

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

---

meeting date: 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2021  
title: CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP UPDATE  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES  
principal author: MICHELLE HAWORTH – PRINCIPAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE OFFICER

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present committee with an update from the Climate Change working group.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Community Objectives – The Corporate Plan 2019-2023 includes the objective
  - Corporate Priorities – 'To aspire to be a carbon neutral borough by 2030' and
  - Other Considerations – a priority action of:
    - To develop an action plan to work towards being a carbon neutral borough by 2030 which is based on a better understanding of our current carbon emissions

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It was resolved at the November 2019 meeting of this Committee that Committee agreed to the setting up of a Climate Change Working Group with the following representation: Councillors S Atkinson, J Clark, S Bibby, D Berryman, R Thompson and 2 Liberal Democrats (A Knox and S Fletcher).
- 2.2 The remit of the Working Group is to consider how the Council is meeting the challenge of climate change, both in relation to how the Council provides its own services and how it provides wider support to the community in their efforts to tackle climate change, and to report the findings of the Working Group to the Policy and Finance Committee.

### 3 UPDATE

- 3.1 The Working Group has met twice since the last update report. The minutes of the April meeting are attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 One of the priority actions in the 2019-2023 Corporate Strategy is 'To develop an action plan to work towards being a carbon neutral borough by 2030 which is based on a better understanding of our current carbon emissions.'
- 3.3 We are currently in the process of drafting a Climate Change Strategy to cover the period 2021-2030. The strategy will outline the actions we intend to take to ensure we reach our target of being a carbon neutral borough by 2030, consisting of three parts addressing:
- Ribble Valley Borough Council as an organisation - climate change is to be embedded in all the Council's internal activities
  - Ribble Valley Borough Council as a service provider - climate change is to be embedded in the Council's services
  - Ribble Valley Borough Council as a community leader - the Council will continue to provide clear community leadership by leading through example in the fight against climate change, encouraging businesses and residents to address climate change

- 3.4 The Climate Change Strategy will be based on an understanding of our current carbon emissions, our carbon footprint, and will address how we intend to reach the target of being carbon neutral by 2030 through the action plan.
- 3.5 We have now received our International Standard Report from One Carbon World, a delivery partner of the UN Climate Neutral Now scheme. The report includes a carbon footprint report detailing the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the activities measured over the footprint period. The report also provides recommendations for reducing and offsetting the carbon footprint of the organisation.
- 3.6 The organisation's carbon footprint was 5,655.06 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in 2019/2020. The full report is at Appendix B.
- 3.7 The working group are now considering the contents of One Carbon World's report and recommendations and finalising the action plan, which includes some cost-benefit analysis work and prioritisation of actions. It is intended that the strategy will be presented to this committee for approval at the next meeting in September 2021. The strategy will then be reviewed annually.
- 4 CONCLUSION
- 4.1 Note the continuing progress that we are making in developing a Climate Change Strategy.

**Michelle Haworth**  
PRINCIPAL POLICY AND  
PERFORMANCE OFFICER

**Jane Pearson**  
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

REF:

For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421