale has been deeply impacted recently by the Covid 19 outbreak. This has prompted major changes in people's behaviours and it has demonstrated how we can reduce our reliance on carbon based travel and a switch to cycling and walking.

We must embrace this opportunity to change behaviours permanently and empower our young people to be vocal ambassadors for greater environmental awareness.



This will all develop over time, but in addition to the three Council priorities, this strategy and action plan aims to be the catalyst for a much broader social movement that allows everyone to play their part.



# 3.1 Efficient energy consumption

We believe that a key contribution to tackling climate change is both a reduction in the overall consumption of energy and the adoption of more renewable energy sources to fulfil our local demand. We will show community leadership by reducing our own overall carbon based energy consumption and actively move to more renewable sources of energy generation.

By better understanding the council's current carbon 'footprint' we will be able to measure our success in reducing this.

We will work with local businesses and housing providers to encourage them to adopt similar approaches, particular in higher energy consuming businesses like manufacturing. We will promote energy saving initiatives to local communities to encourage the wider take up of such approaches.

#### We will focus on driving the following outcomes:

- Reducing the council's overall carbon based energy consumption by 50 percent by 2030
- Obtaining our energy needs from renewable sources.
- Increasing the number of residents who source their utilities from renewable sources

To achieve this, we will focus on the following objectives:



- Commission an assessment of the council's existing carbon based energy consumption and establish a clear long term action plan to reduce it by 50 percent in ten years
- Identifying ways to reduce the consumption of energy in council owned buildings
- Encourage local housing associations and private sector landlords to increase home insulation and other energy efficiency measure, identifying government funding where possible.
- Review our planning guidelines where possible to encourage new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint both in construction and operation.
- Support energy switching schemes that enable more residents to move to energy providers using renewable sources



# 3.2 Sustainable transport

Nearly 30% of all carbon emissions are due to transport. Moving to more environmentally sustainable forms of transport will play a role in reducing overall carbon emissions.

This includes replacing older heavily polluting vehicles with newer technologies and people using vehicles less. We will improve our vehicles whilst also promoting healthier travel options such as walking and cycling.

The council's development of the new bus station in Rawtenstall is a visible commitment to our approach for better public transport and we are keen to work with government on even more ambitious developments in the future such as a modern rail route into Great Manchester.

#### We will focus on driving the following outcomes:

- · Move all council fleet vehicles away from carbon based diesel/petrol power
- Increase the proportion of our staff who are taking more sustainable forms of transport to get to work by ten percent
- Increase the proportion of local people who are walking or cycling to work

#### To achieve this, we will focus on the following objectives:

• Exploring the feasibility of electric pool cars for staff so that no work mileage uses petrol or diesel-powered vehicles



- Evaluate the option of switching all council owned vehicles from petrol or diesel to electric or Supporting staff who wish to walk or cycle to work by providing good changing facilities and promoting the bike to work scheme.
- Install rapid electric car charging points across the Borough
- Work with local public transport providers and Lancashire County Council to promote public transport options for work
- Encourage a greater proportion of staff travel within the borough through publicising walking and cycling routes
- Continuing to seek external funding for sustainable transport infrastructure projects, in particular a fast rail link to Greater Manchester and the North West.
- Promote the wider take up of cycling and seek approaches to improving the borough's cycling infrastructure

# 3.3 Waste and the wider environment

Each year our residents create around 23,600 tonnes of domestic waste. We are proud that we already play a leading role in making better use of the borough's waste. Currently around 7,400 tonnes of this is sent for recycling each year. This is a good start but we need to do more. Currently we recycle around 33% of the borough's domestic waste but the average English borough council is recycling around 49%.

Businesses also generate significant levels of waste and we are keen to explore ways businesses can reduce the level of resources they consume and maximise the level of waste which can be recycled.

A number of wider environmental issues can have a positive impact on tackling climate change. This includes the reduction in single use plastics and creating ways of capturing carbon, for example, through tree planting.

#### We will focus on driving the following outcomes:

• Increasing the proportion of domestic waste which is recycled

To achieve this, we will focus on the following objectives:

- Working with Lancashire County Council to incentivise recycling and increase recycling and re-use rates to 70% by 2030
- Increasing the number of residents taking up the garden waste service by 10 percent per annum over the next 3 years



- Increasing the proportion of local commercial waste which is recycled by 50 percent per annum over the next three years through a Council scheme for commercial waste collection and disposal and additional promotion
- Identify council owned sites suitable for increased tree coverage
- Banning the procurement of single use plastics for all council services and events by June 2022
- Embedding carbon reduction objectives in major procurement activities
- Encouraging other public services providers to adopt carbon reduction initiatives
- To review all Council procurement to achieve the best value balance between cost and environmental harm



# 3.4 Working Together in Partnership

To achieve our ambitions and make a real impact, we need to work together in partnership.

We can all make a positive difference to our Carbon Footprint.

We know that a new house can involve the production of 50 tonnes of carbon and by working with local housing providers and through government grants this could possibly be reduced. We know that transport and older vehicles can be a major contributor to carbon emissions and other harmful pollutants, promoting more efficient vehicles could help reduce these pollutants.

We want to identify leaders in each sector to champion change and to share the many opportunities that exist for reducing emissions.

We also know that the willingness and enthusiasm to address climate change has never been greater and that young people can be very powerful influencers. By working with school and colleges, we can harness this enthusiasm to encourage behaviour change across all age groups.

This strategy sets out clear actions for the Council. But it also establishes the building blocks for a much broader partnership to tackle the climate emergency.

#### To work in Partnership and have the maximum possible impact on improving our collective carbon footprint, we will:

• Hold a Rosendale Climate Change Conference that brings people together to share ideas and to Pledge to work together on the climate emergency



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• Establish climate change champions across all sectors and support them to create wider networks for action

# 4.0 The Action Plan and Monitoring Success

The following action plan details each of the aims of this strategy and the actions that will be taken to implement those aims.

Once the strategy and action plan is approved by Executive Cabinet, a performance framework will be developed and progress on implementation will be monitored quarterly by the lead Elected Member, Councillor Julie Adshead and the Director of Communities.

This quarterly report will also be presented to Corporate Management team quarterly. A formal update on progress will be presented to Executive and full Council each year in March.

Individual actions contained within the action plan will require different levels of financial commitment and funding for the plan will come from a range of sources.

Each projects financial viability will need to be addressed as they are formulated, implemented and assessed to ensure best value for money is achieved whilst having the required impact on reducing our carbon footprint.



Objective	Action Required	Expected Outcome	Timescale	Responsibility
Objective	Action Required	Expected Outcome	Imescale	Responsibility

4.1 Efficient Energy Consumption

Encourage and enforce minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rental sector	Deliver training for landlords in relation to their responsibilities	Ensure all private rented sector and social housing homes achieve minimum energy standards as required by law	Ongoing	Public Protection Manager
and social landlords	Establish energy switching scheme for residents	Increased numbers of homes benefiting from green energy suppliers	April 2021	Director of Communities
Reduce the Councils Carbon based energy consumption by 50% by 2030.	Commission and Develop a full energy audit of council buildings	Identification of energy consumption and carbon output of council owned buildings and identify potential savings	September 2021	Facilities Manager
Identify ways to reduce the consumption of energy in council owned buildings	Engage with Councillors and senior stakeholders to promote sustainability.	Councillors and senior stakeholders will have full understanding of Climate change, know what their carbon footprint is and have the knowledge to promote sustainability.	Ongoing	Democratic Services Manager
	Conduct Audit of energy consumption at RBC Data Centres	Target 40 % reduction in power consumption from RBC Racks in Data Centres. Target PSN Rack 2 Amps.	January 2020	Head of IT
	Develop a facilities carbon reduction plan for the whole council portfolio.	To measure and reduce the carbon footprint of each department.	December 2021	Director of Communities



Review the council's procurement strategy to specify that low carbon lights and appliances are procured	The procurement strategy will incorporate social value and environmental carbon cost.	December 2020	Head of Finance
Produce a lifecycle analysis document on all Council assets.	To review the current life of all assets, and understand the environmental and economic impact.	April 2022	Head of Operations
Transition to a digitalised system for all meetings and all correspondence where possible to do so.	Greater efficiency for officers and members by accessing reports etc. digitally. To reduce the councils use of paper by 50%	December 2020	Head of Legal
Implement electronic document management system for revenues and benefits	All Revenues and Benefits, DWP, VEP etc. documents available electronically and accessible remotely.	January 2020	Head of I.T
Explore remote and work at home arrangements for staff.	Increased officer efficiency, reduction in paper usage, reduction carbon emissions by reducing officer travel time	March 2020	Head of I.T



Review our planning guidelines where possible to encourage new buildings that have a lower carbon footprint both in construction and operation	Encourage developers to include sources of sustainable energy in new developments	Developers meet higher standards of sustainability and include provisions for electric vehicle charge points and renewable energy provisions etc.by use of appropriate planning conditions	Ongoing	Head of Planning
Support energy switching schemes that enable more residents to move to energy providers using renewable sources	Work with community groups and energy providers to source sustainable energy suppliers	Increased numbers of households signing up to "green" energy providers	Ongoing	Director of Communities

# 4.2 Sustainable Transport

Objective	Action Required	Expected Outcome	Timescale	Responsibility
Enable the rapid shift	Development of electric	Four rapid chargers will be fitted		



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to electric vehicles by providing the appropriate infrastructure to facilitate EV charging.	vehicle charging points at identified locations.	across the borough (Phase 1) to enhance those already fitted by LCC and private suppliers on the network. Three additional Chargers (Phase 2) to be installed at 3 RBC data centres.	September 2020 (Phase 1) January 2020 (Phase 2 at Data Centres)	Public Protection Manager
	Development of electric vehicle charging points at identified RBC Data Centre locations.	Three rapid chargers to be fitted across RBC 3 key Data Centres across England.	January 2020	Head of IT
	Encourage taxi companies to convert their fleet to electric by reviewing licensing policies	Taxi companies will have converted 30% of their fleet to electric vehicles.	December 2025	Public Protection Manager
Evaluate the option of switching all council owned vehicles from petrol or diesel to electric	Conversion of the council's operations fleet to electric vehicles.	50% of all council fleet to be fully electric by 2025	July 2025	Head of Operations
Exploring the feasibility of electric pool cars for staff so that no work mileage uses petrol or diesel- powered vehicles	Procure electric pool cars for use of staff.	Pool and Mayoral vehicles replaced with electric vehicles and used for all work related transport	December 2020	Head of Operations
Introduce measures to encourage cycling and walking by staff and residents	Apply for a grant through Connecting East Lancashire for e- bikes for staff use.	Grant funding available for e- bikes for staff use. Successful grant application submitted to purchase bikes	June 2020	Director of Communities



	Create a separate local body to lead on, and support members of the public on renting electric bikes and cars.	To actively encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle to ensure that local residents have options to travel sustainably.	August 2021	Director of Communities
	Establish Champions across all sectors to build on the recent increase in walking and cycling from both exercise and commuting to work.	Increasing the number of people across all sectors that regularly walk and cycle for both exercise and commuting to work or school/college	February 2021	Director of Communities
Work with local public transport providers and Lancashire County Council to promote public transport options for work	In conjunction with LCC and other partners, develop a sustainable transport strategy for the borough to coincide with the Local plan.	To be used as guidance on all future planning developments.	September 2020	Head of Planning

# 4.3 Waste and The Wider Environment

Objective	Action Required	Expected Outcome	Timescale	Responsibility

To reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and increase the recycling rate across the borough	Develop and implement Waste Strategy and introduce a system of education and enforcement measures to increase recycling.	Increase in boroughs recycling rates to national average of 49% initially and then Aim of achieving 70% reuse, recycling and composting rate by 2030.	June 2021	Head of Operations
Increasing the number of residents taking up the garden waste service	To review and promote further uptake of green waste service	Increase take up of green waste service by 10% per annum	June 2023	Head of Operations
To eradicate the use of single use plastic across the authority	To review our policy on procurement of products which rely on the use of single use plastics	100% reduction in use of single use plastics in all council buildings	June 2022	Head of Legal Services
Increasing the proportion of local commercial waste which is recycled	To introduce a Council scheme for commercial waste collection, disposal and additional promotion	Increase the proportion of commercial waste recycled by 50 percent per annum	June 2023	Head of Operations
To review all Council procurement to achieve the best value balance between cost	Review the council's procurement strategy to ensure minimal	The procurement strategy will incorporate social value and environmental carbon	December 2020	Head of Finance

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and environmental harm	environmental impact	cost.			
Increase tree cover on council owned land and on streets; increasing tree cover across the council area.	Discuss a potential partnership with LCC and Highways England to look at the suds and tree planting on footpaths within the valley.	To develop a partnership tree planting project.	January 2021	Director of Communities	
	To identify and survey Council owned land suitable for tree planting.	To increase tree coverage on Council owned land to reduce CO2 in the atmosphere.	Survey by January 2021	Facilities Manager	
	In partnership with LCC and EA, develop trial project schemes to focus on flooding and	To have multiple projects that can be implemented to reduce air pollution and	June 2021	Director of Communities	



air pollution reduction. flooding.		
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# 4.4 Working Together in Partnership

	Objective Action required Expected outcome Timescale Responsibility
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Work in Partnership to have the maximum possible impact on improving our collective carbon footprint	Hold a Rosendale Climate Change Conference that brings people together to share ideas and to Pledge to work together on the climate emergency	To establish a collective response to the climate emergency that involves people from all sections of the community, education and business	November 2020	Director of Communities
	Establish climate change champions across all sectors and support them to create wider networks for action	To develop a Social movement for change which helps change behaviours of everyone living and working on Rossendale.	November 2020	Director of Communities



# **5.0 Case Studies**



5.1 Efficient Energy Consumption

**Case Study: Futures Park Solar Panels** 



In 2012 Rossendale Borough Council installed solar panels on its Futures Park offices. The installation of the solar panels was a £112k investment for our future. The total electricity that our solar panels have produced is 511,411.3 Kw; this would have cost us an average of 12.5p/Kw hour if we had bought it from the electricity grid. The solar panels have saved us an average total of £6,392,641.25 over the last 8 years.

For every Kw of electricity we have produced from our solar panels, we feed in to a tariff of 11.5p. In 8 years we have produced 365,293.64 Kw of electricity from our solar panels during the week which equates to an average spending of £3,017,325.49.

The remaining 146,117.46 Kw of electricity that we have produced during the weekend, has been sold back to the energy grid for 4.5p, making us an averaged income of  $\pounds657,528.56$ .

## **Case Study: Electric Infrastructure**

Rossendale Borough Council and 6 other local authorities have set out to improve the infrastructure of their respective districts. Together they set out a tender to formally develop electric charging point infrastructures within the districts aimed in particular at the taxi and private hire trade

## 5.2 Sustainable Transport

Rossendale Borough Council went about this procedure after consulting other councils about their electric taxis. This led to a company doing consultation work with RBC to produce and show RBC and taxi owners the positives in switching to electric vehicles. The company in question ran a workshop for RBC staff and councillors to show why electric charging point



infrastructure is going to be needed. After a brief conversation it was decided that RBC and the 6 other local authorities would join together in a bid to gain funding to develop charging points within each council's district. The charging points are being constructed for taxis, but members of the public are free to use them when they are not in use.



e Strategic Cycleway Network was proposed in the East Lancashire Highways and Transport Masterplan, which was approved in February 2014.

The masterplan sets out the transport priorities for East Lancashire until 2021.

# **Case Study: East Lancashire Cycleway**

Priorities within the masterplan include:

- Improving access to areas of economic growth and regeneration.
- Providing better access to education and employment.
- Improving people's quality of life.

The Valley of Stone is 16.5km long and connects Rawtenstall to Waterfoot, Bacup and Whitworth to the Lancashire border with Rochdale at Healey Dell, as well as providing access to employment sites, communities and linking towns along the Rossendale valley.

It is built on the former railway line and when completed will provide a real sustainable travel alternative to using the busy roads which run along the main valley floor.

Rossendale

# **Case Study: Waste**

# 5.3 Waste and The Wider Environment

There are challenges in increasing recycling and achieving efficiencies in waste collection, in a borough as rural and diverse as Rossendale.

The fact that the Council must collect waste from several different property types - including terraced housing, houses with multiple occupants, medium density flats, hard to reach properties - means that finding a solution that meets the

needs of citizens, as well as the aspirations of a sustainable borough, is difficult.

There can be no "one-size-fits-all" solution, and we need to work with communities to tackle waste and improve recycling across Rossendale.

We also know that in some of the terraced areas of the borough, recycling rates are quite low, which is challenged



further in areas of rented accommodation. This is a challenge that must be met with greater support and improved education.

More broadly, the world market for waste is changing, meaning that, as a borough, we will all have to do more. Unless we do so, the financial cost of dealing with waste in the borough, not to mention the global environmental cost, will simply become too high.

A strategy will play an important role in helping to keep Rossendale streets clean in addition to waste and recycling benefits. The Council's Recycling and Waste Management Strategy is to be reviewed every three years, with the initial strategy covering the period 2019-22. Rossendale Borough Council The Business Centre Futures Park Bacup OL13 0BB

