

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021
title: CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY
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 seek approval of the Council's Climate Change Strategy 2021-2030.

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 June and August meetings 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 The Working group has drafted a Climate Change Strategy to cover the period 2021-2030 - attached at Appendix B. The strategy outlines 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 is based on an understanding of our current carbon emissions, our carbon footprint, and addresses how we intend to reach the target of being carbon neutral by 2030 through the action plan.
- 3.5 To ensure we are responsive to changing policies the strategy will be reviewed annually.
- 4 IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE
- 4.1 Consider and approve the Climate Change Strategy 2021 – 2030.

Michelle Haworth
PRINCIPAL POLICY AND
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Jane Pearson
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

REF:

For further information please ask for Michelle Haworth, extension 4421