

Draft Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2040

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Foreword

We have a leadership role in achieving a sustainable climate. The council declared a climate emergency on 23 July 2019. We recognise that we cannot achieve this on our own and we will need to work with, and have the support of, the whole community as we believe that this is everybody's responsibility.

The council has a good reputation for being proactive in respect of climate change and sustainable development and has never shied away from its contribution towards the differing national agendas over the years. The council has been at the forefront of implementing a number of initiatives that support this agenda. Results from the 2019 Friends of the Earth Survey on how climate-friendly local authorities are, places Stafford Borough Council as first in the county.

On 23 July we joined other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency and made the commitment that as an authority we would become carbon neutral by 2040. As part of that commitment the council is updating its Corporate Business Plan to include climate change across all our corporate business objectives. This strategy sets out how we aim to achieve our outcome of carbon neutrality and how we will work with our communities to become a more sustainable borough and reduce our carbon footprint.

Councillor Jonathan Price

Cabinet Member for Environment

Introduction

This strategy will support and enhance the work that is currently underway within the council regarding climate change. This document provides direction as to how we will tackle climate change and achieve a more sustainable Stafford Borough by recognising existing activities and identifying future actions.

The future of our planet is of great importance. At a global level, we are faced with the international implications of climate change; population migration, deforestation, oceanic currents and weather changes, depletion of non-renewable resources, desertification, loss of biodiversity and the chemical loading of the atmosphere. At a local level, issues around flooding, summer heat, pollution of the air, land and rivers, loss of wildlife habitats, agricultural yields and diseases, and the effects of waste disposal (including managing plastics). The majority of these problems are caused by the accumulation of local and global impacts.

It is therefore vital that local action is taken to protect our local environment in order to maintain and improve the quality of life of both present and future generations.

Stafford Borough has a key leadership role in tackling climate change. Being smarter and more proactive about our energy management and the reduction of associated emissions of greenhouse gases has been an important focus for the council over the past few years. Although we cannot reverse the impact that climate change has already had on our borough, we can alter what we do in order to limit that impact.

We are already purchasing 10% of green electricity and improving energy efficiency in our buildings in order to ensure long-term sustainability. Solar panel installation at our sites at the Civic Centre and Riverway has generated electricity resulting in a saving of over 200 tonnes of CO₂. Since the cremators were replaced in 2013 at Stafford Crematorium the gas consumption has dropped from a high of 2 million kWh in one single year to an average of 750,000 kWh/year.

Long-term sustainability is central to the vision of both our Corporate Business Plan 2018 – 2021 and Local Plan. We are integrating climate change into our Corporate Business Plan to acknowledge the importance of reducing the effects of climate change locally and implementing measures to modify our practices to adapt to the changes that have already occurred. Only by placing this at the core of our business planning process can we ensure that we take climate change into account in the services that we deliver.

A new Local Plan is currently being prepared, with one of the key drivers being to achieve our ambitions for carbon neutrality. The plan will promote sustainable construction and house building, protect and enhance the natural environment, mitigate the risk of flooding, promote carbon reduction in travel and encourage renewable energy production.

What is Climate Change?

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

Facts:

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

What does this mean for us?

For the UK, climate change means hotter, drier summers (more heat-waves), milder winters, higher sea levels and an increased flood risk to coastal areas. Across the globe, there will be more intense heat waves, droughts and more flooding. There may be severe problems in regions where people are particularly vulnerable to changes in the weather. Population migration, water and food shortages and the spread of disease are commonly predicted. The social, environmental and economic costs of climate change could be huge.

Local impacts are harder to predict but flooding is a significant risk for Stafford. In addition, feeling safe and being able to live independently in your own home and surrounding area are vital to our wellbeing¹ and ensuring the conditions to foster good health across the community is already a priority for the Borough Council.

Ozone pollution and an increased incidence of extreme weather events will have a negative effect on the health of those in affected areas. The scale of the health impacts [of climate change] will depend on the success of mitigation and adaptation measures, and will vary between geographical areas and population groups².

Addressing both the causes and impacts of climate change can bring health improvements — for example, through policies that emphasise the importance of well insulated, affordable homes; that reduce air pollution; or encourage physical activity by active travel and increased access to green space. We have an opportunity to further increase community resilience, enhancing the capacity of residents to mitigate their individual impact on the environment and collectively having better emergency and disaster-preparedness.

¹ Corporate Business Plan 2018-2021

² <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/time-think-differently/trends-broader-determinants-health-climate-change>

What is Carbon Neutrality?

Carbon neutrality, refers to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions. This can be achieved through the employment of two main methods; firstly through the practice of “carbon offsetting”, and secondly through the elimination of carbon emissions altogether.

Carbon Offsetting

Carbon offsetting refers to the process of balancing carbon released into the atmosphere with carbon removed from the atmosphere. This necessitates a rate of removal beyond that which can be achieved from natural processes. Therefore, to successfully achieve carbon neutrality through the balancing of carbon-emissions, efforts must be made to either create or contribute to carbon removal schemes.

Carbon removal is an emerging field, with solutions to carbon removal being increasingly explored. However, there are also pre-existing solutions to carbon removal which can be easily integrated into the built and natural environment. For example, through the provision of a green network which continuously filters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

The removal of carbon from the atmosphere to balance carbon emissions is not an easy task, and requires a commitment to the widespread deployment of a variety of carbon removal measures.

Eliminating Carbon Emissions

Perhaps the most obvious way to achieve carbon neutrality is to eliminate carbon emissions completely. However, this requires the transformation to alternative practices in all human activities which result in the release of carbon emissions. Whilst this will be both time and resource intensive, there are already solutions available which will aid in the realisation of this objective. For example, transforming energy systems through the installation of renewable energy infrastructure eliminates the need for fossil fuel consumption, meaning that our supply of electric will be carbon neutral.

Whilst the aforementioned methods involve different processes, it is important that they are not viewed in isolation from each other. To achieve carbon neutrality, and limit global warming, a holistic approach must be used. These processes work in synergy with each other; if carbon emissions are reduced, there is less carbon to be removed from the atmosphere. Therefore, these approaches must be used in tandem with each other. Only when this is achieved, will the worst effects of climate change be avoided.

Our Vision and Objectives

Our Vision is to have a 'Prosperous and Attractive Borough with Strong Communities'

This is the vision that drives our Corporate Business Plan and this strategy supports reducing the effects of climate change. Over the next few years our delivery will be focused upon the following objectives.

We will:

- Reduce emissions from our own activities to work towards carbon neutrality by 2040
- Work in partnership with government, elected bodies and elected members, businesses, partners and residents across the borough to take action that contributes to carbon neutrality and sustainable development within communities
- Mitigate climate change (helping to prevent any worsening of the situation, for example by introducing low carbon energy sources)
- Adapt to climate change (accepting that there has been an effect from climate change and introducing measures to overcome the consequences, for example flood risk prevention)
- Consider the effects of our policies upon achieving a sustainable economy and employment.
- Facilitate healthy communities.
- Educating young people about the importance of climate change and engaging them in the changes necessary to make it happen.
- Drive a broader green agenda to limit the effects of all local pollution.
- Encourage and research waste reduction and recycling methods with an emphasis on plastics and procurement.
- Provide leadership and influence in developing social responsibility in responding to a climate emergency.

CC1: Reducing emissions from our own activities

The council has been very proactive over the years in reducing emissions from its own activities. We have embraced renewable energy technologies and took advantage of the feed in tariff when it was introduced. The installation of the Civic Centre photovoltaic system has generated £113,259.80, and has generated 244.255 megawatt hours' worth of energy. Furthermore, 241 tonnes of Co2 has been saved.

There are a number of other initiatives that have contributed to this agenda, for example:

- Replacing cremators at Stafford Crematorium with high efficiency models with heat recycling
- Boilers changed in our building to reduce energy consumption
- HR initiatives, for example working from home and cycle to work schemes
- IT improvements such as staff moving to laptops which reduces emissions
- Reduction in printing throughout the organisation
- Recycling around 52% of the waste that we collect from households each week
- Managing around 1,000 acres of parks and open spaces (carbon absorption)
- Installation of EV charging points on car parks
- Progressing initiatives to install solar PV panels on the roof of the Waterfront car park in Stafford, provide battery storage and use spare green electricity to sell on to local businesses in the Waterfront development
- Wherever appropriate and possible exploring opportunities to install solar powered equivalents to eventually replace existing lighting columns, parking machines, public realm power boxes etc.
- Adaptation of our fleet to less polluting vehicles.

When the council was last audited, the carbon balance excluding waste derived emissions was 1,500 tonnes CO2 pa output. In order to achieve carbon neutrality a figure of zero would need to be achieved. In terms of our own activities, policies driven by the council can achieve large carbon saving impacts when compared to a benchmark year.

It is also important that we recognise the challenges of cutting fuel use at the crematorium, waste fleet and vehicle use (including staff commuting), as well as the implications for disposing/treating the waste arising from our residential collections.

Our back office systems within our authority have an important role to play, for example reducing the use of paper (such as the introduction of electronic payslips), improved IT systems which reduce emissions and HR policies which promote more sustainable means of travel and reduce the need to travel (e.g. home working).

Over the next few years our areas of focus will be:

- Undertake a meaningful audit of the council's carbon footprint to derive the council's own carbon inputs and output
- Reducing our energy and water consumption
- Promote green travel and transport for our staff and within our service areas including installation of more EV charging points
- Reducing waste and improving recycling (particularly for plastics).

CC2: Work in partnership with Government, Elected Bodies and Elected Members, Partners and Residents across the Borough to take action that contributes to carbon neutrality and sustainable development within communities

Climate Change is everybody's responsibility. To achieve our goals we need to work with a broad range of partners. We will need to lobby central government for resources to assist us in achieving carbon neutrality. We will need to work with elected members and all residents to take action that will contribute to carbon neutrality and sustainable development in all of our communities.

Through the Local Strategic Partnership we will engage with other stakeholders to embed climate change in our activities with the aim of reducing its impact locally. This is also important when working with our economic colleagues through the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and the Constellation Partnership.

We are driving forward a real opportunity, through the New Local Plan, for all members and residents to influence the development of large scale developments, such as a proposed new garden community and Stafford Station Gateway. These large scale developments are where we will achieve most return on our ambition to become carbon neutral.

The council is revising the Local Plan and will include implications of climate change through new developments and policies. This includes working with other Staffordshire districts on sustainable energy and flood risk evidence to inform the New Local Plan as well as supporting parish councils to consider these issues through their preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

The refresh of the Local Plan will promote:

- Carbon saving installations such as electric vehicle charging points
- Closer working with developers to build sustainable/carbon neutral homes and settlements
- The installation of renewable energy infrastructure
- Designs for community heating
- Green Infrastructure and habitat management

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises local authorities' ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all homes. The council has recently updated its report for Stafford Borough, and its associated action plan in accordance with guidance issued under HECA. The action plan details local energy ambitions and priorities, planned interventions which take advantage of assistance from central government, plans to work on an area based or 'street by street' roll out of improvements and to work together with local communities and partners such as social housing providers, voluntary organisations and parish councils to achieve our goals. There is a commitment to work in partnership with a specialist energy agency to tackle a number of issues including cold homes, fuel poverty and carbon emissions.

From 1 April 2018 all privately rented dwellings should be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard (Energy Performance Certificate Rating E or above). The authority is working with landlords and tenants to highlight the benefits of energy efficiency work, promote awareness of available assistance to help improve homes, ensure all new tenants are provided with information so that they can consider potential energy costs. In addition the council is working in partnership with a specialised energy agent to develop programmes which improve home energy efficiency and reduce fuel consumption.

Stafford Borough Council's Eco Schools Network has recently been reintroduced, meetings are held once a term. The network promotes information sharing between schools, organisations and the council about environmental projects and initiatives. The council also provides the Eco Schools with a grant to carry out environmentally friendly projects.

For a number of years the council has worked proactively with residents in Derrington, Penkside and Littleworth to introduce low carbon communities and sustainable development initiatives such as solar photovoltaic schemes on community used buildings, affordable warmth and energy efficiency initiatives, planted wild flower gardens and orchards.

The borough is fortunate enough to be based in one of the most picturesque parts of England, offering a range of high quality attractions and beautiful countryside. Maintaining our natural and built heritage and managing change and well planned, appropriate growth, is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development and create more cohesive and sustainable communities. Green Infrastructure (GI) and the protection of our diverse ecological assets including 16 Site of Scientific Interest (SSSIs) – which include 2 National Nature Reserves (NNRs), 3 RAMSARs (Internationally recognised site for wetland birds), 4 Special Area of Conservation (SACs), 7 Local Nature Reserves and 173 Sites of Biological Interest (SBI's) have a significant role to play in helping achieve sustainable development and to adapt to and mitigate for climate change. Working locally with the Wildlife Trust, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) partnership, other local authorities and national organisations we can help to preserve and enhance these assets.

Many of our important habitats are under threat from climate change as well as air pollution and visitor and development pressures. We are working closely with our neighbouring authorities, Natural England and national conservation charities to safeguard the future of these habitats and the wildlife which rely on them. Ensuring we maintain functional habitat networks will guarantee the ecosystem services we rely upon and could also help mitigate some of the effects of climate change in Stafford (such as reducing the impacts of flooding). Work with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has produced a Nature Recovery Network map in order to understand the distribution of these habitats and key areas for priority action. Alongside this ground-breaking work is underway to combat the negative affects of atmospheric deposition of Nitrogen.

Promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles is also an important contributory factor in our communities, many health and well-being interventions can also bring about reductions in CO2 emissions. The continuation of this good work will be achieved through the development of sustainable energy sources, carrying out home energy audits, encouraging homes to grow their own produce and encouraging the use of alternative methods of transport such as walking and cycling.

Plastics have also been high on the national agenda. The increase of single-use and disposable plastics across the UK has been detrimental to our society and wildlife, with only 10-13% of plastic items being recycled each year. Significant steps have already been taken to reduce plastic waste across the country, with the Resources and Waste Strategy for England (2018) setting out a blueprint to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2050.

Stafford Borough Council recognises the importance of taking action in line with national best practice to ensure the issues of single use plastics is addressed. To ensure this, in September 2019 the council passed a motion committing them to take actions to reduce the use of plastic products both internally within the council and across the borough as a whole. It is critical to Stafford Borough's society and environmental well-being that we align with these objectives and make a stand against the use of single use plastics, alongside the large-scale, systematic changes required to reach carbon neutrality.

It is important that our economic agenda promotes low carbon technology and a reduction in climate change emissions. We are a member of the Staffordshire Business and Environment Network which encourages energy saving and environmental projects in businesses. Through our council activities we promote the use of local businesses and supply chains to facilitate more sustainable journeys. We are currently looking at opportunities to attract inward investment from environmental technology companies which will bring added value to the local economy, including the production of new battery products and make a contribution to national objectives on carbon reduction. This includes supporting the £23m skills and innovation hub at Stafford College which is generating skills and research to support the electric vehicle sector.

To support the local economy we will promote investment in full fibre/gigabit communications to improve the efficiency of businesses and enable working from home to reduce travel impacts on carbon footprint and support sustainable smaller communities.

We want to encourage all local community groups to sign up to a climate change pledge that will demonstrate their commitment in supporting this very important agenda. Over the next few years we will:

- Work with government and elected bodies to determine best practice
- Encourage members to work with their communities and take action
- Work to support the poor and vulnerable with energy measures
- Adopt our New Local Plan
- Continue to work with our local and national partners
- Protect and enhance our environment
- Support businesses to be more environmentally friendly

CC3: Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that humankind has 12 years to ensure global warming is limited to a maximum of 1.5°C. Surpassing this threshold would significantly worsen the risks posed to humans and wildlife on a global scale.

Climate change can be mitigated for in a variety of ways. Large scale efforts such as the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and the electrification of transport networks are incredibly important when considering how to limit the effects of climate change.

The importance of the collective efforts of our population should not be underestimated. For example, reducing the individual carbon footprint by a more considerate choice of transportation methods and effective recycling can both contribute positively to the mitigation of climate change. These types of practices should be encouraged wherever possible.

To successfully mitigate the effects of climate change, a united and holistic approach must be adopted. The council's position as a Local Authority means that it has a duty to establish itself as a front runner when responding to the challenge of mitigating climate change. Therefore, the council must consider how it can facilitate the transition of its operations, and the operations over which it has influence, to the use of more environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.

Statistical climate models produce projected scenarios for future time periods. It is possible to estimate how the climate is likely to change in our borough. This information enables us to ascertain what actions should be taken, in the event that such changes occur.

The council produced its first Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2010 and the strategy assessed trends in the following:

- Hotter summer temperatures (more heatwaves).
- Milder winter temperatures.
- Drier summers (more droughts).
- Wetter winters (more fluvial flooding).
- Increase in extreme weather events and surface water flooding.
- Increase in the incidence of lightning.
- Impacts from snow, ice, hail or extreme cold.
- Impacts from strong winds.

This comprehensive risk assessment was used to determine what adaptation responses were required in the borough. However, even if the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases stopped tomorrow, the gases already in the atmosphere would continue to drive climate change for at least the next 30 years. Stafford Borough has to continue to adapt to the climate change that is now inevitable.

Worldwide efforts to reduce emissions will have long-term benefits and may allow us to stop short of the dangerous 'tipping points' that will initiate runaway climate change.

Measures to adapt to local climate change range from communication and education to the construction or improvement of flood defences. Any adaptation measures selected must be specific to the local environment and must be sustainable.

The council will seek to:

- Identify any opportunities to change how we, our partners and suppliers work to more sustainable practices, and consider how these will be actioned.
- Lead and influence communities to participate in environmentally healthier lifestyles
- Refresh the climate change adaptation strategy
- Undertake a comprehensive risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate

Monitoring our Progress

The council has undertaken a commitment to report progress in relation to this Climate Change Strategy to all members at full council on an annual basis. A detailed action plan will be devised and progress against the actions will be reported through Scrutiny Committee. This information will be used to evaluate the action plan and to update it on an annual basis.

An action plan has been appended to the end of this document; it is currently work in progress until a carbon audit of the authority has been undertaken to understand the specific areas of carbon reduction that need to be targeted.

Appendix 1 – Stafford Borough Council Climate Change Pledge

The Council agree to:-

- (a) Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency and work towards achieving our vision of carbon neutrality by 2040;
- (b) Continue to concentrate on activities that reduce emissions from its own activities and will work towards carbon neutrality by 2040;
- (c) Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2040 target possible.
- (d) Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C and consider how this could be addressed through the Local Plan process;
- (e) Continue to work with partners across the Borough to deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and initiatives;
- (f) Explore through the Local Plan process, the expansion of community energy with a view to keeping the benefits of our local energy generation in our local economy;
- (g) Report progress to scrutiny at the appropriate time to include a report within 12 months as to the actions the Council has taken and proposes to take;
- (h) Encourage elected Members to work with their communities and local business enterprises and empower them to;
 - Sign up to the Climate Emergency pledge;
 - Take action that helps to improve the sustainability of their neighbourhoods, the health and wellbeing of residents and the energy efficiency of community and domestic buildings.

Appendix 2 – Draft Action Plan

Ref	We will:	Performance Indicators	Target	Outcome	Resources Budgets/ Sources of funding	
CC1	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own activities to work towards carbon neutrality by 2040	Net emission balance of council operations	Target to be confirmed following carbon audit	Carbon neutrality by 2040	To be determined following carbon audit	
Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Auditing our Carbon Balance						
1.1	Audit the carbon balance of our council activities, set a baseline, identify sources of emissions and explore solutions to reduce them (including aligning actions with the council's transformation process)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set a baseline year 2. Audit energy use 3. Audit fleet and car emissions 4. Audit contractors impacts 5. Compare emission sources 6. Prioritise cost/benefit actions 	1 month from 1.4.20 6 months from 1.4.20 12 months from 1.4.20 12 months from 1.4.20 12 months from 1.4.20 15 months from 1.4.20	Tracy Redpath	All	All service areas

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Reducing our Energy and Water Consumption						
1.2	Reduce energy consumption and emissions for our buildings and investigate opportunities for renewable energy throughout the council and its operations.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audit organisational energy use by service areas 2. Prioritise savings by sectors such as lighting 3. Research alternative sources/technology for invest to save. 	<p>6 months from 1.4.20</p> <p>6 months from 1.above</p> <p>6 months from 1.</p>	Paul Gerrard / Property Services	1.1	All service areas
1.3	Reduce water use through the recycling of 'Grey Water'.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set a baseline year 2. Audit water use 3. Identify savings 4. Options appraisal 	12 months for all	Paul Gerrard	N/a	Street Scene
1.4	Achieve ISO 14001: Environmental Management for Operations.	Accreditation complete	Within 12 x months of the adoption of the action plan (01/04/2020)	Phil Bates/Gary Withington	TBC	QMS, Corporate and Operational Services.
Promote green travel and transport for our staff and within our service areas						
1.5	<p>30% journey reduction from baseline</p> <p>Reduce number of commuting journeys by car through agile/flexible working.</p> <p>Car sharing mode of transport</p> <p>cycling</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commuting baseline defined 2. Asses journeys by service area 3. Report the percentage change 	<p>6 months from 1.4.20</p> <p>12 months from 1.4.20</p> <p>13 months from 1.4.20</p>	HR	1.1	Service managers

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Reducing Waste and Improving recycling (particularly for plastics)						
1.6	Reduce emissions from fleet vehicles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish fleet vehicle emissions baseline 2. Audit fleet vehicle emissions 3. Devise emissions reduction strategy 	Within 12 months of 1.4.20	Shaun Baker	1.1	Service managers
1.7	Work with communities to continue to minimise waste and improve the quality of recycling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The promotion of home composting. 2. The reduction of unwanted or non-recyclable items through a communications campaign. 3. The consultation of the blue bag recycling scheme and chargeable green waste (CGW). 4. Members involvement in customer awareness programmes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 2020 for the blue bag scheme 2. January 2021 for CGW. 3. Community awareness programmes of communication both corporately and locally. 	Communications team, waste and recycling section	2.2 / 2.3	Contractors, public and suppliers.
1.8	Reduce the amount of plastics within the authority, in particular single use plastics and continue to minimise waste and improve the quality of recycling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the amount of plastics, particularly single use, that SBC utilises throughout 2. To audit all uses/users. 3. To look at alternative products and services. 4. To look at internal procedures for usage and identify green procurement practices. 	Within 12 months of the 01/04/2020.	Service managers for each identified area and procurement teams.	1.9	Shared services and procurement partners.

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
1.9	Work with contractors, communities and suppliers to minimise single use plastics items.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners. 2. Work with contractors and suppliers. 3. Gauge spend on low and hierarchical suppliers and contractors via procurement rules 4. New or insertions into the procurement guide. 5. Promote the reduction of single use plastics with letters and calendars. 6. Work with partners to prepare campaigns through the waste collection service. 	Within 12 months of the 01/04/2020.	Service Managers for each identified area and procurement teams.	1.8	Contractors, suppliers and internal/external procurement teams.

Ref	We will:	Performance Indicators	Target	Outcome	Resources Budgets/ Sources of funding	
CC2	Work in partnership with Government, Elected Bodies and Elected Members, Partners and Residents across the Borough to take action that contributes to carbon neutrality and sustainable development within communities.	Contribute to the development of a partnership strategy	12 months from 1.4.20	To deliver actions identified in the partnership strategy	TBC	
Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Work with government and elected bodies to determine best practice						
2.1	Work with other elected bodies (both within the UK and internationally) to determine best practice methods to limit Global Warming to contribute to the development of a partnership strategy.	Contribute to the development of a partnership strategy.	12 months from 1.4.20	Leadership Team	2.5 / 2.9	Staffordshire partners

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Encourage members to work with their communities and take action						
2.2	Encourage elected Members to work with their communities and local business enterprises and empower them to take action that helps to improve the sustainability of their neighbourhoods, the health and wellbeing of residents and the energy efficiency of community and domestic buildings.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members to work with their communities to sign up to the climate change emergency pledge. Information pack to be created Members to facilitate climate change 	<p>1 month from 1.4.20</p> <p>6 months from 1.4.20</p> <p>1 year from 1.4.20</p>	Andy Bailey, Victoria Cooper, Martyne Manning & Heath and Housing	2.3 / 2.4	Elected members
2.3	Encourage elected members to work with their communities to encourage them to reduce the use of all single use plastic products.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Members to work with their communities to facilitate the reduction in single use plastics. Information pack to be created 	<p>1 month from 1.4.20</p> <p>6 months from 1.4.20</p> <p>1 year from 1.4.20</p>	Andy Bailey, Victoria Cooper, Martyne Manning Heath and Housing	2.2 / 2.4	Elected members
2.4	Encourage elected members to take action that helps to improve the sustainability of their neighbourhoods	Elected members to help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and the energy efficiency of community and domestic buildings	12 months from 1.4.20	All service areas	2.2 / 2.3	Elected members

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Work to support the poor and vulnerable with energy measures						
2.5	Work with a specialist energy agency to target fuel poor or vulnerable households with energy efficiency measures.	Annual contract targets set for volume of households supported to improve energy efficiency and/or reduce/remove fuel poverty, through measures installed and advice provided.	Specialist energy agent contract period 2020-2022	Health and Housing	Housing Strategy / Community Safety and Wellbeing Strategy	Specialist energy agent, Staffordshire County Council, Community Wellbeing Partnership.
Adopt our New Local Plan						
2.6	Refresh of the Local Plan including provision for carbon neutral new settlement	Issues & Options – February & March 2020 Preferred Option – January 2021 Publication – June 2021 Adoption – October 2022	From December 2019 to October 2022	Development	2.1 / 2.9	Statutory consultees and relevant landowners
Continue to work with our local and national partners						
2.7	Continue to work with partners across the Borough to encourage the reduction of carbon through all relevant strategies, plans and initiatives.	1. Working with our Staffordshire based partners to support the joint climate change evidence base 2. Working with the LEP and other Staffordshire authorities to support joined actions and strategies	6 months from 01.04.20 Ongoing	Tracy Redpath / Karen Tierney	2.4 / 2.5 / 2.7 / 2.9	Staffordshire LEP / Staffordshire Local Strategic Partnership / Staffordshire Chief Executives

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Protect and enhance our environment						
2.8	Work in partnership to improve air quality.	Monitor and review air quality across the borough to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met	Preparation of DEFRA annual monitoring report Air Quality Annual Status Report	Shaun Baker/ Regulatory services	Stafford Borough Council Air Quality Strategy	Key partners and community groups such as Staffordshire County Council and The University of the Third Age.
2.9	Investigate the opportunity for council owned land to be utilised for carbon offsetting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess and map potential council owned sites 2. Investigate tree planting opportunities 	<p>Summer 2021</p> <p>Summer 2021</p>	Jenny Boulton Bill Waller	1.1 / 2.9	Key partners include Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England
2.10	Increase the Green Network of the Borough, increasing carbon removal and providing a space for biodiversity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a tree strategy, an increase of community woodlands/orchards and policies in the local plan that promote carbon-offsetting. 2. Progress work relating to the development and implementation of Nature Recovery Networks. 3. Update the Local Nature Reserves Management Plan. 4. Develop a carbon neutral community. 	<p>2 years from 1.4.20</p> <p>Nature Recovery Network work ongoing</p> <p>5 year rolling programme Programme TBD</p>	Bill Waller / Jenny Boulton / Karen Tierney	2.8 / 2.5 / 2.1	<p>Key partners include Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England</p> <p>Homes England</p>
Support businesses to be more environmentally friendly						
2.12	Work with business to promote more sustainable practices to improve their carbon footprint	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate sustainable practices into the Community Awards Scheme 2. Use information pack created for Staffordshire Business and Environment Network (SBEN) and Town Centre Partnership 	<p>6 months</p> <p>1 year</p>	Martyne Manning / Ella Smith	2.6	Town Centre Partnership / SBEN

Ref	We will:	Performance Indicators	Target	Outcome	Resources Budgets/ Sources of funding	
CC3	Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change NOTE: Some mitigation and adaptation measures are covered elsewhere in the action plan. Those listed below are in addition to the ones already identified.	1. Integration of climate change principles into the procurement process to timescale 2. Identification of relevant campaigns to timescale 3. Progress of Adaptation Strategy	As below As below As below	Reduction in effects of climate change Publication of Adaptation Strategy	TBC	
Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Identify any opportunities to change how we, our partners and suppliers work to more sustainable practices, and consider how these will be actioned						
3.1	Align procurement processes to sustainable practices from suppliers	Review the procurement process	2 years	Contracts Manager / Finance	1.8 / 1.9	Service areas
Lead and Influence communities to participate in environmentally healthy lifestyles						
3.2	Initiate community campaigns to promote environmental sustainability and carbon reduction	Identify relevant campaigns with key partners	1 year	Health and Housing / Sports Development	1.7 / 2.2 / 2.3	Local communities

Ref	Actions	Milestones	Timescale	Owner	Links to other actions	Working with
Adapt to Climate Change						
3.3	Refresh the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Produce a Climate Action Plan 2. Work with council Services and Partners to ensure vulnerabilities and opportunities not yet addressed are featured in strategies and action plans 3. Production of an action plan of next steps in addressing significant vulnerabilities and opportunities 4. Delivery of a comprehensive risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate- now and future 5. Identification of priority risks for all council services 6. Identification of the most effective adaptive responses 	Autumn 2021	Jenny Boulton	All	SBC Colleagues/Sections SCC External Partners