



**'MAKING A POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION TO A MORE
SUSTAINABLE STAFFORD
BOROUGH'**

**DRAFT
CLIMATE CHANGE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY
2009 - 2012**

FOREWORD

The need for sustainable development is steadily seeping into the lives of all of us. Businesses large and small, schools, colleges and universities, the voluntary and community sector, the public sector and each individual, each have a part to play in looking after planet earth and its inhabitants – and recognition of this responsibility is clearly rising, whether due to financial drivers, regulation, inspection regimes, or personal commitment. Local Authorities have a special role to play as leaders in the local community. By embracing and delivering this Strategy, Stafford Borough Council, with support from every Councillor and every member of staff, can show leadership, motivation and enlightenment and send a strong message to others that we can move forward for people, the planet and prosperity.

Cllr Stan Highfield
Cabinet Member
May 2009

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INTRODUCTION

This Strategy has been written to support and enhance the work that is currently underway within the Council. This document sets out how and addresses how we aim to tackle climate change and achieve a more sustainable Stafford Borough through the delivery of three main priority areas:

- Reducing CO emissions in the Borough
- Planning and Adapting to Climate Change
- Biodiversity

It encompasses and co-ordinates all of our current and intended activities in relation to Climate Change and Sustainable Development and is the driving force behind priorities and targets contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy; Staffordshire Local Area Agreement, Local Development Framework and the 6-year Corporate Plan. The Strategy also offers opportunities to make efficiency and cost savings, thus contributing to the Gershon agenda.

The strategy has been written in a way that outlines the work that is required under each theme, the progress we have made so far and the actions that we intend to carry out over the next three years. There is an action plan that sits behind each of the priority areas that contains high level projects/initiatives – the detail behind this will be contained in service plans and work programmes.

BACKGROUND

The UK Government is committed to addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change and has therefore introduced the Climate Change Act 2008. The Act will create a new approach to managing and responding to climate change in the UK through: setting ambitious targets, implementing powers to help achieve them, strengthening the institutional framework, enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change and establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK Parliament and devolved legislatures.

Stafford Borough has a key role to play in tackling climate change. Indeed, being smarter and more proactive about our energy management and the reduction of associated emissions of greenhouse gases has been an important focus for the Council over the past few years. Although we cannot reverse the impact that climate change has already had on our Borough we can adapt what we do in order to limit that impact. In response to this, we are already purchasing 10 per cent of green electricity and improving energy efficiency in our buildings in order to gain long-term sustainability.

Long-term sustainability is central to the vision of both our Sustainable Community Strategy and our Local Development Framework. The framework acts as a strategic plan for the Borough and has a natural synergy with this Strategy in terms of the sustainability of both urban and rural living and our aim to ensure we have a protected and enhanced environment. We will look to produce a Green

Infrastructure Masterplan, which will inform our future plans and contribute towards more sustainable communities.

The new regime of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which has now replaced the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), will be an area-based assessment. This will evaluate progress towards locally determined improvement priorities and will draw on information on performance against the 35 targets contained within the Staffordshire Local Area Agreement – of which NI185; NI186; and NI197 are included. Other national indicators relating directly to Climate Change and Sustainable Development that the Council has a responsibility for are: NI 187; NI 188 and NI 189. This means that it is critical that all work relating to Climate Change and Sustainability has a more ‘joined up’ approach in order to co-ordinate activities to add value to the process.

With regards to NI 186, the environmental, social and economic benefits that arise from addressing climate change and sustainability are well-known and support the inclusion of a target related to community-wide carbon emissions in every LAA. The CAA process is intended to evaluate progress towards improved local well-being and addressing climate change will be a fundamental strand of this.

WHY DO WE NEED A CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?

Nothing should be of greater importance to us today than the future of our planet. We depend on it for our quality of life, including food, resources, energy, recreation and the success of the economy. At a global level, we are faced with the implications of climate change, acid rain, loss of tropical rainforests, depletion of non-renewable resources, desertification, loss of biodiversity and the depletion of the ozone layer. Locally we may need to deal with flooding, litter, noise, pollution of the air, land and rivers, traffic congestion, loss of wildlife habitats and the effects of waste disposal.

The majority of these problems are caused by the accumulation of local impacts. It is therefore important that local action is taken to protect the environment in order to maintain and improve the quality of life of both present and future generations.

Local Authorities are in a unique position to act as environmental leaders and to demonstrate good sustainability and environmental practice, both through their role in the community and within their own operations.

Stafford Borough Council has acknowledged its environmental leadership role for over a decade. In accordance with Government requirement it published the Stafford Borough Local Agenda 21 Strategy in July 2001 addressing sustainable development issues in relation both to the community and the Council’s activities. It helped to establish a broad programme of sustainable development activity, from practical work to protect biodiversity and green spaces, to promoting green transport, from supporting the local food sector to partnership work with business, schools, community groups of all kinds.

Local Agenda 21 Strategies have now been subsumed into Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) in accordance with the UK Sustainable Development Strategy¹. Their aim is ‘to achieve social, economic and environmental well-being and contribute to sustainable development’.

With the integration of the community centred elements of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy into the Sustainable Community Strategy², the Council produced its own Sustainable Development Action Plan in 2006 to improve environmental performance and contribute to a more sustainable Stafford Borough. This has recently been audited and the information from the audit has been used to inform this Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy.

There is a broad and complex range of global, national and local sustainable development goals. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy sets down a series of guiding principles and areas for action to achieve more sustainable communities: *Living within Environmental Limits; Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society; Achieving a Sustainable Economy; Promoting Good Governance and Using Sound Science Responsibly.*

OTHER DRIVERS

Other drivers for Council action to improve sustainable development and environmental performance include:

- Moves towards integration of sustainable development principles and practices in Planning eg Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 9 on biodiversity and PPS 1 (supplement on Planning and Climate Change)
- Sustainable development should be at the core of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and with an expectation of significant house building and associated infrastructure over the next twenty years, will be a significant consideration.
- A new Statutory Duty for Public Bodies to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, Oct 2006) supplemented by becoming a signatory to the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge.
- The launch of the new Joint Environmental Prospectus by Defra and the LGA which encourages Local Authorities to instil a strategic approach to the environment and an increasing emphasis on the ‘Environmental Leadership role’ of Councils

¹ ‘Securing the Future’, the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (March 2005)

² Stafford Borough’s Sustainability Community Strategy 2008 – 2020 (currently in draft) is called ‘Shaping our Borough for the Future’ and its delivery agent is the Stafford Borough partnership.

- By adopting a robust approach to good environmental and sustainability practice the Council will assure citizens of its commitment to environmental management and will help maintain good public/community relations and enhance image

OUR COMMITMENT

The UK is committed to tackling climate change and the Climate Change Act 2008 spearheads this action. The two key aims underpinning the Act are:

- **to improve carbon management and help the transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK;** and
- **to demonstrate strong UK leadership internationally,** signalling that we are committed to taking our share of responsibility for reducing global emissions

Within this strong national legislative context, work continues locally, in December 2006 Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, East Staffordshire District Council, the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority joined in partnership to formally adopt and promote the Staffordshire Declaration. The declaration commits all partners to take action to combat Climate Change and leads others to do so.

The Council, continue to take the opportunity to work at a local level to tackle Climate Change and contribute to Sustainable Development by working with and encouraging local residents, local businesses and other organisations – to reduce their energy costs, reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities. A wide range of initiatives and partnerships already exist and new initiatives are proposed. For instance the Council is working with Sustainability Matters on exciting projects such as the Stafford Save Your Energy initiative to agencies such as Beat the Cold on a pilot Low Carbon Community project at Derrington. Although there is a considerable amount of work being undertaken at the moment we still recognize that there is work to be done.

WHAT WE WANT FOR STAFFORD BOROUGH

We intend to:

- Establish the Council as a Flagship authority with regard to climate change and sustainable development, demonstrating sustainable leadership within the community and exemplary practice within the Region
- Deliver priorities contained within the:

- 6-year Corporate Plan under the theme of 'Cleaner, Greener Safer Communities'
- Sustainable Community Strategy under the theme of 'Protected and enhanced environment', and in doing so, deliver to those targets contained in the Staffordshire Local Area Agreement and the Local Development Framework
- Lead by example and use its influence to actively encourage good sustainability and environmental practice and raise awareness and understanding of sustainability and environmental issues among its staff, suppliers, contractors, partners and the public

We aim to achieve this through the implementation of this Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy and Action Plan and through the delivery of the priorities below:

Priority One: Reducing CO2 emissions within the Borough

RC1 : Supporting Stafford Borough in becoming a low carbon sustainable community

RC2: Managing resources innovatively and efficiently

RC3: Healthy Lifestyles

Priority Two: Planning and Adapting to Climate Change

CC1: Assessment and management of climate risks and opportunities

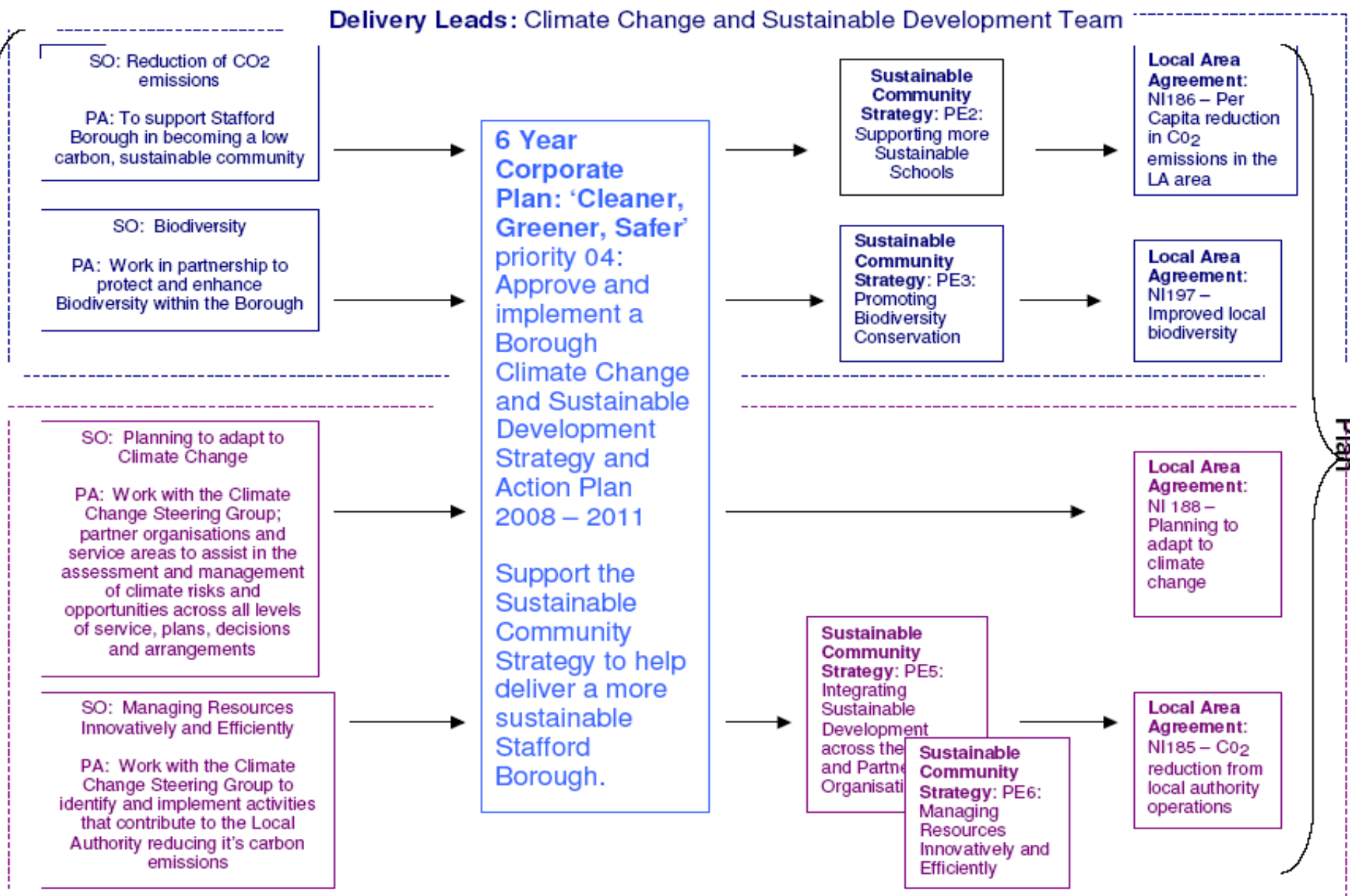
Priority Three: Biodiversity

B1: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity

THE ROLE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE STEERING GROUP

The Climate Change Steering Group will be critical to the success of this strategy. They will work with the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Team, partner organisations and service areas to assist in the assessment and management of climate risks and opportunities across all levels of services, plans, decisions and arrangements. They will also work together to identify and implement activities that contribute to the Local Authority reducing its carbon emissions. This will involve the setting of SMART performance measures and the monitoring and evaluation of performance throughout the life of this strategy. A map of the linkages can be seen on page 10.

Climate Change & Sustainable Development Team Priorities



Delivery Leads: Climate Change and Sustainable Development Team in partnership with Climate Change Steering Group

LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

Climate Change and Sustainable Development are cross-cutting issues that affects all activities of the Council in one way or another. It has links with existing Stafford Borough Council strategies mentioned in paragraph two of the introduction. It also links to the Council's Asset Management Plan, Stafford Borough Waste Action Plan and Procurement Strategy. A major challenge for the Authority during the next two years will be to fully embed Climate Change and Sustainability into all policies and plans.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in order to ensure that this Strategy supports community cohesion and equal opportunities.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE?

Climate refers to the average weather experienced over a long period. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns. The climate of the Earth is not static, and has changed many times in response to a variety of natural causes.

Facts:

- The Earth has warmed by 0.74°C over the last hundred years. Around 0.4°C of this warming has occurred since the 1970s.
- The recent Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) leaves us in no doubt that human activity is the primary driver of the observed changes in climate.
- According to AR4, mean global temperatures are likely to rise between 1.1 and 6.4°C (with a best estimate of 1.8 to 4°C) above 1990 levels by the end of this century, depending on our emissions. This will result in a further rise in global sea levels of between 20 and 60cm by the end of this century, continued melting of ice caps, glaciers and sea ice, changes in rainfall patterns and intensification of tropical cyclones.

What does this mean for us:

For the UK, climate change means hotter, drier summers (more heat waves), milder winters, higher sea levels and an increased flood risk to coastal areas. Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts and more flooding. There may be severe problems for regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather. Food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted. The social, environmental and economic costs of climate change could be huge. Further details regarding anticipated future changes and impacts can be found in appendix two.

Source: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/about/index.htm>

PRIORITY ONE: Reducing CO2 emissions within the Borough

Action by local authorities is critical to the Government's achieving its climate change objectives. They are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and to influence behaviours. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their Local Strategic Partnership they can have significant influence over emissions in their local areas.

In the Climate Change Programme 2006, the Government stated its commitment to ensure the local Government framework includes an appropriate focus on action on climate change, sufficient to incentivise more authorities to reach the levels of the best. The Government also committed to give greater flexibility to deliver on national priorities in the most cost effective way for that locality. The introduction of national indicators 185 and 186 in the new National Performance Indicator set emphasis the need for Local Authorities and partner organisation to develop projects and activities to reduce their CO2 emissions. Stafford Borough have a long history that spans across a ten year period in delivering successful projects and initiatives that contribute to this agenda. Some of these are detailed in the appendix to this Strategy.

Stafford Borough is committed to the development of long term, sustainable low carbon communities within the Borough. Working in partnership with Sustainable Stafford and Beat the Cold, Stafford Borough Council are pleased to have launched their first Low Carbon Community in Derrington in May of this year. Low Carbon Communities (LCC) help to promote stronger communities in terms of developing greater cohesion, they promote a good sense of health and well-being, tackle the challenges in respect to what is happening to our climate and achieve longer term sustainability.

The roll out of our Low Carbon Community programme will include the provision of advice and support to communities across Stafford Borough by helping them to reduce their carbon footprint. This will be achieved through the development of alternative methods of energy, carrying out energy audits, encouraging homes to grow their own produce and encouraging the use of alternative methods of transport such as cycling.

Our success in this area will primarily be measured by national indicator 186. The aim of this indicator is to seek to achieve a 1.6% year on year reduction in per capita carbon dioxide emissions across the Authority area through locally set projects and initiatives. The reductions form part of our contribution to the Staffordshire Local Area Agreement to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This indicator affects everyone living in the Borough of Stafford and all projects and initiatives that contribute towards this are designed to promote community cohesion and inclusivity within our localities by tackling issues such as fuel poverty.

As well as delivering LCC's the Council realise that in order to continue to reduce their carbon emissions they also need to be managing their resources more effectively and in a more innovative way. This will mean investigating the use of renewable energy and looking at more effective ways to save energy. These will be a particular challenge to us in the next few years in terms of the kinds of assets that we own. However, in saying that, the Council has made quite a lot of progress in respect of energy management within the Council. We already purchase 'green electricity' which contributes to 10% of our total consumption and there have been a series of energy efficiency measures undertaken across main sites. It is recognised that further activity in this area is vital in order to improve efficiency further and as such we will build a programme of energy efficiency measures into the refresh Council's Asset Management Plan in October this year.

Climate change is likely to result in increased variability in weather patterns, increasing both the risk of flooding and extended dry spells, and exacerbating the challenge and complexity of water management. Water consumption will become an increasing national problem, as population rises and average daily consumption of water increases.

The development of practical ways to reduce water demand is increasingly critical, particularly for potable water. More appropriate use of water is also important. For instance, encouraging the recycling of rainwater and reducing the amount of mains potable water used for external water uses, such as watering, makes good environmental and economic sense.

Stafford Borough Council is committed to tackling the problems associated with the production and disposal of waste. The Council, across its functions, will focus on reducing the amount of waste that enters the waste stream, and will ensure that all waste generated is dealt with in a way that minimizes its environmental impact.

The planning system should address a number of water resource management issues eg Planning Policy Statement 25 requires that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Councils also need to develop policies to promote and achieve better practice in water resource management in new developments.

The public sector has a vital role in furthering sustainable development, through its procurement of buildings, goods, works and services. Since it was published in March 2005, the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (Securing the Future) has committed the public sector to lead by example in delivering those objectives. Although our Procurement Strategy incorporates sustainability there is recognition that it needs refining in order to achieve wider environmental, social and economic policy objectives. Reporting systems on how far these are being taken up now need to be developed.

Promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles is also an important contributory factor in our communities, well being and many health interventions can also bring about reductions in CO2 emissions. There has been a considerable amount of progress in this area over the past twelve-months. Working in partnership with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) the Council has employed a 'Walking for Health' co-ordinator. The post is joint funded between the PCT and the Council and aims to promote walking and to encourage

people to walk in order to improve their health. So far there have been XXX walking for health led walks and XX volunteers trained. To support this further the Council are now introducing a 'Cycle to work' scheme which allows employees to purchase new bicycles from local sources directly from their salary in order to encourage more active lifestyles.

Progress so far:

- Launched the Borough's first Low Carbon Community at Derrington
- Walking for Health – no of led walks taken place
- No of walking for health volunteers trained

What we have learned through engagement:

To be populated

Over the next three years we will:

Reduce CO2 emissions within the Borough

RC1 : Supporting Stafford Borough in becoming a low carbon sustainable community

RC2: Managing resources innovatively and efficiently

RC3: Healthy Lifestyles

The delivery lead for this will be the Stafford Borough Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development team working in partnership with the Climate Change Steering group.

DELIVERY PLAN FOR RC1: SUPPORTING STAFFORD BOROUGH IN BECOMING A LOW CARBON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

High Level Priority Links	Baseline 2008-09	LAA Improvement Targets			Current Status
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
CP – Cleaner, Greener, Safer priority 04	7.9	1.6% reduction	Not set	Not set	
SCS – Protected and Enhanced Environment priority PE2					
LDF – Spatial Portrait for Stafford Borough					
LAA – A Protected, Enhanced and Respected Environment NI 186					

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
RC1.1	Develop a plan to roll out Low Carbon Communities across the Borough	CC&SD Team	Low Carbon Community rolled out and two more planned	No. Of LC Communities	December 2011	
RC1.2	Promote and raise awareness the Green Awards	CC&SD Team		Number of entrants in green awards	March 2010	
RC.3	Promote and raise awareness of the Stafford Save Your Energy project	CC&SD Team		No. Of hits on website	March 2010	
RC1.4	Work with schools to promote the Eco Schools initiative and Sustainable Schools	CC&SD Team		% of schools participating in Eco-Schools network	March 2010	
RC1.5	Identify one preferred partner	CC&SD Team	Economies of scale acheived	Partner identified	December 2009	

DELIVERY PLAN FOR RC2: MANAGING RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND INNOVATIVELY

High Level Priority Links	Baseline 2008-09	LAA Improvement Targets			Current Status
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
CP – Cleaner, Greener, Safer					
SCS – Protected and Enhanced Environment					
LDF – Spatial Portrait for Stafford Borough					
LAA – A Protected, Enhanced and Respected Environment					

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
RC2.1	Investigate opportunities for renewable energy throughout the Council and its operations	CC&SD Team - SGroup	Renewable energy options completed	% increase in green energy purchased	March 2010	
RC2.2	Investigate opportunities to improve energy efficiency throughout the Council and its operations	CC&SD Team - SGroup	Council is more energy efficient and has reduced its CO2 emissions in its operations	Energy Measures/Schedule of Works completed and integrated into AMP	March 2012	
RC2.3	Access funding for and work with ?? to provide Free Energy Audits to homes in Stafford Borough	CC&SD Team - SGroup	Homes are more energy efficient	No of Audits completed	March 2012	
RC2.4	Investigate opportunities to reduce and recycle water consumption as and where appropriate	HR-Property Services	Systems to monitor and report on water consumption within all Council properties and in operations implemented		March 2010	

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
RC2.5	Procurement – Set targets to ensure continuous improvement towards sustainable procurement	Deputy Chief Exec	Targets set and action plan implemented	To be set	March 2010	
RC2.6	Investigate the potential for waste minimisation/ recycling procedures for waste arising from operational activities	Streetscene	Waste minimisation checklist for premises completed and action plan implemented	% reduction in waste	March 2010	

DELIVERY PLAN FOR RC3: HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

High Level Priority Links	Baseline 2008-09	LAA Improvement Targets			Current Status
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
CP – Cleaner, Greener, Safer					
SCS – Protected and Enhanced Environment					
LDF – Spatial Portrait for Stafford Borough					
LAA – A Protected, Enhanced and Respected Environment					

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
RC3.1	Encourage and promote Healthy Lifestyles through the Walking and Cycling for Health initiatives	Env. Health & PCT	People lead more healthy lifestyles	No. Of WFH walks	Reviewed March 2010	
RC3.2	Carry out biennial Staff Travel Survey (due 2009) and update targets	HR				Neville do you want to keep this in?
RC3.3	Promote more sustainable healthy eating by promoting the Local Food Directory; Farmers Markets etc	Env. Health	People buy local; more sustainable communities	No of people 'Rate my place'	Reviewed March 2010	
RC3.4	Implement the Cycle to Work scheme	L&A with HR	CO2 emissions reduced; more active lifestyles	No of people taking up the scheme	December 2009	

PRIORITY TWO: PLANNING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

“Climate change is the most severe problem that we are facing today, more serious even than the threat of terrorism.” – Professor Sir David King, UK Government chief scientific adviser, January 2004

Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. The effects will be felt across the UK, including in Stafford Borough. It is essential that we act now to adapt to climate change and to reduce the risk by contributing less to the causes.

Changing our behaviour to respond to the impacts of climate change is known as 'adaptation'.

Adaptation to climate change involves making decisions that are sustainable, made at the right time, maximising the benefits and minimising the costs. It needs to be built into planning and risk management to ensure the continued and improved success of businesses, Government policies and social operations

We need to ensure that we develop adaptation responses for both 'weather' and 'climate'. The Local and Regional Partnership Board provide the following guidance for Adapting to Climate Change:

- **Climate** is the average weather in a locality over an extended period. Climate scientists normally use a thirty-year period which, in periods of stable climate, has been sufficient to provide a reliable average including the inevitable peaks and troughs of natural variability.
- **Weather** describes what is happening at any point in time, be it: torrential downpours of rain; exceptionally high temperatures; thunderstorms. These differences are important because of the different impacts that can be expected and therefore the different responses that are required.

The concepts of Vulnerability, Impacts, Consequences and Adaptation:

Together these terms capture the sequence of understanding required in order to become resilient to weather and climate.

Vulnerability is defined as; *‘the degree to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate change and variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.’*

Vulnerability is therefore mainly a function of locality and depends upon:

- local physical features (such as topography, rivers, settlements),
- local weather and climate (averages and extremes),
- local socio economic characteristics (such as dependence on agriculture, tourism or
- transport links and the presence and extent of particularly vulnerable groups); and,
- the preparedness of the local community to respond both in the short term and the long-term

Impacts describe the effects of different weather and climate events. So flooding and drought are examples of impacts of particular types of weather and climate.

Consequences are generally the focus of our attention as these are either the hazardous threats, which we try to defend ourselves from, or the beneficial opportunities that we try to exploit.

Adaptation describes the actions that we take to reduce the negative consequences and enhance the beneficial consequences of weather and climate events. We have found it useful to distinguish between;

- Building Adaptive Capacity
- Delivering Adaptation Actions

Building Adaptive Capacity describes many of the adaptation responses that local partners will undertake, especially in the first instance. New project management systems need to be put in place, data on future climate will need to be assembled and shared, research commissioned, training and member / staff development required. All of these activities can be seen as Building Adaptive Capacity.

Delivering Adaptation Actions these are generally illustrated by physical examples such as increasing the height of a flood defence wall or installing external shading above south facing facades. But it can also include non physical actions, such as changing the school calendar to reduce the exposure of schoolchildren to heat wave conditions, or installing early warning systems on local flooding.

(Source: The Local and Regional Partnership Board 'Adapting to Climate Change -Guidance notes for NI188')

Sustainable Development, Mitigation and Adaptation

It is worth reminding ourselves that all adaptation takes place in the context of Sustainability. The 2005 UK sustainable development strategy, *Securing the Future* sets out shared principles of sustainable development in the UK. These principles should be taken into consideration when developing all adaptation actions.

- **Living within environmental limits** - Ensuring that any actions take into account the possible impacts on natural resources, biodiversity and whole ecosystems, do not reduce the adaptive capacity of the natural environment and wherever possible improve or enhance their resilience; and ensuring adaptation measures are not carbon or energy intensive, but wherever possible rely on and further more low carbon, energy efficient and resource efficient technologies;
- **Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society** - Ensuring that adaptation measures do not disproportionately affect any particular group, and that the wellbeing and health of people is at the centre of adapting to climate change;
- **Achieving a sustainable economy** - Helping set a framework that allows the economy to adjust to changes in climate effectively, maximising opportunities and minimising threats;
- **Promoting good governance** - Where appropriate, communities should be empowered to influence adaptation and take appropriate action for themselves;
- **Using sound science responsibly** - Allowing for flexibility to reflect the inherent uncertainty: climate projections show a range of plausible futures and are not predictions, and they interact and will be affected by other uncertain events. However, the precautionary principle needs to be applied so that uncertainty does not delay necessary action.

(Source: UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future', 2005)

These principles make it clear that both adaptation and mitigation are both fundamental in tackling climate change. The two must go hand in hand, with action reinforcing our overall aims. We must remember that there is little or no value in compiling adaptation strategies, which, whilst providing resilience to changes in weather and climate, make future climate conditions worse through the emission of more greenhouse gases.

To enable us to measure our success in this area, national indicator 188 has been developed. This indicator is designed to measure progress in preparedness in assessing and addressing the risks & opportunities of a changing climate. The aim of it is to embed the management of climate risks and opportunities across the all levels of services, plans and estates. It is a process indicator which gauges progress of a local area to:

- Assess the risks and opportunities comprehensively across the area and take action in any identified priority areas;

- Develop an adaptation strategy and action plan setting out the risk assessment, where the priority areas are – where necessary in consultation & exhibiting leadership of local partners - what action is being taken to address these, and how risks will be continually assessed and monitored in the future; and
- Implement, assess and monitor the actions on an ongoing basis.

In order to encapsulate this data there is a requirement for all local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships to complete a self assessment. The self assessment contains four levels and certain criteria has been set against each level. Authorities have to report their progress against NI 188 each year, this report includes the level reached and the completed self assessment and have been awarded a Government Grant to assist them with this area of work

Progress so far:

- It is too early to measure our progress on this, as it is a new area of work for us.

What we have learned through engagement:

- We will aim to engage with our communities in order to see if they agree with our strategies and our progress. It is anticipated that this will be carried out during 2010.

Over the next three years we will:

Plan to Adapt to Climate Change

CC1: Assessment and management of climate risks and opportunities

The delivery lead for this will be the Stafford Borough Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development team working in partnership with the Climate Change Steering group.

DELIVERY PLAN FOR CC: PLANNING AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

High Level Priority Links	Baseline 2008-09	LAA Improvement Targets			Current Status
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
CP – Cleaner, Greener, Safer	0	1	2	3	
SCS – Protected and Enhanced Environment					
LDF – Spatial Portrait for Stafford Borough					
LAA – A Protected, Enhanced and Respected Environment					

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
CC1.1	Identify and Assess risks associated with climate change	CC&SD Team/ CC SGroup	Assessment of projected climate change impacts and implications completed		December 2009	
CC1.2	Develop a comprehensive adaptation and strategy and action plan	CC&SD Team/ CC SGroup	Impacts, risks and mitigation actions are embedded in all strategies; plans; investment decisions and partnership arrangements	Performance measures set	Review March 2010	
CC1.3	Develop actions to implement, monitor and assess actions on an on-going basis	CC&SD Team/ CC SGroup			Review March 2010	

PRIORITY THREE: BIODIVERSITY

Stafford is becoming a vibrant destination that wants to make a name for itself within our region and beyond. We are fortunate to be based in one of the most picturesque parts of England offering a range of high quality attractions and beautiful countryside.

Maintaining our natural and built heritage and managing change and well planned, appropriate growth, is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development and create more cohesive and sustainable communities.

The past 20 years have seen a growing realisation that the current model of development is unsustainable. In other words, we are living beyond our means. From the loss of biodiversity with the felling of rainforests or over fishing to the negative effect our consumption patterns are having on the environment and the climate. Our way of life is placing an increasing burden on the planet.

Over the past decades much of Stafford Borough's wildlife has been in decline – and some of our favourite species have disappeared. This is mirrored across the UK. However, recent years have seen a groundswell of effort to restore lost species and habitats - both for their own sake - and for the quality of our own lives.

The first Stafford Borough Biodiversity Strategy was published as part of the Council's Sustainable Development Programme in 2000. This was the starting point for proposals to restore and enhance the Borough's biodiversity asset. Activity has mushroomed since then. Since 2006 Local Authorities have been given a statutory duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, so we hope to build significantly on our achievements so far and have renewed our commitment to protecting and enhancing biodiversity recently by signing the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge.

Stafford Borough Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural and built environment whilst accepting planned development in sustainable and appropriate locations. This will be demonstrated in the new Local Development Framework (LDF), which is currently being prepared. This LDF will be the principal landuse framework guiding development in the Borough. It contains commitments to promoting a sustainable pattern of development and protecting and enhancing the environment

The Council's biodiversity programme has continued to evolve and build on its early successes. The appointment of a permanent Biodiversity Officer post is helping to ensure this critical aspect of sustainable development and sustainable communities continues to be addressed.

National influences such as the NERC Act³ - which has given Local Authorities a statutory biodiversity duty, Planning Policy Statement 9 on biodiversity and geological conservation, a new National Indicator (NI 197) on the management of wildlife sites, and

³ Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

the Council's recent adoption of the West Midlands Biodiversity Pledge all mean there is a strong basis on which to make good progress in this area.

However there is a need to ascertain resources and budgets for the ongoing maintenance and management of sites and to obtain up to date data, as well as to ensure that biodiversity issues are integrated in corporate actions and policy-making.

Additional priorities for action will include: adopting the countywide validation checklist for biodiversity at the next opportunity; establishing a system to achieve developer contributions towards biodiversity provision; ensuring biodiversity interests are integrated in the LDF - by adopting SPD for Biodiversity or otherwise protecting and enhancing biodiversity within the planning system in order to deliver the key principles for biodiversity set out in national planning guidance.

Progress so far:

- Secured funding for a permanent Biodiversity Officer post
- Declared six new Local Nature Reserves (current total of 7 LNR's)
- Established several new Friends of Groups, which help care for the LNR's.
- Completed a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1

What we have learned through engagement:

To be populated

Our key aims over the next three years are to:

- Protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, for the benefit of both people and wildlife
- Promote the importance of biodiversity to all sectors in the Borough and help people to value and understand biodiversity

The delivery lead for this will be the Stafford Borough Council's Climate Change and Sustainable Development team working in partnership with the Planning Department.

DELIVERY PLAN: BIODIVERSITY

High Level Priority Links	Baseline 2008-09	LAA Improvement Targets			Current Status
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	
CP – Cleaner, Greener, Safer					
SCS – Protected and Enhanced Environment	29	37	45	53	
LDF – Spatial Portrait for Stafford Borough					
LAA – A Protected, Enhanced and Respected Environment					

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
B1.1	Work in partnership to promote positive conservation and management of Local Nature Reserves in the Borough	CC&SD Team	LNR's protected and enhanced	Budget established Risk assessments completed		
B1.2	Work in partnership with the SBC Planning Dept. to Assess biodiversity impacts in relevant applications and ensure enhancements are suggested for all developments	CC&SD Team	Good biodiversity practice embedded in planning, through the Development Control process and within the new Local Development Framework	Biodiversity impacts assessed		
B1.3	Resurvey remaining Sites of Biological Importance and identify new Wildlife Sites	SBC Planning Dept	Biodiversity enhanced within the Borough	% of sites resurveyed		
B1.4	Review policies and actions to assist wildlife to adapt	CC&SD Team	To be set			

Project/Initiative/Action		Lead Agency	Outcome	Measure	Completion by	Progress
B1.5	Assist in the development and implementation of a high quality Green Infrastructure Strategy/SPD	SBC Planning Dept	To be set			
B1.6	Deliver the key principles for biodiversity as set out in the national planning guidance	CC&SD Team and SBC Planning Dept	To be set			

REVIEWING AND REFRESHING THIS STRATEGY

This Strategy will be audited annually and reviewed every three years.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress against actions and targets will be assessed and reported annually. The Strategy as a whole will be reviewed and updated on a three year basis.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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If you need this information in large print, Braille, other language or on audio cassette please ask

APPENDIX ONE

Anticipated future changes to the climate system in the UK

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP), based at Oxford University and funded by the Department for Food, the Environment, and Rural Affairs (Defra), has made a number of assessments of the potential impacts of climate change on the UK. The most significant forecasted effects are:

- Annual temperatures averaged across the UK may rise by between 2 and 3.5°C by the 2080s, depending on the future scale of global emissions of greenhouse gases.
- Warming will generally be greatest in parts of the southeast, where temperatures may rise by up to 5°C in summer by the 2080s. High summer temperatures will become more frequent and cold winters will become increasingly rare.
- Winters will become wetter and summers may become drier across all of the UK. The largest relative changes will be in the south and east where summer precipitation may decline by up to 50% by the 2080s.
- Heavy winter precipitation will become more frequent, but the amount of snow may decline by 60% or more in parts of Scotland and up to 90% elsewhere by the 2080s.
- Sea-levels are expected to continue to rise around the UK, in line with global changes but with local variations due to land movement. In southeast England, the sea-level could rise by between 26 and 86 cm by the 2080s. This means that, at some east coast locations, extreme sea-levels that currently have a 2% chance of occurring in any given year could occur between 10 and 20 times more frequently by the 2080s.
- Storminess may increase during the winter- increasing the risk of storm surges.

Anticipated future changes within Stafford Borough

The main impacts for Stafford Borough will be from warmer, drier summers with an increase in temperature by as much as 3 degrees centigrade by 2050. We will also experience milder, wetter winters and a potential increase in the frequency and scale of storms and extreme weather conditions, with implications for flood events.

APPENDIX TWO

Projects and initiatives

Karen, Sebastian and Bill to populate this

