

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022

SUBJECT: CLIMATE ACTION AND BIODIVERSITY WORK PLAN 2022-2023

REPORT AUTHOR: William Page, Climate Change and Sustainability Manager
DATE: January 2022
EXTN: 01903 737982
AREA: Community Wellbeing Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Policy and Finance Committee approved a Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-30) for Arun District Council on 14 October 2021. This report sets out the work plan to achieve the 2030 target.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Policy and Finance Committee approve the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan 2022-2023 and subject to the approval of the Council's Budget for 2022/2023, £200,000 for the following:

1. £50,000 per annum for an officer to support the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager;
2. Up to £60,000 for building audits;
3. £7,500 for carbon emission monitoring and supporting the assessment of supplier carbon calculations;
4. £2,000 for training and accreditation; and
5. Authority for the Group Head of Community Wellbeing in consultation with the Group Head of Corporate Support (Section 151 Officer) to delegate unallocated sums within the budget to fund projects detailed in the Work Plan.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In January 2020 Full Council declared a Climate Emergency and announced its ambition for Arun District Council to be carbon neutral by 2030 (Decision Notice C/029/091219). A Climate Change and Sustainability Manager was appointed in February 2021 and following the completion of a carbon audit, a Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-30) was adopted in October 2021.
- 1.2 The carbon audit identified and calculated the Council's carbon emissions and categorised them using the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (ghgprotocol.org) into three types:

- Scope 1 (emissions directly attributed to burning of fuels),
- Scope 2 (indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity and directly controlled by the council)
- Scope 3 (from the activities of the council but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the council)

1.3 To achieve the Strategy an action plan has been prepared to set targets for carbon emission reduction in each of the Scope 1, 2 and 3 categories in line with the 2030 carbon neutral target. The Climate Action and Biodiversity work plan 2022-2023 can be found at Appendix 1.

2 KEY ACTIONS

2.1 The Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan contains actions to reduce carbon emissions across all service areas and all three categories to ensure that the Council is fully addressing its impact on the climate.

2.2 Scope 1 & 2 emissions will be addressed by undertaking improvements to the Council's corporate estate to help reduce energy consumption. A fabric first approach will be adopted to maximise the impact of any upgrades undertaken to heating and ventilation systems. However, before commissioning detailed audits a building needs assessment will be carried out to review the Council's medium to long term estate requirements.

2.3 The Council is already planning to transition the vehicle fleet to Electric Vehicles (EVs) and studies are being undertaken to determine the suitability of installing PV on the roofs of council owned properties. Both activities will help reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions which make up 1.90% of all emissions or 392.02 tonnes of CO₂e.

2.4 Scope 3 activities make up 98.10% of emissions or 17,942.98 tonnes of CO₂e. The largest source is in the Council's supply chain with purchased goods/services making up 86.88% of emissions followed by leisure centres at 5.09%. Reviewing and updating the Council's procurement strategy and tendering requirements to favour contractors/companies who are already providing net zero products/services, or can prove they are working towards this goal, will be key in reducing Scope 3 emissions.

2.5 The Council's ownership of the leisure centres and the established contractual relationship with Freedom Leisure will foster partnership working to drive down the emissions associated with these facilities. The Council will also work with local businesses and SMEs to help them become more informed on the importance of reducing emissions and becoming carbon neutral.

2.6 Though the initial focus of the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan is to reduce the Council's own emissions it will continue to undertake projects to help the wider community reduce their emissions. This work includes providing funding support via the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD), Local authority Flex funding and Safe and Warm homes support.

2.7 The work plan will also ensure that biodiversity and green space is protected and enhanced within the district. Both play important roles in reducing the impacts of climate change; whether this be through favouring nature-based solutions or increasing tree coverage on the council's land as illustrated in the recently adopted Tree Planting Strategy.

3 EXCLUSIONS TO THE 2030 TARGET

3.1 A high-level desk top assessment of the Council's housing stock has been undertaken in respect to the HM Government 2030 Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) target and the 2050 net zero carbon target. Over the coming months more detailed analysis will be carried out to inform the Council's strategic approach to the Council's housing stock and provide a roadmap on how these targets will be achieved. At the current time no emissions generated from the Housing portfolio have been included in the work plan or audit. Additionally, only waste produced directly by the Council has been included within these emissions.

4 RESOURCES

4.1 The Council's concern for the environment can be seen in its ambitious target to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 a full 20 years ahead of the HM Government legal requirement. A sum of £200,000 was endorsed by the Policy and Finance Committee (formally Cooperate Policy & Finance Committee) on 14 October 2021 to support carbon reduction projects for the 2022/23 financial year. Subject to the Budget being approved by the Council the following sums have been identified: up to £60k to undertake audits on the Councils cooperate buildings (item 2), £7,500 for monitoring carbon emissions and support with calculating individual supplier emissions (item 11), £2,000 for training (item 34) and £50,000 to provide additional officer support (item 62) for the Climate Change and Suitability Manager. The remaining £80,500 will be used for project delivery and pump priming. This will ensure that the Council can adequately resource projects and seek further grant funding to deliver the interventions required to reduce carbon emissions at the earliest opportunity. This includes a range of options including procuring specialist advice and training.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Climate Change and Sustainability Manager has worked with officers across the organisation to formulate the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan. It will be the responsibility of the Climate Change and Sustainability Manager to regularly review and report on progress to achieving the Council's 2030 target. Furthermore, the work plan will be an evolving document that captures developments in best practice, new funding streams and the latest technological advancements to improve the Council's drive to net zero.

5.2 By formally adopting a Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan 2022-23 the Council will demonstrate real commitment to tackling this global issue.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

It is proposed that the Policy and Finance committee approve the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan 2022-23

3. OPTIONS:

- a) Approve the actions as set out within the Climate Action and Biodiversity Work Plan 2022-23 to achieve the 2030 carbon neutral target; or
- b) To consider further recommendations.

4. CONSULTATION:		
Members of the Policy and Finance Committee.		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)		
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)	✓	
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
<p>FINANCIAL: The financial implications are shown in 4.1</p> <p>ASSET MANAGEMENT: improvements and investments will be required.</p> <p>PROCUREMENT: revisions will be required for the procurement policy to ensure the supply chain is environmentally aware.</p>		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:
To achieve the council's objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:
Need links to the following:
Environment and Leisure Working Group minutes (November 2019)
Environment and Leisure Working Group Paper (December 2020)
[Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy \(2020 to 2025\)](#)
Carbon Neutral Strategy (2022-2030)