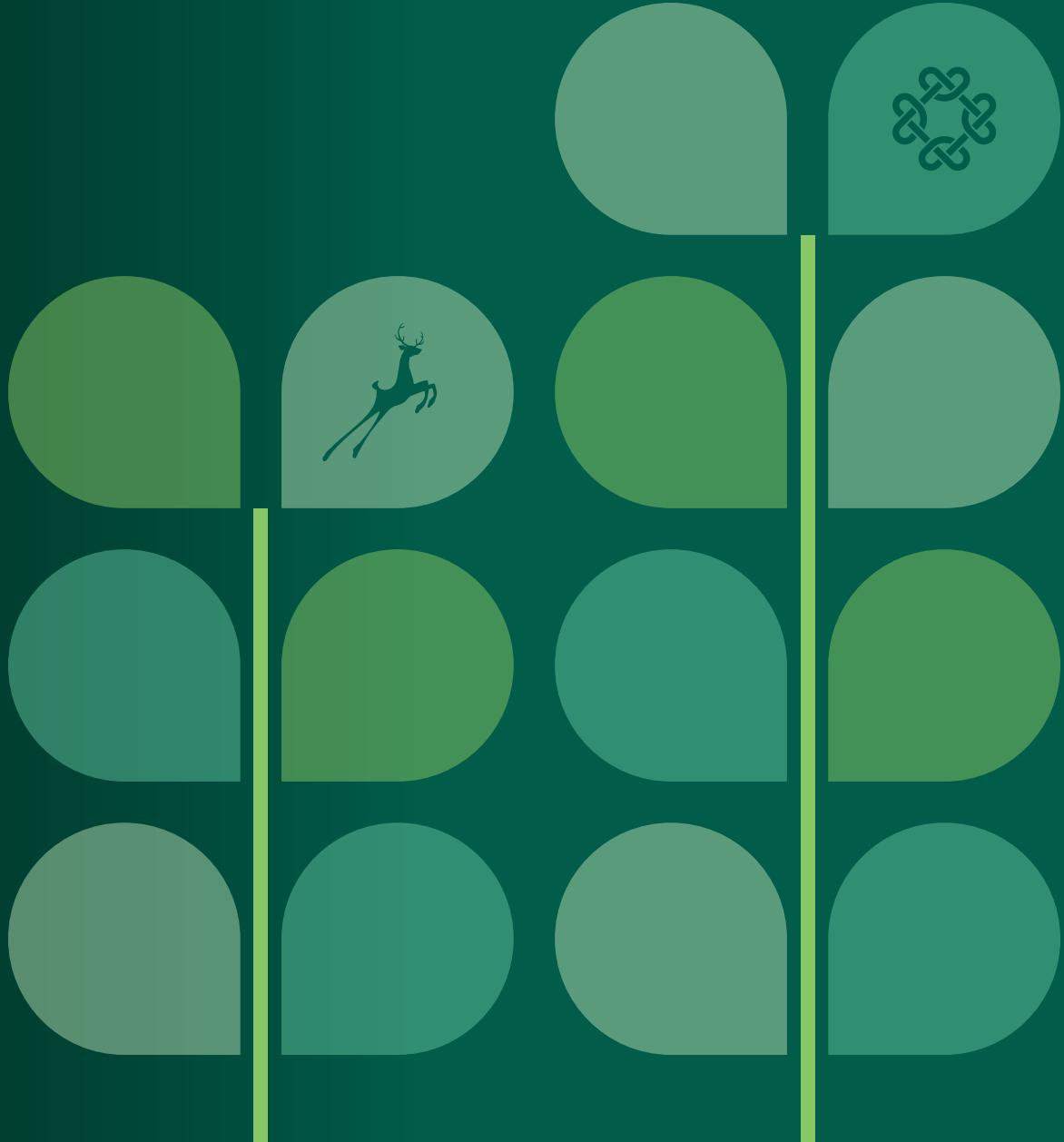


Climate Change Strategy.



Introduction.



Cannock Chase District Council are working to reduce our Carbon Emissions in line with our hopes to reduce the impact we have on the local environment.

The Council cannot do this alone, so we are hoping to support local community groups, schools, and businesses to work with us to achieve this.

Across the District we are especially keen to develop young peoples understanding and involvement in this work through our Schools Engagement Programme which builds on the legacy of the Great Imaginings Event in 2024.

We will be working in partnership with Keele University to review the impact of this work.

We are setting up the CCDC Community Climate Panel to enable local groups to review the work we are doing on Climate Change moving forward.

Councillor John Preece

Portfolio holder for Environment and Climate Change



It is some years since Stafford Borough Council agreed that we face a climate emergency. Since that time, the extent and nature of that emergency have become increasingly apparent. Despite the greater awareness of the problem and actions being taken to try to slow down the rate of global warming, it seems we are not acting quickly enough and hopes of limiting the rise in temperatures to 2.5 degrees are fading.

It could be argued that our carbon footprint is relatively small but the fact is that we need to act as an exemplar within the Borough and have a thought – out plan for reducing it.

Given that many staff are now shared with Cannock Chase District Council, it is right that we should be working with them on this project, and I look forward working with officers and members in Stafford and Cannock Chase to find ways of achieving our objective of net zero carbon - but also working with the wider community to help them to do so.

Councillor Anthony Pearce

Portfolio holder for Climate Action and Nature Recovery

1. Background.

What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to long-term alterations in temperature, precipitation patterns, and other climate variables caused by natural processes and human activities, particularly the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). These changes impact weather patterns, sea levels, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.

How much could the UK Climate Change?

Compared to our climate in 1990, by 2070 the Met Office projects that:



Winters are between **1°C - 4.5°C** warmer



Winters are up to **30% wetter**



Summers are between **1°C - 6°C warmer**



Summers are up to **60% drier** depending on the region



Hot summer days are between **4°C - 7°C warmer**

Has the UK's climate already changed?

We know that the UK has already warmed by 1°C since around the 1950s. We can see this in observations from our land-based weather stations. There are a lot of other ways we observe this change:

- Increased temperature in coastal seas around the UK
- Less frost and snow
- Longer and more frequent warm and hot spells
- Shorter and less frequent cold spells
- Breaking many high temperature records

To see what Climate Change looks like locally follow this link to the BBC

www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-d6338d9f-8789-4bc2-b6d7-3691c0e7d138



Our Vision is to create a green, healthy and resilient area where people and nature can thrive, by limiting the impacts of Climate Change and meeting our Climate Change and green recovery commitments.

2.

The Councils and the Climate Emergency.

The Councils declared a climate emergency in 2019 and have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2040 for Cannock and 2035 for Stafford.

As Councils we plan to take innovative initiatives that are aimed at reducing our impact on the climate and reducing both Councils carbon emissions. We also recognise that limiting the harmful effects of Climate Change cannot be achieved by any single organisation and the effort requires changes to how we all live and work.

Every resident has a role to play in securing a climate resilient future.

Both Councils wish to mitigate Climate Change by taking all reasonable steps to reduce its carbon footprint and support others in our areas to do the same. We are committed to using our influence to mitigate the effects of Climate Change to both the Borough and the District.

The Climate Change Committee (CCC) is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008. Their purpose is to advise the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets. The Climate Change Committee's assessment is that only a third of the emissions reductions required to achieve the UK's national 2050 Net Zero Target are currently covered by credible plans. The Councils will put in place a simple action plan which comprehensively tracks the work being delivered to reduce the production of carbon emissions in the area.

- This will be achieved by focusing on a number of key areas within our own service delivery which will be the most impactful.
- This will deliver changes to the way that we work, facilitating the shift towards carbon neutrality, supporting others in the locality to do the same and these are reflected in the five pillars on page 19.
- In addition, we commit to work with businesses and communities to engage, educate and facilitate them to deliver their own steps towards carbon neutrality.

- What is Carbon Neutrality? Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The Councils will also look to adapt to prepare for the impacts of Climate Change. Delivering Climate Change adaptation measures usually provides other benefits, besides increasing resilience. Often, it also protects and enhances biodiversity, provides health benefits to residents, and contributes to economic prosperity in the area. This is known as a co-benefit.

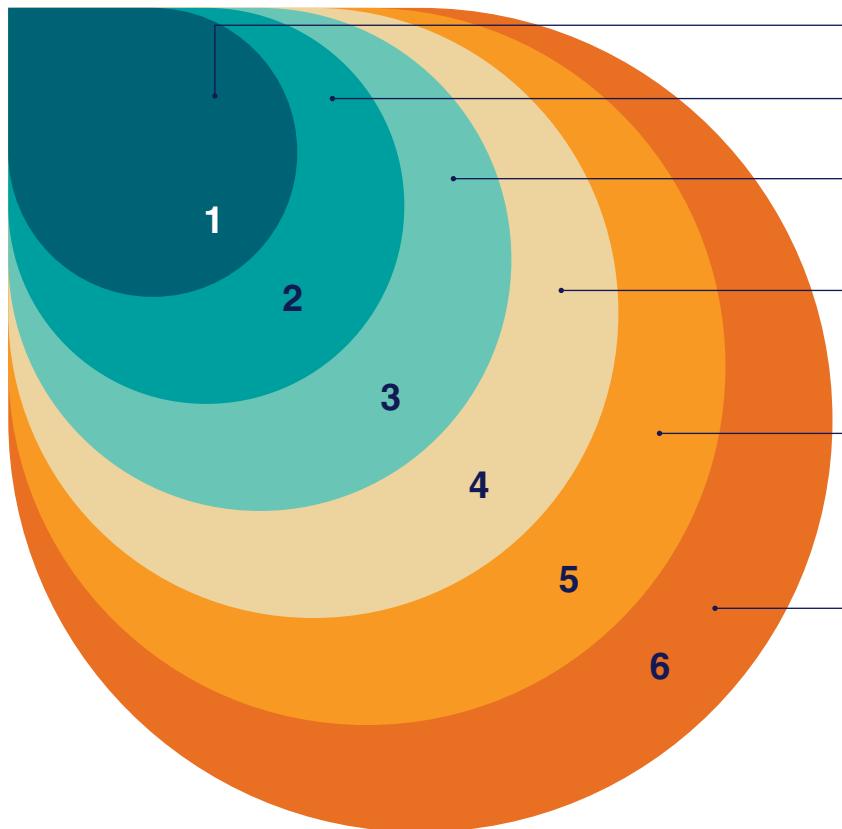
To strengthen our impact, we shall be working together with our Staffordshire Partners to achieve our mutually agreed climate strategy supporting each other to deliver net zero through the Staffordshire Sustainability Partnership. Appendix A details the Climate Change pledges that we have committed to alongside our Staffordshire Partners.

Net zero targets refer to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere. When net zero is reached, global emissions are in balance with reductions, meaning we remove an equal amount of CO₂ from the atmosphere as we release into it.



Six Local Authority Spheres of Influence.

The Climate Change Committee has suggested that the best way for Councils to mitigate for Climate Change in their localities is by utilising the following spheres of influence.



1. **Direct Control**
Buildings, operations, travel
2. **Procurement, Commissioning and Investment**
3. **Place Shaping**
Using powers to control development and transport
4. **Showcasing**
Innovating, piloting, demonstrating and sharing good practice, scaling and replicating
5. **Partnerships**
Leading, bringing people and organisations together, coordinating and supporting others, joining other partnerships
6. **Involving, Engaging and Communicating**
Translating global and national Climate Change targets for local relevance with stakeholders to raise awareness involving people and ideal for local solutions



Strategy Objectives.

Both Councils recognise the urgent need to address Climate Change and are committed to taking action to reduce our carbon footprint and mitigate the impacts of Climate Change on our community. Our Climate Change Strategy is centred around the following key objectives:

1.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

We will work towards reducing our carbon emissions by implementing energy efficiency measures, promoting sustainable transportation options, and investing in renewable energy sources.

2.

Engage and educate the community:

We will engage with the community to raise awareness about Climate Change and the actions individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint. We will also work with local schools and businesses to promote sustainable practices.

3.

Collaboration and partnerships:

We will work with other local authorities, government agencies, and community organizations to share best practices and collaborate on Climate Change initiatives.

4.

Monitoring and reporting:

We will regularly monitor our progress towards our Climate Change goals and report on our achievements to ensure transparency and accountability.

*This strategy has been developed with reference to the [Climate Adaptation Strategy 2023](#) and the [Climate Change and Green Recovery Strategy 2020 - 2040](#).

By implementing these strategies, we aim to play its part in addressing the global challenge of Climate Change and creating a more sustainable future for our community.

3. Where are we now and what are we doing to achieve our Net Zero target?

Cannock Chase District Council and Stafford Borough Council have seen reductions in their carbon footprints over time.

Since 2021 both have seen a sizable reduction in the carbon footprints of their operations.

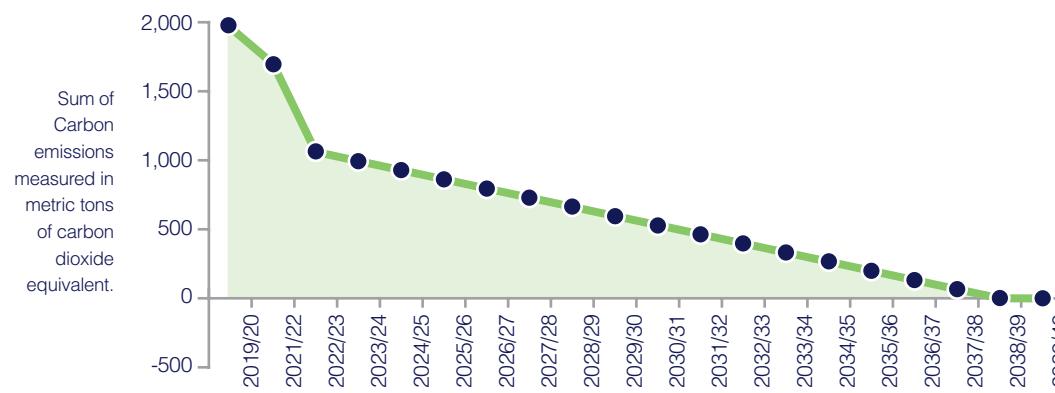
At the end of each financial year carbon emissions are measured and a calculation, following Local Government Organisation guidelines, takes place. This enables each council to track its carbon emissions and understand our progress towards Net Zero.

Diagram 1 demonstrates each Council's actual carbon footprint. Diagram 2 illustrates the projected path to Net Zero.

1. Cannock Chase District Council actual emissions



2. Cannock Chase District Council projected emissions





Keele University Climate Change Partnership

We are working with Sustainability Economists at Keele University to review and develop our Climate Change Strategy, our carbon calculation methods, and Climate Change Action Plans.

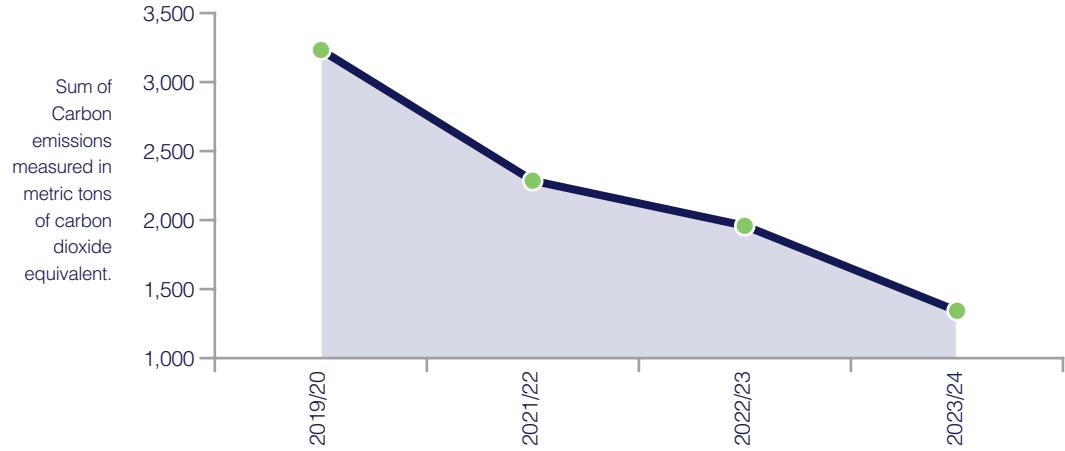
To complement this, research will be carried out to measure the impact of the activities we are taking to educate young people in schools and decision makers in the Councils. We will look to use this intelligence to drive forward our plans.

Keele University are also working with both Councils to deliver Climate Change knowledge to key decision makers within both Councils- as part of a programme funded by the University.

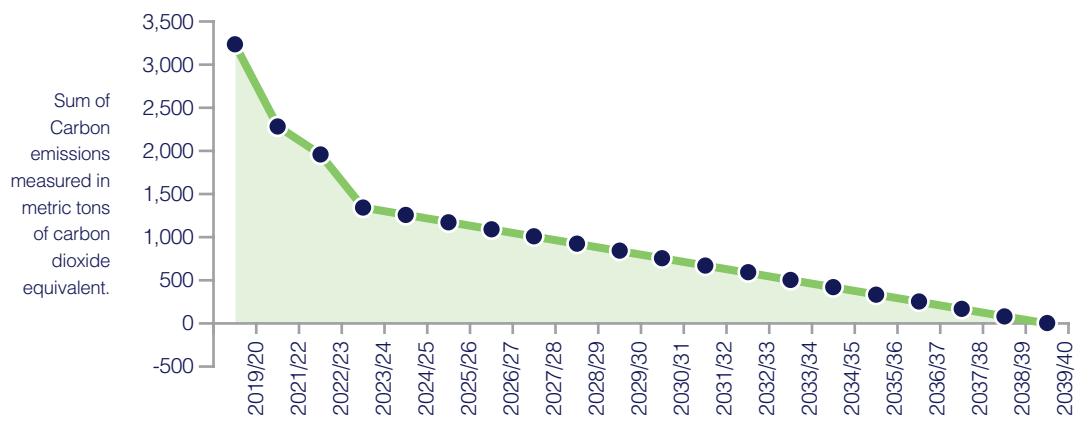


Diagram 1 demonstrates each Council's actual carbon footprint. Diagram 2 illustrates the projected path to Net Zero.

1. Stafford Borough Council actual emissions



2. Stafford Borough Council projected emissions





Case Study. The Great Imagining Cannock Chase.

In March 2024, Cannock Chase Council launched The Great Imagining Cannock Chase, an exciting community initiative designed to inspire a greener, fairer, and more sustainable future. By empowering residents and aligning with the Council's Climate Change goals, the project encouraged local people to take meaningful action against Climate Change.

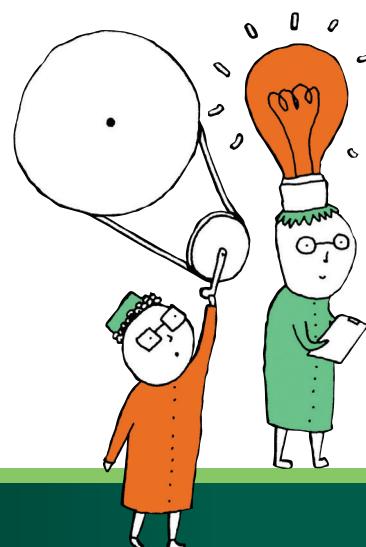
In collaboration with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles and The House of Fairy Tales, the programme featured creative workshops, interactive sessions, and a culminating event day. More than 4,000 people - including school pupils, community groups, and local leaders - participated in activities ranging from carbon literacy to renewable energy and sustainable living. The contributions were incredible, with hundreds of artworks, sculptures, and innovative ideas showcasing the community's passion for a better future.

Highlights of the Initiative

- Inspiring young minds: Over 2,600 students from primary and secondary schools, as well as South Staffordshire College, engaged through assemblies and workshops.
- Community impact: A vibrant community day welcomed 600 residents, families, and businesses to explore 27 themed activities and workshops.
- Collective action: A bold target was set to reduce the district's carbon footprint by 10% by the end of 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Council is building on this success by launching a school enrichment programme across Cannock Chase and Stafford Borough. This includes creating a young people's Climate Change Network, providing workshops and resources to inspire environmental advocacy. The initiative will also align with a new Climate Change Panel, encouraging collaboration between young people and local authorities.

This project is a powerful example of how local partnerships can drive meaningful climate action, leaving a lasting legacy of environmental stewardship for generations to come.





Case Study. Transition to 100% Green Electricity.



Overview

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon emissions, Stafford Borough Council made a significant step forward by transitioning to 100% green electricity across all sites with the process completing by the end of 2024. This initiative aligns with our Climate Change strategy and demonstrates our dedication to achieving a carbon-neutral future.

Background

In 2023, we began purchasing green electricity for all of our half-hourly metered sites.

The success of this transition highlighted its potential for broader application, prompting us to extend this initiative to all council-operated sites. By expanding this purchasing decision, we have ensured that all our electricity usage now directly supports renewable energy generation.

Key Achievements

- Reduction in Carbon Emissions: By purchasing green electricity, we have taken a major step toward reducing the council's Scope 2 carbon emissions to zero.
- Sustainable Procurement: This initiative ensures that our energy spending supports clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric power.
- Consistency Across Sites: The council has successfully implemented this policy across all sites, both large and small, demonstrating scalability and commitment to decarbonisation.

Metrics and Outcomes

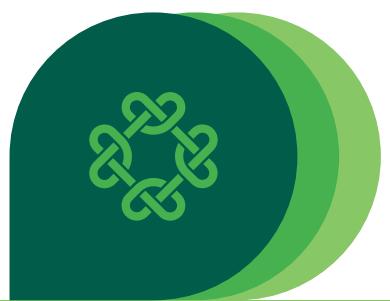
- Zero Electrical Carbon Emissions: As a direct result of this initiative, our electricity-related carbon emissions will be zero by the end of 2024.
- Continuous Monitoring: Energy use is monitored regularly to ensure ongoing efficiency and alignment with our sustainability goals.

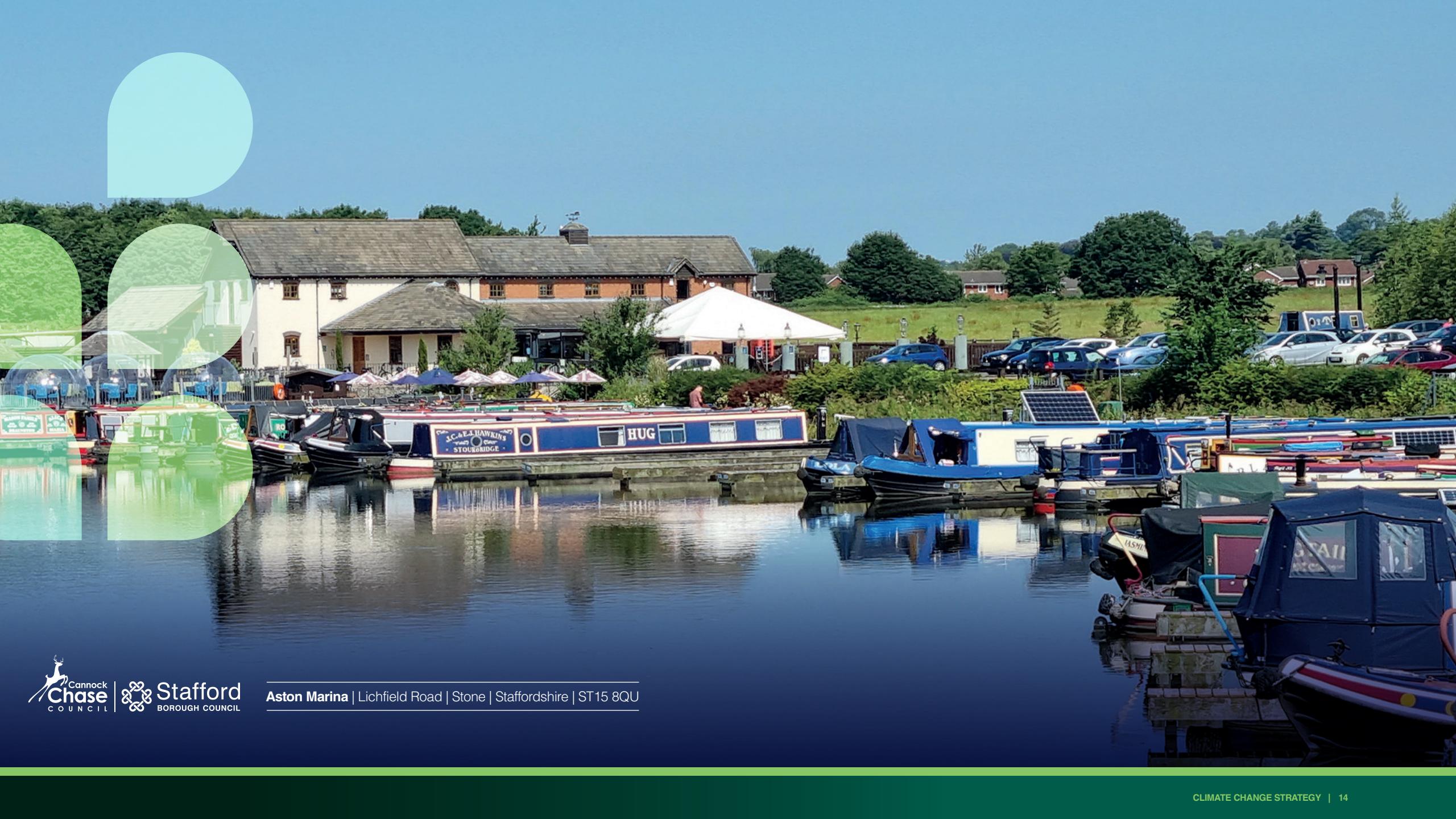
Looking Ahead

This milestone is part of a broader strategy to transition all council operations toward Net Zero carbon emissions. Moving forward, we will continue to identify opportunities for further energy efficiency improvements, including renewable energy generation and storage on council sites.

Impact

By purchasing 100% green electricity, Stafford Borough Council are leading by example, demonstrating that decisive action can result in measurable environmental benefits. This initiative not only reduces emissions but also reinforces our role in driving sustainable practices across the region.





Aston Marina | Lichfield Road | Stone | Staffordshire | ST15 8QU



Case Study. Working Towards Net Zero.

Aston Marina, Stone

Staffordshire based Aston Marina operates a successful canal boat marina, multi award winning wedding & events venue and restaurant at its premises just outside of Stone, Staffordshire. They were successful in securing a £65,000 grant from Stafford Borough Councils Rural England Prosperity Fund to support their continued work towards being more energy efficient and to implement green, renewable sources of power.

Employing in excess of 100 team members, 90% of which reside within a 10-mile radius of the site, sourcing from local suppliers and supporting Staffordshire charities, the business has gone from strength to strength since opening over a decade ago.

In recent years they have been restricted to the number of events they can undertake due to the size and output of the current events kitchen setup. In addition, they have witnessed energy costs increase by over 100% overnight in 2022 and have remained at this level since.

Neil Nicholls, Operations Director at Aston Marina and responsible for overseeing developments said:

"For the business to continue to grow and for Aston Marina to continue contributing positively to the local economy, it was paramount that we invest in improving, modernising and developing the existing wedding and event kitchen.

The original kitchen design was heavily impacted by the remote location and limited power infrastructure of the venue and therefore both electric and LPG were chosen to power the equipment equally. Since this time, the infrastructure of the electrical power supply has greatly improved with minimal disruptions, rendering LPG a costly, dirty and inefficient solution to our catering power requirements.

By significantly increasing efficiency whilst reducing our CO₂ emissions we have seen a reduction in operational costs to allowing us to invest in business growth for other parts of the site."

Based on a conservative estimate of 30 – 40% growth, the carbon offset would be 15.6 tonnes per annum. This equates to removing 9.2 cars from the roads each year or the planting of 743 trees. A benefit that would be seen with immediate effect once the project has been completed.

Neil went on to say:

"Aston Marina is committed to investing in energy efficiency, green renewable power sources and working towards the government's 2050 net zero targets. Since 2015 we have undertaken numerous projects to meet these objectives including installing air source heat pumps throughout the site, replacing all lighting with LED equivalents and solar panels installed on the boat workshop"





Wimpy | Lichfield Road | Milford | Stafford | ST17 0UW



Case Study. Energy Efficiency Investment.

Wimpy, Stafford

The Wimpy, Milford is a well-established business and has been trading since 1964, when it became the first-ever Wimpy takeaway in the UK. The business is an energy-intensive operation using approx. 63,000 kWh of electricity a year (There is no gas supply). The increase in energy prices over the last two years has significantly affected the viability of the business. The owners were looking to safeguard the future of the business by reducing overheads and making it more resilient against future fluctuations in energy prices.

Tim Sandy, owner of the Wimpy and responsible for looking at ways to improve energy efficiency said:

"There was a very real need for us to review our energy efficiency because the current market conditions faced by The Wimpy, Milford are the most challenging in its 59 years of trading. The difficulties are mirrored by the hospitality industry as a whole. Rising energy bills and other costs saw 1,611 UK hospitality businesses permanently close in the fourth quarter of 2022, the equivalent of nearly 18 a day."

The project has several key elements and was supported by funding from Stafford Borough Councils UKSPP programme.

The existing Valentine fryers, which date back to 1993 were replaced. The latest model is not only more energy efficient, but its pumped oil filtration system increases the lifespan of cooking oil by 40%, which would save almost 1000 litres of oil per year - the cost of which has increased by 200% since 2019.

The second element was the upgrade of the existing food storage system. The new cold store would use about 50% less energy than the previous four chest freezers.

Solar panels have been installed. This would generate an estimated 7,761 kWh of clean electricity every year and save about 2,000 kg of CO₂ – significantly reducing the business' carbon footprint.

Tim went on to say:

"After years of stability in energy and food costs, the sudden increases in overheads have caught out many in the hospitality industry, with thousands of businesses unable to survive the rapid changes and reduced margins. Our business has now undertaken new-to-firm innovation, adopted productivity-enhancing, energy-efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques to help support the business to thrive."





4.

Implementation Framework and Climate Change Action Plan.

This Climate Change Strategy links to other wider strategies in place at the Councils including the Stafford Borough Council Economic Prosperity Strategy and the Cannock Chase District Council Economic Prosperity Strategy.

Each Climate Change Action Plan focuses on the ongoing workstreams that each Council will utilise to drive Climate Change mitigation in both the District and the Borough.

The Climate Change Action Plans will be revised each financial year and will be available on the Climate Change area of each Council's website. This will help to embed Climate Change mitigation in the way that the Councils deliver their services. We have selected these five pillars of focus as they allow the Councils action to have the greatest and most meaningful impact.

The five main pillars of focus for the Councils are:

- 1. Corporate Assets and Housing**
- 2. Transport**
- 3. Community Engagement**
- 4. Business Engagement**
- 5. Sustainability Education**

Progress with these five pillars will be tracked by the Climate Change Action Plan. To successfully implement the Climate Change Action Plan the councils will use the following methods;

Leadership and Coordination

Establish a dedicated climate action team at each council to coordinate and lead climate initiatives that will report into the Climate Change Action Board chaired by the Cabinet member for Climate Change and Nature Recovery / the Portfolio holder for Environment and Climate Change for Place.

Funding and Resources

Secure funding through council budgets and identify other funding through government grants, and partnerships with private sector and non-profit organizations.

Stakeholder Engagement

Continue to create and develop the use of advisory panels and working groups comprising community members, experts, and stakeholders to guide and support the strategy as in the case of the SBC Climate Change Group.

Communication and Outreach

Develop a communication plan to keep residents and businesses informed and engaged with the council's climate initiatives.



5.

Climate Change Governance.

Climate Change Action Plans have been developed that incorporate each of the five key delivery pillars.

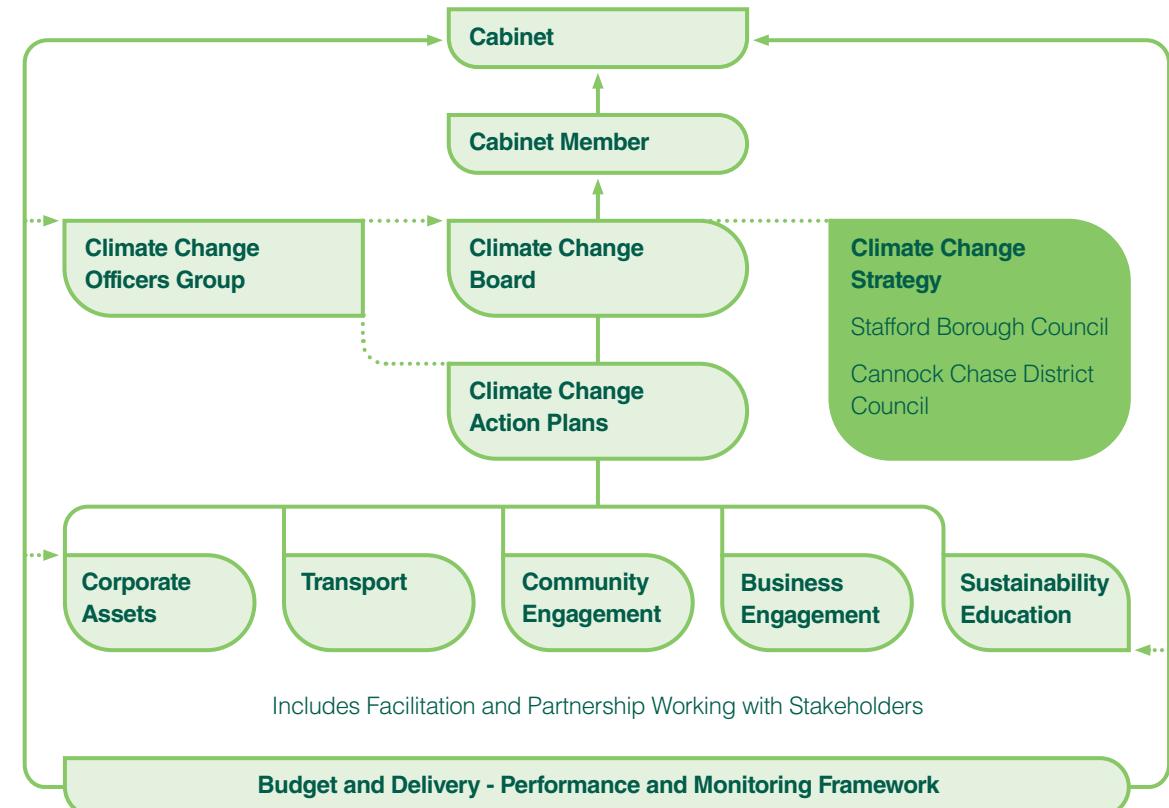
Governance will be provided by the Climate Change Action Board. The Board will track performance on a quarterly basis.

The Board will comprise the relevant Heads of Service, the Deputy Chief Executive for Place, and will be chaired by the relevant Cabinet member from each authority in turn.

The Terms of Reference for the Board will allow other interested parties to sit on the Board as required.

Senior Service Managers for each service will provide quantifiable, RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rated feedback for each teams performance.

The outcomes of the Board Meetings and the progress of moving towards our targets will be shared with Cabinet and Full Council on a quarterly basis.



Appendix.

	Cannock Chase District	Stafford Borough
Pledge 1: Baseline Reporting All Councils will prepare and publish an annual baseline analysis of their organisation's carbon footprint. All Councils will assess and publish progress in reducing their carbon footprint in October each year.	Carbon emissions report completed. Report to be scheduled for Cabinet briefing in March 2025.	Carbon emissions report completed. Report to be scheduled for Cabinet briefing and Cabinet in February / March 2025.
	In progress - to be reported as part of the above.	In progress - to be reported as part of the above.
Pledge 2: Carbon Literacy Training and Awareness All Councillors and Senior Management Teams will undertake carbon literacy training to build corporate awareness of the issue and the Council's role in securing carbon reduction. All Councils will conduct a community impact assessment for key projects and proposals and include an assessment of Climate Change Implications in all key decision reports.	Councils Members and Senior Officers have completed training in 2021-2023. In addition, we are working with Keele University to refresh training for elected members, senior leadership team, and service managers by July 2025.	Councils Members and Senior Officers have completed training in 2021-2023. In addition, we are working with Keele University to refresh training for elected members, senior leadership team, and service managers by July 2025.
	In place.	In place.
	In place.	In place.

Appendix.

	Cannock Chase District	Stafford Borough
Pledge 3: Ambassadors	Officers and members have continued to work on the Great Imagining Legacy project. This project will see engagement activities in 20 schools in SBC and 20 schools in CCDC areas. This will hopefully drive behavioural change in schools age, children, and their families. Elected Members are championing the joint Sustainability Strategy 2025/29 with the new 2025 Climate Action Plan.	Officers and members will begin to work on the Great Imagining Legacy project. This project will see engagement activities in 20 schools in SBC and 20 schools in CCDC areas. This will hopefully drive behavioural change in schools age, children, and their families. Elected Members are championing the joint Sustainability Strategy 2025/29 with the new 2025 Climate Action Plan.
Pledge 4: Green Travel Planning	Part complete - Organisational agile working established across the Council, allowing employees to work from home. Working on a Green travel strategy for the Council and district, for publication during 2025, to sit alongside the County Council's.	Part complete - Organisational agile working established across the Council, allowing employees to work from home. Working on a green travel strategy that will include EV charging.
Pledge 5: Communications	CCDC has committed to the Comms Plan. In progress.	SBC has committed to the Comms Plan. In progress.
Pledge 6: Green Energy	In Hand- Council is in the process of switching to 100% REGO certified green energy.	Complete - Council has switched to 100% REGO certified green energy.

Appendix.

	Cannock Chase District	Stafford Borough
Pledge 7: Energy Reduction	We're currently undertaking a wider asset review which will include energy. We recently transferred over to a greener tariff for the Council. This review will be an ongoing programme.	We're currently undertaking a wider asset review which will include energy. We recently transferred over to a greener tariff for the Council. This review will be an ongoing programme.
Pledge 8: Low carbon fuelled fleet vehicles Moving towards an aspirational zero emission operational vehicle fleet, the Councils will by 2025, establish a plan to move to low carbon fuels within their internal fleets by 2030.	There are ongoing plans to review and update the Councils fleet of vehicles as part of shared service transformation. There is an aspiration where possible to do this with more sustainable options. 2 new EV's have been purchased as part of this programme.	There are ongoing plans to review and update the Councils fleet of vehicles as part of shared service transformation. There is an aspiration where possible to do this with more sustainable options. 2 new EV's have been purchased as part of this programme.
Pledge 9: Waste and Recycling All Councils will be actively supporting the development of a new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2025.	We are working alongside officers from the Staffordshire Waste Officers Group on the new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.	We are working alongside officers from the Staffordshire Waste Officers Group on the new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.
Pledge 10: Innovation and Technology Working collaboratively with research institutions, businesses and partners the Councils will encourage both innovation and technology development, that will assist the delivery of our combined net zero visions.	We're actively working with the Stafford college/ Keele and the new Innovation Centre which is being built in Stafford and will closely look to that innovation field. We currently run significant business growth programmes including that of UKSPF which has supported green tech and engaged with many private sector businesses and industries across the District.	We're actively working with the Stafford college/ Keele and the new Innovation Centre which is being built in Stafford and will closely look to that innovation field. We currently run significant business growth programmes including that of UKSPF which has supported green tech and engaged with many private sector businesses and industries across the Borough.

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