

Committee: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 18 September 2019

Subject:	Carbon Audit & Reduction Plans
Lead Officer:	Head of Environmental Services
Portfolio Holder:	Environment- Cllr Mary Marshall
Link to Council Priorities:	Character & Environment
Exempt information:	None
Delegated status:	For Resolution
Key decision:	No

Executive Summary:

This report updates Cabinet on the preparations for a baseline carbon audit, in readiness for the development of a Carbon Reduction Strategy and 10-year Action Plan for meeting the Council's pledge to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.

Recommendation: Cabinet is asked to agree:

- (a) to the proposed baseline carbon audit, in preparation for the development of a draft Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for Cabinet's consideration, and**
- (b) to the establishment of a Carbon Reduction & Sustainability Officer for a two-year fixed term as set out in the report.**

Report:

Introduction:

1. At its meeting of 17 July 2019, the Council agreed a motion declaring a climate emergency and a pledge to make the organisation carbon neutral by 2030. This report updates Cabinet on the preparations for a baseline carbon audit, in readiness for the development of a carbon reduction strategy and 10-year action plan.

Baseline Carbon Footprint:

2. A specialist organisation is to be engaged to undertake an initial audit of the Council's carbon emissions from its buildings and operations. This will include the emissions from its outsourced services and operations where data is readily available, for example, fuel used in its ground's maintenance and waste operations.
3. This audit will enable an assessment to be made of the Council's carbon emission footprint which will act as a baseline for carbon reduction actions and initiatives. The baseline audit is expected to be completed in the later part of 2019/20. Although some ongoing work may be required where further data is required, or where new data collection systems are required.

Carbon Reduction Strategy & Action Plan:

4. With the completion of the baseline audit, the specialist organisation will then assist the authority in the development of a carbon reduction strategy and action plan to enable the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030.
5. This work would involve Member and officer workshops to explore short-term changes and consider both medium to long term opportunities to deliver a stepped reduction in carbon emissions. This work would also examine the opportunity for energy and carbon reduction, and offsetting initiatives and the associated costs and benefits.
6. It is intended that a draft Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan together with the arrangements for its delivery would be considered by Cabinet in the last quarter of 2019/20, with an opportunity for some initial actions falling in the 2020/21 Council Plan.

Carbon Reduction & Sustainability Officer:

7. At its meeting of 14 November 2018, the Cabinet agreed a fixed-term post for a projects coordinator to help progress a number of sustainability initiatives such as single use plastics, that would be funded from the waste contract performance deductions.
8. In order to assist in the development and delivery of the Council's Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, Cabinet is asked to extend the term of this post from 1 to 2 years and widen its scope to encompass supporting the delivery of the Action Plan. This key post would be recruited in 2020 in parallel with the development of the Action Plan.

Financial Information:

9. The cost in of the specialist support for undertaking the carbon emission audit, and for the assistance is the preparation of a Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Plan is the at £20,000 in 2019/20, with an estimated cost of £10,000 in 2020/21 for finalising the Plan.
10. The cost for a two-year fixed term post to help steer and assist in delivery of the initial actions in the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action and for assisting in other sustainability initiatives is estimated at £50,000 per year.

Financial implications:

The total £130,000 costs set out in the report can be met from the one-off waste contract defaults which total £243,000 and have been set aside for helping deliver and support the Council's sustainability initiatives. The remaining funds will be set aside for further support to specific carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives as may be agreed by Cabinet.

Environmental/Sustainability Implications:

The recommendations contained in this report will have the following significantly beneficial environmental implications – a positive impact on resource use, pollution and carbon reduction and the environment.

Legal implications:

None

Equality Implications:

None

Risk Implications:

None

Community Safety Implications:

None

Principal Consultees:

None

Background papers:

None

Enclosures/Appendices:

None.

Contact details:

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