

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2024
title: 2023/2024 ONE CARBON WORLD AGREEMENT
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT - CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee that the four year One Carbon World UN Climate Neutral Now programme and grant funding for the Carbon Neutral Gold Standard scheme has now ended, and to request the renewal of the OCW agreement for a further year to cover reporting period 2023/2024 at a cost of £1,500.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives – The new Corporate Plan 2023/2027 and the Climate Change Action Plan 2024/2025 both set out a framework for collective action on climate change and the major step in achieving the Council's aspiration of being a carbon neutral Council by 2030.
- Corporate Priorities –
- Other Considerations -

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 One Carbon World (OCW) is a not for profit organisation and a global resource partner helping to support the delivery of the UN Climate Neutral Now Initiative providing advice and support under this programme to help organisations reduce their carbon footprint.

2.2 In 2019, the Council was approached and offered the opportunity by OCW to join the programme with grant funding for the Carbon Neutral Gold Standard Scheme. The funding was for four years and would include being assigned an expert to measure the Council's carbon footprint and provide recommendations to help with offsetting further carbon reductions.

2.3 In 2021, we signed an OCW grant fund offer letter and received a grant of 50% towards the OCW standard and verified carbon credits. To cover the cost of the carbon footprint report there would be a cost of £1,500 to the council.

2.4 OCW Request for Information (RFI) data capture templates have been completed and returned to OCW for the past four years for periods 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. Subsequent [Carbon Footprint Reports](#) have been received and are published on the council's website.

2.5 On 31 July 2023, the Council officially achieved the OCW Carbon Neutral International Standard for the third year in a row.

3 OCW GRANT PROPOSAL FOR 2023/2024

3.1 The total cost for the OCW Grant proposal for RFI data capture period 2023/24, including the carbon footprint calculation and up to 100 carbon credits is £5,000. However, the OCW carbon footprint grant fund provides a 70% grant, covering £3,500 of this cost, the remaining £1,500 would be a cost payable by the Council.

3.2 The grant fund will be awarded for a duration of one year and includes:

- Phone consultation with the OCW technical team
- Support with identifying additional activities to measure
- Measurement / validation of the Council's carbon footprint

- Comprehensive carbon footprint report, including comparison analysis
- Up to 100 tonnes of carbon credits
- Support in media communications
- Achievement badge / certification

4 ISSUES

4.1 If the Council decides not to sign up to an OCW agreement. The Council would not receive the rewards and benefits from engagement in this programme, we would therefore not:

- receive the carbon footprint report that provides a carbon footprint emissions summary and recommendations on how to reduce and off-set the Councils carbon footprint (The report also meets the reporting requirements of the Green House Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard and is compatible with international standards ISO 14064 and PAS 2060).
- know our footprint boundary: this includes all activities under operational control, covered under Scopes 1, 2 and 3 of the Green House Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard as detailed within the report.
- have information about our carbon footprint; the Council would not be able to demonstrate that we are working year on year to reduce our carbon emissions and be a carbon neutral Council by 2030.

5. FUTURE YEARS REPORTING

5.1 For future reporting and value for money. Officers will research and provide other options and details of organisations that calculate emissions, to provide assurance to the Council that our Carbon Neutral claim is robust and credible.

6 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources - £1,500 to renew the proposed OCW agreement for a further year.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – None identified.
- Political – None identified.
- Reputation – It is important that our Corporate plan goals and the actions set out in the Climate Change Action plan are achieved to reflect the concerns of Ribble Valley residents, businesses and visitors to the borough.
- Equality and Diversity - In line with the Council's approach to equalities.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 For Policy and Finance Committee to consider the information provided in this report and agree to renew the One Carbon World proposed agreement at a cost of £1,500 for a further year to cover the period 2023/2024.

7.2 For officers to research and provide other options for future years, including details of organisations that calculate emissions, to provide assurance to the Council that our Carbon Neutral claim is robust and credible.

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For further information please ask for Jaqui Houlker, extension 4421