

FOI number: **HBC\_FOI\_20200292**  
Date FOI Received: **30/04/2020**  
Department: **Planning**  
Title: **Carbon Offsets**  
Description: **Carbon offsetting projects and funds**

**Request: (As Redacted sent by requestor)**

1. Documents that outline the council's carbon strategy, including any strategy for using carbon offsets to meet carbon targets.
2. Details of all projects that carbon offset payments have been made towards by the council since 2015, including who is running those projects, what is being done with the money in the projects, the value of payments made by the council, and over what period money is to be paid.
3. Details of any offset fund that has been established by the local planning authority to meet carbon targets for building developments. Including: what the offsetting projects in the fund are and who is running them; how you determine offset carbon savings in projects match the carbon emitted in the development; and how it is determined whether offsetting projects are additional to projects that might already exist.
4. A list of the major developments in the area under the council's jurisdiction since 2015 that have involved the purchase of carbon offsets in order to meet the council's climate targets, whether from offset funds or individual offsetting projects. Please include developments still in the planning stages where the purchase is only anticipated.
5. Details of the environmental strategy for the developments covered by part 4, including whether money is being paid to a council offsetting fund or to individual offsetting projects, how much is being paid and how that price has been determined, and what the projects are/who runs them if they are separate to a council offsetting fund

**Response: (Response as Redacted sent by service)**

The Council committed to carbon neutrality before 2050 when it declared climate emergency. Hertsmere is now working on a climate change and sustainability strategy document which will include reducing carbon emissions. It will be made public, once it is ready and has gone through the processes of approval. Through the Local Plan we wish to identify future sites for woodland creation and greenbelt enhancement. We acknowledge the role of tree planting in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and hence reduction of its concentration. We are working towards setting tree planting target for HBC. We will be launching schemes and/or create partnerships to support both urban and rural planting. The Council does not currently have a carbon offset fund.

If you have any queries about the processing of your request then please do not hesitate to contact me. Further information explaining the Council's process for responding to

information requests together with a complaints/appeals procedure is available in our reception or via our website at:

<https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/Your-Council/Official-Publications--Guides--Policies/Access-to-Information.aspx>

The Information Commissioner oversees the application of the Freedom of Information Act. You may contact the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113  
Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Please include the above reference number on all correspondence related to this request.

Thank you for your request.

Kind regards

Information Services