



Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford

Contact Jim Dean  
Direct Dial 01785 619209

Email [jdean@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:jdean@staffordbc.gov.uk)

Dear Members

### **Cabinet**

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on **Thursday 10 April 2025** at **6.30pm** in the **Craddock Room, Civic Centre, Riverside, Stafford** to deal with the business as set out on the agenda.

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

Members are reminded that contact officers are shown at the top of each report and members are welcome to raise questions etc in advance of the meeting with the appropriate officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Curran".

Head of Law and Governance

## **CABINET - 10 APRIL 2025**

**Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey**

### **AGENDA**

- 1 Minutes of 6 March 2025 as circulated and published on 7 March 2025
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Councillors' Question Time (if any)
- 4 Proposals of the Cabinet Members (as follows):-

	<b>Page Nos</b>
<b>(a) CLIMATE ACTION AND NATURE RECOVERY PORTFOLIO</b>	
(i) Climate Change Strategy 2025 - 2030	3 - 45
<b>(b) COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO</b>	
(i) Permission to Spend - Community Safety Funding 2025/26	46 - 49
(ii) Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub Community Interest Company	50 - 53

### **Membership**

**Chair - Councillor A T A Godfrey**

A T A Godfrey	- Leader
R Kenney	- Deputy Leader (Town Centres Regeneration Portfolio)
R P Cooke	- Resources Portfolio
I D Fordham	- Environment Portfolio
J Hood	- Community Portfolio
G P K Pardesi	- Leisure Portfolio
A N Pearce	- Climate Action and Nature Recovery Portfolio
A F Reid	- Economic Development and Planning Portfolio

## Agenda Item 4(a)i

# Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 April 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regulatory Services
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Climate Action and Nature Recovery

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## 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks to gain Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030.
- 1.2 It seeks recognition of and support for the SBC Climate Action Plan and support for the new governance regime introduced as the Climate Action Board chaired by the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Green Recovery.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet:
- 2.2 Approves and adopts the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030, including the new Climate Action Board and associated Climate Action Plan 2025.
- 2.3 Approves and provides delegated authority to the Head of Regulatory Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Green Recovery to make any changes, amendments, or updates to the Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030 and/or Climate Action Plan as necessary.
- 2.4 Notes that regular performance and delivery updates will be provided to Cabinet on a minimum of either quarterly or 6 monthly reporting cycle as determined by the Head of Regulatory Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action and Green Recovery.

### Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.5 The Council, alongside many other councils, declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 since then activities to mitigate and adapt for Climate Change have become part of the way the Council delivers services.

- 2.6 The Council has a target to reach Net Zero Operations by 2040, Climate Action is a fundamental consideration when delivering Council services, but we needed to develop a pragmatic and realistic approach to doing this. The 2025-2030 Strategy looks to develop this approach, alongside Action Plans, that demonstrate exactly what activities are taking place to contribute to the reduction of our operational carbon emissions.
- 2.7 The new Strategy, Action Plan and Climate Action Board will allow us to track, review and ensure that we are moving towards our Net Zero targets in a meaningful way.
- 2.8 In doing this we hope to lead by example and support and encourage other organisations in the locality to do the same.
- 2.9 The Government's Climate Change Committee- states 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 new strategy looks to put in place a simple way forward supported by a trackable Action Plan which comprehensively measures the work being delivered to reduce the production of carbon emissions in the Borough.
- 2.10 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, encouraging others in the Borough to do the same.
- 2.11 In addition, the strategy sets a clear intent to commit to work with businesses and communities in the Borough to engage, educate and facilitate them to deliver their own steps towards carbon neutrality.

### **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Council is at a crossroads if it wants to deliver its Net Zero Target. The options are.

- (a) to put a realistic, deliverable plan in place or
- (b) do nothing.

As Climate Action will be one of the agreed priorities in the new Council Corporate Plan - the 'do nothing option' is not an appropriate option.

- 3.2 As a high priority it is essential that there is a mechanism in place to ensure the Council is working toward its Net Zero target. Options have been considered on how best to achieve the targets set.
- 3.3 There is limited funding available, so pragmatic ways forward have been prioritised, and the action plans only contain projects that have been costed, with delivery agreed or projects which will be considered for prioritisation for future funding.

## 4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Climate Change issues are a fundamental consideration in the way the Council works - this Strategy supports the Council's aspirations.
- 4.2 The Council Plan 2025-2029 states that Climate Action and Green Recovery are one of the top four priorities for the Council. This Strategy demonstrates the clear commitment to Climate Change mitigation and the SBC Climate Action Plan demonstrates the clear path to reduce our carbon emissions, whilst delivering services for residents
- 4.3 The new Climate Action Board ensures that in the future Council activities to reduce emissions are tracked as it moves towards Net Zero. The Action Plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis and new Action Plans will be developed in advance of each financial year this will allow maximum flexibility to ensure greatest impact.

## 5 Report Detail

- 5.1 As previously detailed Climate Action is a significant priority for the Council.
- 5.2 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<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). These changes impact weather patterns, sea levels, and the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.
- 5.3 Compared to our climate in 1990, by 2070 the Met Office projects that:
  - (a) Winters will be between 1 and 4.5°C warmer
  - (b) Winters will be up to 30% wetter
  - (c) Summers will be between 1 and 6°C warmer
  - (d) Summers will be to 60% drier, depending on the region
  - (e) And hot summer days will be between 4 and 7°C warmer
- 5.4 It is important that the Council looks to take Climate Action as the changing climate is having a damaging impact on people, ecosystems and infrastructure.
  - (a) In the most recent heatwaves of 2022, there was a record number of health related excess deaths. These occurred mostly among the elderly and those with existing ill-health. Heat exposure is estimated to cost the UK economy £260-£300 million per year.
  - (b) Infrastructure and communities: infrastructure impacts from the July 2022 heatwave were extensive, with flights suspended and disruption to rail and road networks. The heatwave caused power cuts due to

conductors sagging and transformers overheating. Increased electricity demand presented challenges for system security and operability. There were large spikes in 999 calls and fire services declared major incidents due to multiple wildfires.

- (c) Agriculture and ecosystems: the wettest 18-month period on record (from October 2022 to March 2024) resulted in thousands of acres of farmland being submerged for extended periods, leading to the loss of crops and animals. This followed a period of significant drought in 2022, where the combination of the lack of rainfall with the summer heat meant soils were very dry. This stressed ecosystems and agriculture and led to record numbers of large wildfires.

(Taken from 'The Seventh Carbon Budget'- Climate Change Committee 2025)

- 5.5 The Council has an important part to play and a moral duty to address the impact its operations have on carbon emissions in the Borough and work to mitigate this alongside other action to mitigate and adapt for the impact of Climate Change. The Council needs to help to protect the most vulnerable in our society who are most at risk from Climate Change harm.

The Climate Change Strategy supported by this year's Action Plan goes some way to move towards the Councils Net Zero ambitions. The Climate Change Action Plan focuses on the ongoing workstreams that the Council will utilise to drive climate change mitigation in the Borough

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

The 2025/6 Action Plan is costed and is funded from within existing service budgets, where this is not the case and moving forward the appropriate financial approvals process will be followed.

### **6.2 Legal**

None

### **6.3 Human Resources**

We will seek to employ a full time Principal Climate Action Officer (PCAO) to deliver this work and a permanent Climate Action Officer to support them - these roles will be shared between both SBC and CCDC. Funding needs to be confirmed for the PCAO role but is likely to come from existing revenue budgets.

## 6.4 Risk Management

Failure to adopt a climate change strategy would mean the Council could face several risks across environmental, economic, legal, and social areas:

### 1. Environmental Risks

- (a) Increased vulnerability to climate events: Without proactive planning, the council area may suffer more from extreme weather events like floods, heatwaves, and storms.
- (b) Loss of biodiversity: Failure to protect natural habitats can lead to species decline and reduced ecosystem resilience.
- (c) Decreased air and water quality: A lack of climate-focused policies may lead to worsening pollution and public health risks.

### 2. Economic Risks

- (a) Higher costs in the long run: Reactive spending on disaster recovery (e.g., flood repairs) is often more expensive than proactive investment in climate resilience.
- (b) Missed funding opportunities: Many national or regional governments offer grants for climate adaptation projects. Without a strategy, the council may miss out on financial support.
- (c) Reduced investment and tourism: Businesses and tourists may prefer areas with strong environmental policies and sustainable infrastructure.

### 3. Legal and Regulatory Risks

- (a) Non-compliance with national or international climate policies: Many governments are setting stricter climate targets. Failure to align with these can result in fines, legal challenges, or loss of government support.
- (b) Liability for inaction: Councils could face lawsuits from residents or environmental groups for failing to protect communities from known climate risks.

### 4. Social and Reputational Risks

- (a) Loss of public trust: Communities expect councils to take action on climate change. Inaction may damage public confidence and lead to criticism.
- (b) Health impacts: Increased air pollution, heat stress, and flood risks can harm public health, leading to higher healthcare costs and reduced quality of life.
- (c) Community displacement: Rising sea levels, extreme weather, and environmental degradation could force residents to relocate, disrupting communities and economies.

In summary, failing to adopt a climate change strategy can result in greater environmental damage, financial strain, legal consequences, and reputational harm. Proactive climate policies help councils build resilience and ensure long-term sustainability for their communities

## 6.5 Health

Failure to address Climate Change is likely to have an impact on the health of the most vulnerable in our society, this Strategy will take action to mitigate this. Any increase in the number significant weather events such as temperature extremes and flooding that Climate Change brings could impact on the health of residents. The Council has a duty to reduce and track its carbon emissions to reduce future health impacts.

## 6.6 Climate Change

Climate Change issues are a fundamental consideration in the way the Council works- this strategy supports our aspirations in this field.

## 7 Appendices

Appendix 1: Climate Change Strategy 2025-2030

Appendix 2: SBC Climate Change Action Plan

## 8 Previous Consideration

None

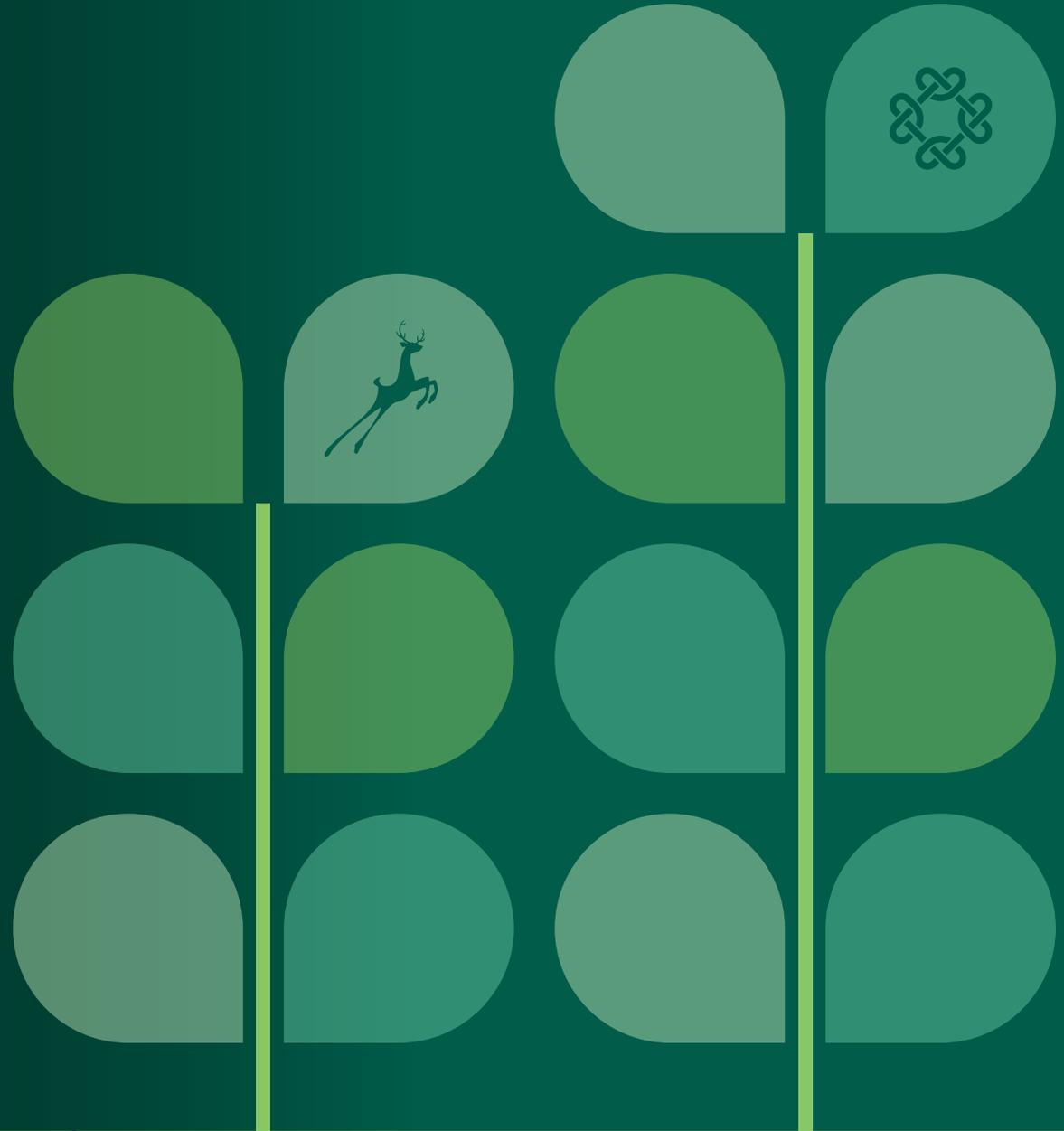
## 9 Background Papers

[Climate Adaptation Strategy 2023](#)

[Climate Change Strategy](#)

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Gabrielle Whitehouse
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01785 619240
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	All
<b>Report Track:</b>	Cabinet 10 April 2025 (Only)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes

# 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.

We are especially keen to develop young people in the District 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 Lisa Wilson**

*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 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*

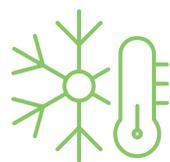
# 1. Background.

## 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<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). 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](http://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.

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.

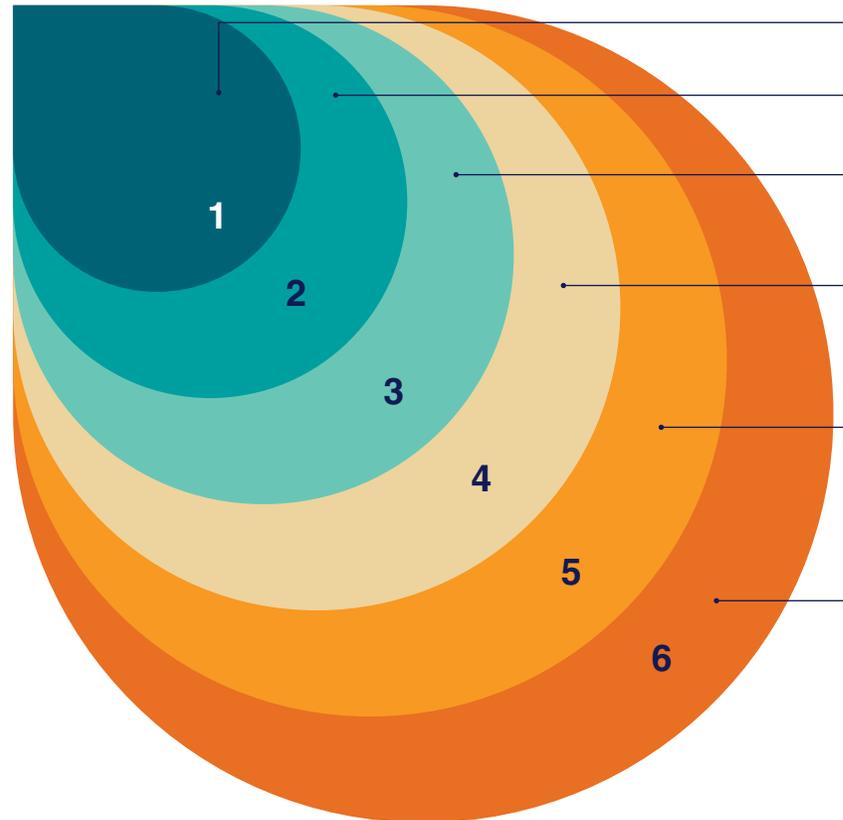
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*Net zero targets refer to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere. When net zero is reached, global emissions are in balance with reductions, meaning we remove an equal amount of CO<sub>2</sub> 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:

*\*This strategy has been developed with reference to the **Climate Adaptation Strategy 2023** and the **Climate Change and Green Recovery Strategy 2020 - 2040**.*

## 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.

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.

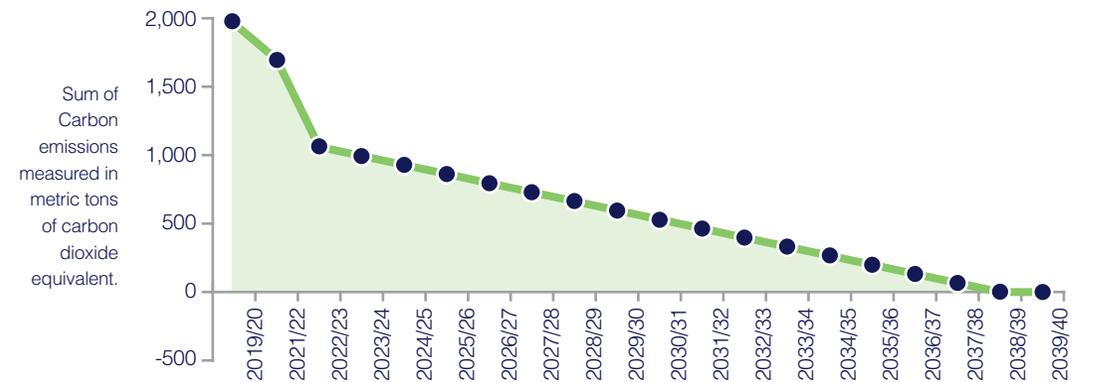
At the end of each financial year carbon emissions are measured and a calculation, following Local Government Organisation guidelines, takes place. This enables each council to track its carbon emissions and understand our progress towards Net Zero.

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.

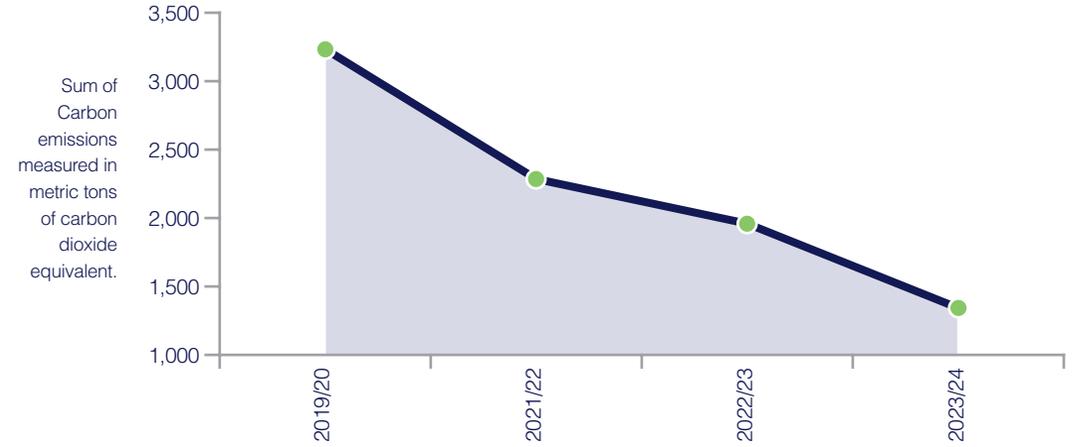
To complement this, research will be carried out to measure the impact of the activities we are taking to educate young people in schools and decision makers in the Councils. We will look to use this intelligence to drive forward our plans.

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.

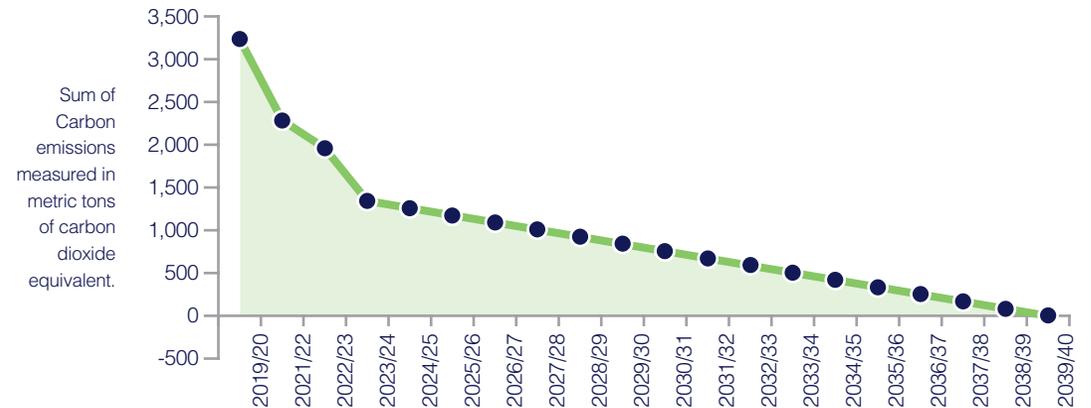


Diagram 1 demonstrates each Council's actual carbon footprint. Diagram 2 illustrates the projected path to Net Zero.

### 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.

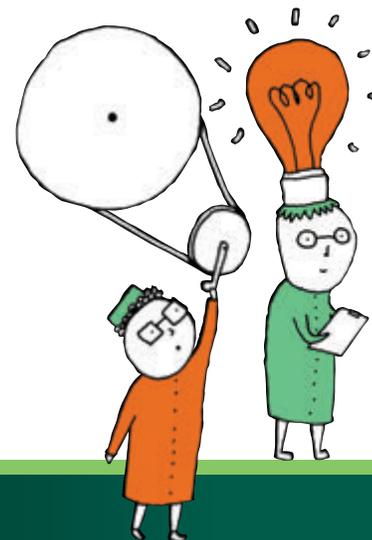
In collaboration with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles and The House of Fairy Tales, the programme featured creative workshops, interactive sessions, and a culminating event day. More than 4,000 people - including school pupils, community groups, and local leaders - participated in activities ranging from 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

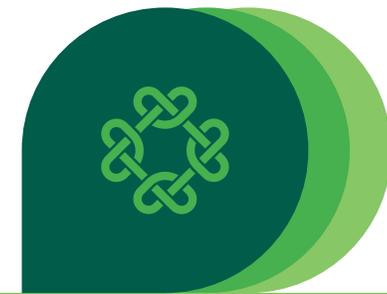
- **Zero Electrical Carbon Emissions:** As a direct result of this initiative, our electricity-related carbon emissions will be zero by the end of 2024.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** Energy use is monitored regularly to ensure ongoing efficiency and alignment with our sustainability goals.

### 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.







# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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

COLLECTION  
POINT

 <p><b>ORIGINAL QUARTER POUNDER CHEESE</b></p> <p>WIMPY</p>	 <p><b>WIMPY SPICY BEAN BENDY &amp; CHEESE</b></p> <p>WIMPY</p>
 <p><b>BREADED CHICKEN FILLET</b></p> <p><b>FIVE CHICKEN STRIPS</b></p> <p>WIMPY</p>	 <p><b>WIMPY CHEESE BURGER</b></p> <p>WIMPY</p>



# 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 UKSPF 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 CO<sub>2</sub> – 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 Councils 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.

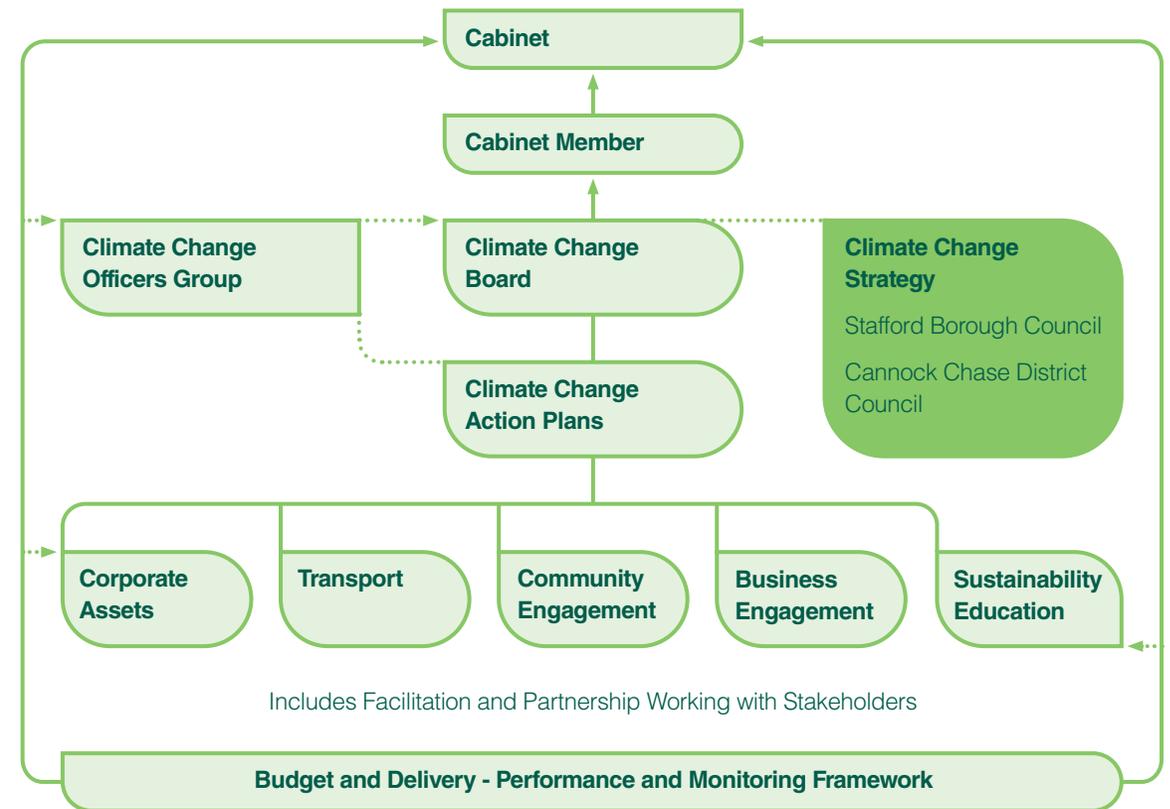
Governance will be provided by the Climate Change Action Board. The Board will track performance on a quarterly basis.

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	Stafford
<p><b>Pledge 1: Baseline Reporting</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Carbon emissions report completed.</p> <p>Report to be scheduled for Cabinet briefing in March 2025.</p>	<p>Carbon emissions report completed.</p> <p>Report to be scheduled for Cabinet briefing and Cabinet in February / March 2025.</p>
	<p>In progress - to be reported as part of the above.</p>	<p>In progress - to be reported as part of the above.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 2: Carbon Literacy Training and Awareness</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>In place.</p>	<p>In place.</p>
	<p>In place.</p>	<p>In place.</p>

# Appendix.

	Cannock	Stafford
<p><b>Pledge 3: Ambassadors</b></p> <p>All Councils will encourage members to act as climate change ambassadors, to encourage reduction in organisational carbon footprints and champion this in their own division/ward areas.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 4: Green Travel Planning</b></p> <p>All Councils will support and facilitate green travel by members, employees, and their communities through promotion of green travel planning. Policy implementation on green transport and ways of working.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 5: Communications</b></p> <p>All Councils will contribute to a countywide communications group who will plan to deliver and manage a countywide Communications Plan, working together to drive our collective net zero visions forward, throughout the County.</p>	<p>CCDC has committed to the Comms Plan. In progress.</p>	<p>SBC has committed to the Comms Plan. In progress.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 6: Green Energy</b></p> <p>All the Councils will commit to procure 100% green energy supplies for their electricity as soon as existing contract commitments allow.</p>	<p>In Hand- Council is in the process of switching to 100% REGO certified green energy.</p>	<p>Complete - Council has switched to 100% REGO certified green energy.</p>

# Appendix.

	Cannock	Stafford
<p><b>Pledge 7: Energy Reduction</b></p>	<p>We're currently undertaking a wider asset review which will include energy. We recently transferred over to a greener tariff for the Council. This will review will be an ongoing programme.</p>	<p>We're currently undertaking a wider asset review which will include energy. We recently transferred over to a greener tariff for the Council. This will review will be an ongoing programme.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 8: Low carbon fuelled fleet vehicles</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 9: Waste and Recycling</b></p> <p>All Councils will be actively supporting the development of a new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2025.</p>	<p>We are working alongside officers from the Staffordshire Waste Officers Group on the new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.</p>	<p>We are working alongside officers from the Staffordshire Waste Officers Group on the new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.</p>
<p><b>Pledge 10: Innovation and Technology</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>



Cannock Chase Council | Civic Centre | Beecroft Road | Cannock | WS11 1BG  
[www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk) | 01543 462621

Stafford Borough Council | Civic Centre | Riverside | Stafford | ST16 3AQ  
[www.staffordbc.gov.uk](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk) | [info@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk) | 01785 619 000

If you need this information in large print, Braille, other language or in audio format email [info@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:info@staffordbc.gov.uk) or call 01785 619 000



# Climate Action Plan.





# Foreword.

As a local authority, **Stafford Borough Council** is committed to addressing climate change and working towards a more sustainable future. Through this **Climate Action Plan**, we aim to integrate sustainability into all aspects of our operations, ensuring that our corporate assets, transport systems, businesses, and communities contribute to reducing carbon emissions and enhancing environmental resilience.

This plan outlines key actions under five strategic pillars:



1. **Corporate Assets** - Improving the sustainability of council-owned assets through energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.



2. **Transport** - Promoting sustainable transport solutions and reducing emissions from council fleets and operations.



3. **Community Engagement** - Supporting and empowering residents to adopt sustainable lifestyles.



4. **Business Engagement** – Encouraging businesses to transition to low-carbon operations and access funding for green initiatives.



5. **Sustainability Education** – Providing training and educational opportunities to improve understanding and participation in climate action.



# Baseline Emissions.

Stafford Borough Council's carbon footprint for 2022/23 was 1,306 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, reflecting a significant reduction from its 2019/20 baseline of 3,233 tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Scope 3 emissions, including waste and water, remain the largest contributors at 730 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

## Carbon Emission Breakdown by Scope.

Scope	Description	Stafford (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)
Scope 1	Direct emissions: Gas, LPG, and fleet vehicles.	614
Scope 2	Indirect emissions: Electricity usage.	0
Scope 3	Other indirect emissions: Waste, water, business travel.	730



# 1. Develop a Comprehensive Carbon Baseline for Council Operations.

Actions	Responsible Service	Timescale
Gather and analyse emissions data from all council facilities to create a clear baseline for tracking progress.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Build an integrated carbon monitoring platform to centralise data and guide decision making.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Automate data collection systems for seamless updates to the monitoring platform.	All Departments	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Release an annual report detailing carbon metrics and future priorities.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)



# 2.

## Establish a Climate Action Working Group.

Actions	Responsible Service	Timescale
Form a dedicated working group to coordinate and oversee climate action initiatives across all council departments.	All Departments	Short-Term (1-3 years)
Conduct quarterly reviews of progress to identify opportunities for improvement and celebrate achievements.	Regulatory Services	Short-Term (1-3 years)
Update the action plan annually, ensuring it remains relevant and ambitious.	Regulatory Services	Short-Term (1-3 years)
Report progress to Cabinet and Senior Leadership Team to ensure ongoing alignment with council priorities.	Regulatory Services	Short-Term (1-3 years)



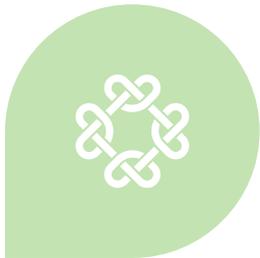
# Pillar 1. Corporate Assets.



Action	Description	Responsible Service	Status
Green Electricity Procurement	Transition to 100% green electricity for all council buildings.	Housing & Corporate Assets	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
LED Lighting Upgrades	Replacement of all council building and Car Park lights with LEDs.	Housing & Corporate Assets	Immediate to Short-Term (1-2 years)
Solar PV Installations	Installation of solar panels at Stafford Leisure Centre and Stone.	Wellbeing	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Building Management Systems (BMS)	Upgrading BMS to improve heating and energy efficiency.	Housing & Corporate Assets	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Boiler Decommissioning	Removal of fossil fuel-based heating at Riverway Nursery.	Housing & Corporate Assets	Completed in 2024
ICT Carbon Reduction	Reduced printer estate from 27 to 12 MFD's, transition to energy-efficient laptops, and infrastructure upgrades.	Housing & Corporate Assets	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)



## Pillar 2. Transport.



Action	Description	Responsible Service	Status
Replacement fleet & Installation of EV Charging Points at Riverway Depot, Stafford	Replacement vehicles for fleet including purchase of 2 electric vehicles.	Operations	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
EV Charging Infrastructure	Install additional EV charging points across the borough.	Operations	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Anti-Idling Campaign	Reduce idling in council fleet vehicles. (Monitoring Started in 2022).	Operations	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)



# Pillar 3. Community Engagement.

Action	Description	Responsible Service	Status
The Great Imagining Project	Education and engagement project working with schools.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Sustainable Living Campaigns	Community workshops on energy efficiency and green initiatives.	Wellbeing	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Energy Advice & Assistance Partnership	In Partnership with Beat the Cold to deliver energy advice and grant assistance for insulation programmes.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
LEVI Programme	Working in partnership with Staffordshire County Council and the West Midlands combined authority and OZEV to deliver on street residential vehicle charging units. Across Staffordshire as part of the Local Electric Vehicles Infrastructure programme.	Operations	Short to Medium-Term (3-6 years)



# Pillar 4. Business Engagement.



Action	Description	Responsible Service	Status
Business Growth Programme	A series of activities to support local business growth and to encourage entrepreneurs. Also includes funding to support sustainability best practices including practical advice and both revenue and capital grants.	Economic Development and Planning	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Green Solutions Programme	Grants to support energy efficiency reports and funding to implement change.	Economic Development and Planning	Short to Medium-Term (3-6 years)
Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	Grants for rural businesses to acquire capital assets to deliver on achieving net zero.	Economic Development and Planning	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)



## Pillar 5. Sustainability Education.

Action	Description	Responsible Service	Status
Schools Climate Education Programme	Expansion of sustainability workshops in local schools.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Carbon Literacy Training	Provide climate training to council officers and businesses.	Regulatory Services	Immediate to Short-Term (1-3 years)
Sustainable Procurement Training	Develop guidance for low-carbon procurement.	Transformation & Assurance	Short to Medium-Term (3-6 years)



# Monitoring & Reporting.

**This Climate Action Plan will be reviewed annually, with progress updates published on the council's website.**

**Key indicators for success include:**

- Reduction in carbon emissions from council operations.
- Increase in renewable energy generation and energy efficiency improvements.
- Expansion of EV charging and sustainable transport use.
- Increased engagement and participation in sustainability initiatives.
- Increased engagement with businesses around sustainability.



# Conclusion.

Stafford Borough Council remains committed to climate action, working with residents, businesses, and local stakeholders to create a sustainable and resilient future. This plan provides a clear roadmap for reducing emissions and integrating sustainability into council operations.



**Agenda Item 4(b)i****Permission to Spend - Community Safety Funding  
2025-26**

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 April 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Wellbeing
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Community Portfolio

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**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval to spend the allocated Community Safety Funding, for the purposes of improving community safety and reducing crime and disorder in the borough.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to accept, and approve, the spend of £72,382 Community Safety Funding allocated to the Council by the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime, hereafter referred to as the Staffordshire Commissioner.
- 2.2 That authority to enter into any necessary agreements to enable the Council to spend the funding be delegated to the Head of Wellbeing, in consultation with the Community Wellbeing Partnership.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.3 The £72,382 funding allocated to the Council from the Staffordshire Commissioner will be spent on implementing several community safety initiatives across the borough and will assist the Community Safety Partnership in its statutory duty to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending.
- 2.4 Some flexibility will be required over the period of the funding in order to be able to respond to different pressures and emerging themes and trends as they arise. For this reason, it is requested that Cabinet delegates authority for the detail of the spend to be approved by the Head of Service in consultation with the Community Wellbeing Partnership.

### **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 All Community Safety Partnerships across Staffordshire receive funding from the Staffordshire Commissioner annually to support their work tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

### **4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This supports the delivery of Corporate Business Objective 2,  
“To improve the quality of life of local people by providing a safe, clean attractive place to live and work and encouraging people to be engaged in developing strong communities that promote health and wellbeing”.

### **5 Report Detail**

- 5.1 The Staffordshire Commissioner allocates annual funding to all Community Safety Partnerships across Staffordshire to assist with the development and commissioning of projects to address local community safety issues.
- 5.2 The purpose of the funding is to give Community Safety Partnerships control and flexibility when allocating funding in their local area.
- 5.3 The amount of Community Safety Funding received for 2025/26 is £72,382.
- 5.4 The allocation of this funding is agreed at the Community Wellbeing Partnership, before the proposals are ratified by the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office.
- 5.5 Funding will be aligned to the local community safety priorities identified within the Community Safety Strategic Assessment, and those identified by the Community Wellbeing Partnership. These are:
- (a) Anti-Social Behaviour;
  - (b) Domestic Abuse;
  - (c) Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism;
  - (d) Drugs;
  - (e) Vulnerability, including Mental Health and Substance Misuse;
  - (f) Theft, including Shoplifting;
  - (g) Violence Against the Person, including Stalking and Harassment and Violence Against Women and Girls.
- 5.6 Funding is for a one-year period, from 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026.
- 5.7 An evaluation of spend will be submitted to the Community Wellbeing Partnership, the Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Staffordshire Commissioner.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

Expected income, no implications.

### **6.2 Legal**

Upon receipt of instructions to Legal Services, consideration will need to be given to the capacity within the team for the drafting and provision of advice regarding legal agreements, and whether the work will need to be outsourced or carried out in-house.

Whilst it is likely that the majority of contracts required for the delivery of funded projects shall be grant agreements, which are not subject to the Council's Procurement Regulations, Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or to the Procurement Act 2023, any contract for goods, services and/or works required for the delivery of a project shall be procured in accordance with the Procurement Regulations and the requisite procurement legislation.

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None

### **6.4 Risk Management**

None

### **6.5 Equalities and Diversity**

None

### **6.6 Health**

The impact of ASB and criminality on individuals and communities is well documented, and is known to impact upon both physical and mental health. By seeking to address these issues via appropriate allocation of grant funding, it is hoped that these negative effects shall be minimised.

### **6.7 Climate Change**

None

## **7 Appendices**

None

## **8 Previous Consideration**

None

## **Background Papers**

None

**Contact Officer:** Oliver Greatbatch  
**Telephone Number:** 01543 464477  
**Ward Interest:** All  
**Report Track:** Cabinet 10 April 2025 (Only)  
**Key Decision:** Yes

**Agenda Item 4(b)ii****Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub  
Community Interest Company**

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 April 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Wellbeing
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Community Portfolio

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**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To approve additional financial support to the Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub Community Interest Company (the Hub).

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 To allocate £15,000 to the Hub, to enable them to continue to receive food deliveries for a further 12 months.

**Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.2 The Hub plays an essential role in procuring additional food for the food banks. At a time when demand for food is outstripping supply, the contribution made by the Hub needs to be sustained. The Hub gets weekly deliveries from FareShare which it then distributes to 6 foodbanks in the Borough. The Hub needs additional funding to be able to keep this weekly delivery.
- 2.3 If the funding isn't allocated to the Hub, the FareShare delivery would be lost. FareShare are no longer accepting new customers or increasing deliveries to existing customers.

**3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 All of the foodbanks in the Borough are struggling to meet demand for food. In 2022 the Hub was set up with support from the Borough Council to take delivery of a weekly Fareshare food package which would be distributed to the food banks. Despite trying to source alternative funding to ensure the deliveries can continue, the Directors of this Community Interest Company have yet to find a sustainable funding source. They have made applications to several organisations without success.

- 3.2 FareShare Midlands, who supply the Hub are not taking on new contracts and existing contract holders are unable to increase their weekly orders. If this delivery wasn't continued, there isn't the option to reinstate it in the foreseeable future and Stafford Borough would lose this valuable resource.

## 4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 This supports the Communities and Wellbeing Corporate Priority.

## 5 Report Detail

- 5.1 There is no widely accepted definition of 'food poverty', however a household can broadly be defined as experiencing food poverty if they are unable to consume an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways. A Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) survey suggested that in 2022/23, 7.2 million people or, 11% of the population of the UK were in food insecure households. This had increased by 2.5 million from the previous year. In 2022/23 DWP published statistics found that 2.3 million people in the UK lived in a household which had used a food bank in the previous 12 months, 3% of the population. This includes 6% of children. *(House of Commons Library, Food poverty: Households, food banks and free school meals. September 2024).*
- 5.2 The extent of food poverty continues to increase at a significant rate. The Trussell Trust state that the number of people in the UK that used a foodbank for the first time between April 2023 and March 2024 was 655,000. The number of food parcels distributed increased by over 90%. Recent research commissioned by the Trussell Trust and carried out by YouGov found almost one in five people receiving Universal Credit and disability benefits have used a food bank in the last month.
- 5.3 All the local foodbanks in the Borough are seeing significant demand for food. This comes at a time where there has been a simultaneous reduction in the volume of donations from the public, who are often struggling with the rising cost of living, and from supermarkets and shops who are doing more to reduce food waste. This has led to a position where foodbanks are often not able to meet all the need they identify.
- 5.4 To respond to these challenges, in 2022, the council worked with the voluntary sector to set up the Hub. The Hub is a Community Interest Company and receives food from FareShare, a Registered Charity that redistributes surplus food from across the food industry to charities and community groups. Six foodbanks chose to become members of the Hub, Elim Hope Church in Stafford, Frank Jordan Community Centre in Stone, Holmcroft Community Centre, Stafford, House of Bread in Stafford, Signposts Services foodbank based at Rising Brook Baptist Church in Stafford and Staffordshire Women's Aid. The Hub is entirely staffed by volunteers.

- 5.5 In the past 12 months the Hub have provided over 20 tonnes of additional food free of charge into the system, equivalent to nearly 50,000 meals. This is a very cost-effective method of providing food to those in most need. The Hub have calculated that their current social return on investment is approximately £280,000 per annum, over 18% ROI (source: SRI ratio in Local Food SROI report 2013).
- 5.6 FareShare Midlands, who supply the Hub are unable to take on new contracts or increase any weekly orders, due to their own challenges in sourcing sufficient food. If the Hub is unable to continue with their contract, food banks in the Borough will lose 480kg of food each week at a time when all are struggling to meet demand.
- 5.7 The current members of the Hub are all keen to continue with the arrangement. Unfortunately, due to the limited amount of food FareShare Midlands can provide, it hasn't been possible to extend the scheme to more foodbanks.
- 5.8 Although the current arrangements can't be extended to more foodbanks, there is a high degree of cooperation between the foodbanks in the Borough. If one has surplus stock of a particular item of food this is shared with the other foodbanks. This collective action is making a significant difference to the ability of some of the foodbanks to meet their demands.

## **6 Implications**

### **6.1 Financial**

None

### **6.2 Legal**

None

### **6.3 Human Resources**

None

### **6.4 Risk Management**

None

### **6.5 Equalities and Diversity**

### **6.6 Health**

This arrangement will make an appreciable difference to those most at risk of food poverty and hunger, it will support those households who are experiencing the impacts of the cost of living rises. In June 2024, people living

in households facing food insecurity were over twice as likely to be living with a mental health condition (28.0%) compared to those without any such condition (10.7%) (The Food Foundation).

## **6.7 Climate Change**

None

## **7 Appendices**

None

## **8 Previous Consideration**

None

## **9 Background Papers**

Support to the Voluntary Sector: Stafford Community Food Distribution Hub,  
Cabinet 7 May 2024

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Anna Nevin
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	01785 619176
<b>Ward Interest:</b>	N/A
<b>Report Track:</b>	Cabinet 10 April 2025 (Only)
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No