

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Employment and Personnel Committee on 1st November 2023

Creation of a Carbon Reduction Officer Post

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Pam Brown Director for Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To seek approval for the establishment of a new dedicated Carbon Reduction Officer post.
- To seek agreement to recommend to Council for the approval of a budget to enable the appointment to the new post.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 In its report to Executive on 6th March 2023, the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee listed a series of recommendations to enable the Council to progress priorities and actions towards being Net Zero by 2050. The report was approved by Executive and is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 Paragraph 2.12 (2) of this report stated that a dedicated operational post be established and recruited in order to maintain momentum to reach the 2050 Net Zero target.
- 1.3 In addition, paragraph 3.2 of the report outlined the key findings of the scrutiny review as follows:
- There is insufficient officer resource to ensure the carbon reduction agenda is progressed effectively.
 - There is a lack of clarity around the Council's current baseline and data quality/monitoring in relation to carbon emissions.

- At present there is limited communication of Council objectives and work being completed to meet our target.
 - Widened membership of the Low Carbon Thematic Group would lead to improved cross-communication.
 - A clear Member lead at Executive level would create a higher profile for the work required by the Council and provide an Executive level champion alongside the existing Scrutiny Chair champion.
- 1.4 Following the creation of the Council's wholly owned company, Dragonfly Development Ltd, the Council's senior management structure has been reviewed to reflect the changes. The climate change theme lead now falls to the Service Director for Executive, Corporate Services and Partnerships.
- 1.5 The Council remains committed to carbon reduction and the climate change agenda, ensuring a collaborative approach, working with internal and external partners to progress key actions. Following the District Elections in May 2023, a Portfolio Holder has also been appointed within Executive to champion the agenda.
- 1.6 Carbon reduction is a shared responsibility and aligning the work alongside the Bolsover Partnership is key. Alongside this, in recent months it has become clear that this will be a key work stream of the East Midlands Mayoral County Combined Authority which will bring a strong regional focus in addition to local and national priorities.
- 1.7 The final action required in order to progress the Scrutiny key findings is the establishment of a dedicated post of Carbon Reduction Officer.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The proposal is to create a new, dedicated post of Carbon Reduction Officer to lead the Council's essential work as outlined in the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee Report. The post is estimated to be a Grade 8 to 9 (costs outlined in this report are the maximum estimated but are subject to job evaluation and settlement of the pay award). The post will be subject to the Council's Job Evaluation Scheme. The Job Description and Person Specification is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.2 This role will support the development, implementation, communication and performance management of the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan to ensure compliance with its statutory responsibilities.
- 2.3 The role is key to ensure effective implementation, integration with Service Plans and Council policies together with having a focus on reducing carbon emissions and energy consumption wherever possible. The technical expertise will ensure appropriate training is delivered to internal staff and external partners to promote better understanding of climate change and how it will affect services and local residents.
- 2.4 The core function of this role will be to maximise opportunities available for the Council to help inform and add value to the Council's actions to tackling Climate

Change. This includes identifying and securing funding sources to support the Council's climate change ambitions.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 This report seeks approval to establish a dedicated Carbon Reduction Officer post to lead on the Council's climate change and carbon reduction ambitions in order to fulfil its obligations to the Climate Change Act 2008. This was recommended by the Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee and subsequently approved by Executive in March 2023.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 A 'do nothing' approach is not an appropriate option due to the Council's target to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
- 4.2 An alternative option would be to upskill an existing member of the Partnership Team. However, as this is an area of technical expertise that requires experience, this could take at least 3 years to achieve through accredited qualifications.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee considers and supports the establishment of a dedicated Carbon Reduction Officer for the reasons outlined within this report.
2. That the Committee recommend to Council that a budget be created to fund the new post via the Council's General Fund.

Approved by Councillor Ann Clarke Portfolio Holder for Environment

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The total cost of the new post to general fund is estimated to be between £52,162 and £59,775 dependent on the result of the job evaluation process and subject to the national pay award being agreed.

The post may also be successful in attracting funding to the Council to undertake carbon reduction initiatives but it is not known whether any of these would be available to reduce the cost of this new post to the Council, at this stage.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Details:

The establishment of this post will enable the Council to dedicate resources to carbon reduction initiatives, the achievement of Net Zero and meeting statutory obligations.

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

The Councils policies and procedures will be followed for recruitment to this post.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details: Cllr Ann Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Environment

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Report to Executive dated 6 th March 2023
2	Job Description and Person Specification

Background Papers
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
None