

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP – 8 March 2021 at 11am

PRESENT:

Cllr J Clark (Chair)	Marshal Scott
Cllr S Bibby	John Heap
Cllr R Thompson	Mair Hill
Cllr D Berryman	Michelle Haworth
Cllr S Fletcher	
Cllr S Atkinson	

APOLOGIES: Received from Councillor A Knox.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021 were approved as a correct record.

ACTIONS FROM MINUTES

The actions from the meeting not covered on the agenda were considered.

Electric vehicles including taxis

John Heap reported that investigations had been made with regard to the 5 small vans and 5 transit vans that the Council operates. There were currently no hire vehicles available short term to trial in RV. Feedback from Blackburn with Darwen who use small electric vehicles around town is good. Responses are awaited from the leasing companies the Council currently works with, and paperwork is also awaited from Citroen Peugeot. The Energy Savings Trust will meet with us to offer advice. Trade news on hydrogen is more positive and perhaps in the future is the way to go.

Mair Hill reported that surrounding authorities are not pushing electric vehicles within their taxi policy but by making it easier to have electric by providing dedicated charging points.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The Chair reported upon two webinars that she had attended. For one the key points included engaging with the public regarding lifestyle changes and community renewal. For the other by Electricity North West it outlined LCC projects, the fact that Lancaster University was looking for partners to work with and the big challenge around skills, affordability and diversity.

She also commented upon recent lobbying by both organisations and individuals and perhaps the need for a RVBC statement following the Policy & Finance committee.

ONE CARBON WORLD

Michelle Haworth had received a response to the grant application following the last meeting confirming that the Council's appraisal report had been accepted and therefore a 50% grant was available = £1500 which covers the cost of the carbon footprint report, the International Standard Certification and 300 tonnes of carbon credits. The grant offer was valid until 23.03.21.

It was felt this was a good option for an independent body to supply the report on behalf of the Council.

ACTION: Marshal Scott as Chief Executive would sign the document.

ENERGY CERTIFICATES AUDIT

Michelle Haworth had gathered together the performance certificates for the council properties when one was required. She informed the group that some of the work recommended had already taken place and that there were specific reasons why it hadn't taken place in some areas eg Blueberries café being included in the market re-development.

The information only covered those buildings that were required to have a certificate and not those that were too small by definition.

Several questions were asked and answered regarding specific buildings, and a costing exercise would be required if these became a priority in the strategy.

RIBBLE RIVERS TRUST

Cllr Thompson was aware of a site in Horton-in-Craven where the landowner was planting 10k trees, however the carbon credits would be kept by the landowner.

Jack Spees had presented the Lancashire Woodland Connect scheme to Lancashire Leaders and had confirmed that these carbon credits would go to landowners where the trees had been planted and not the local authority who had paid for them by grant.

ACTION: It was agreed that it be a recommendation to P& F to support the scheme for one year only at a cost of £15k.

DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

Michelle Haworth had circulated links to strategies of other Local Authorities for information.

She had also prepared an initial draft of a strategy based on a previous environmental action plan (2010). Members of the group were pleased with this initial document, and hopefully information gathered from One Carbon World would help to fill in some of the blanks. It was requested that a section on the energy efficiencies of our properties be added. The document should also include a summary page on 'aims and objectives'.

ACTION: It was agreed that the draft document should be populated with the One Carbon World data and circulated to Directors for their comments before the working group look at it again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Atkinson asked about cycle to work schemes using e-cycles – Marshal would have a look.

The CE informed the group that the new car for the Mayor would be hybrid.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for **11am on Monday 12 April 2021**.

The meeting closed at 12noon.