



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	CABINET - 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM (11)
Subject	FUNDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGER
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr. Rachel Coxcoon - Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Climate change and Energy Email: Rachel.coxcoon@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Claire Locke Group Manager - Commissioning Tel: 01285 623427 Email: Claire.locke@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To secure funding for a shared Climate Change Manager post to deliver a Climate change Strategy and action plan for the Council.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<p>a) Cabinet agrees to a contract variation and funding of £60,000 to Publica for a new Climate Change Manager post to deliver against the Council's Climate Change declaration, the £60,000 funding to cover a two year period only.</p> <p>b) Funding for the post be sourced from the Council Priorities Fund and, as this is not a permanent source of funding, the post be advertised for a fixed period of 2 years.</p> <p>c) The longer-term requirement for the post be reviewed within the two year period and be incorporated within the Council's budget setting process as appropriate.</p>
Corporate priorities	To address the Council's commitment to tackle climate change and become net carbon zero in its own operations as identified in the emerging Corporate Plan.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	None

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. In July 2019 the Council declared a state of climate emergency, and committed to carbon and energy targets.
- 1.2. This will feature as a new priority within the emerging Corporate Plan and constitutes new work for the Council which is currently only supported by a shared part time Energy and Resources Project Officer.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. If the Council wishes to deliver its ambitious targets to address climate change, this new body of work will require officer resources as there is no spare capacity within Publica to deliver this work on the Council's behalf.
- 2.2. It is likely a team of officers will be required to deliver actions and the resource implications will be considered as this work is taken forward so that the most appropriate roles are created; however, it is clear at this early stage that a Manager role will be required to provide leadership and develop and deliver the action plan.
- 2.3. Agreement is therefore sought to part fund this role, to be shared equally with West Oxfordshire District Council. As this is new work not currently set out in the Agreement with Publica, a contract variation would be required to be completed and additional funding will need to be allocated to Publica by the Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The delivery of an action plan will be a long term project and therefore it is proposed to create a two year fixed term role initially. The total cost, including on-costs is estimated at between £44,000 - £56,000 per annum, with the cost to the Council if two partners fund this role is likely to be a maximum of £28,000.
- 3.2. There is no funding within the Council's base budget for this role. The post will therefore be funded from the Council Priorities Fund earmarked reserve.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. This represents a growth in budget; however, failure to fund this role will mean the Council will be unable to deliver against its climate change reduction targets.
- 5.2. Creating a shared post delivered through Publica mitigates the costs to the Council and ensures future actions are delivered in a joined up way providing all partners with the benefits of shared knowledge, cost share and economies of scale in purchasing.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT (IF REQUIRED)

Not relevant.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS (IF REQUIRED)

7.1. As detailed above.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1. The Council could wait until an action plan is developed before allocating staff resources; however, that will slow the delivery of the action plan.

8.2. The Council could decide not to allocate any staff resources but this will mean it cannot deliver against its Climate Change targets.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. None

(END)