

# Public Document Pack



## CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP (SMDC) AGENDA

**Date:** Wednesday, 23 April 2025

**Time:** 6.00 pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

22 April 2025

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Notification of Substitute Members, if any.
3. Declaration of Interests.
4. To Approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. **(Pages 3 - 6)**
5. Delivery Updates: **(Pages 7 - 22)**
  - a) Climate Change
  - b) Domestic Energy
  - c) Nature/Biodiversity
6. Climate Change and Nature Working Group Proposal. **(Pages 23 - 28)**

### **MARK TRILLO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

#### Membership of Climate Change Working Group (SMDC)

Councillor M Johnson (Chair)	Councillor C Jebb (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Barks	Councillor C Brady
Councillor M Durose	Councillor K Flunder
Councillor J Garvey	Councillor I Herdman
Councillor T Holmes	Councillor K Hoptroff
Councillor J Kempster	Councillor J Porter

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## **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING GROUP (SMDC) DECISIONS**

**MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025**

PRESENT: Councillor M Johnson (Chair)  
Councillor C Jebb (Vice Chair)

Councillors M Durose, B Emery, K Flunder, J Garvey, I Herdman,  
T Holmes, C Jebb and J Kempster

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor N Yates

APOLOGIES: Councillors P Barks, C Brady, K Hoptroff and J Porter

56 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY**

Councillor Emery was substitute member for Councillor Porter.

57 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

58 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 November 2024, be approved as a correct record.

59 **CLIMATE STRATEGY**

The Executive Director (Communities) stated that a review was required of where the Council was now, and what members thought the next steps and direction should be over the coming three years, taking into account Devolution and Local Government Reform (LGR). Matters for consideration were as follows:

- Both SMDC and HPBC declared a Climate Emergency in 2019
- Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans had been produced to help both Councils achieve net zero
- Plan for Nature produced
- Plan for Nature projects and Action Plan to be developed
- 2030 is the current Net Zero target for both Councils – is this achievable?
- Lots of change underway in government – Devolution and LGR as well as planning – all impact on this area of work
- Consultation

60 **RESULTS OF SMDC CONSULTATION**

The raw data results of the SMDC consultation response were presented to members by the Executive Director (Communities). Comments were made by members as follows:

- Raw data required presenting in clear and meaningful format to enable analysis and production of an Action Plan.
- All categories were equally important
- Need to identify which priorities realistically deliverable within next three years

The District's Net Zero target date was discussed, in light of the consultation, and a majority of members expressed a preference for maintaining it at 2030.

RESOLVED:

1. That an Action Plan be produced from the results of the consultation taking into account members' comments, as stated above.
2. That the consultation results be presented in a clearer format.
3. That the District's Net Zero target date be maintained at 2030.

61 **IMPLICATIONS OF DEVOLUTION AND LGR**

Discussion was held regarding the Government White Paper published in December 2024 relating to Devolution and LGR, which devolves new local powers around issues such as economic development and skills, housing, transport, the environment, regeneration and planning.

Opportunities were discussed, in light of the coming changes, for example:

- Greater collaboration and partnership working
- Improved community working
- Review of governance and meeting structure
- Revision of Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
- Revised Net Zero Target – to include a carbon neutral target
- Revised Sustainability Reporting Framework

A member suggested that an additional area of focus should be Climate Change education. It was noted that Moorlands Climate Action have plans for collaboration with local schools.

Members noted that it was incumbent on the Council to make positive decisions whilst still able, and to pass on a positive legacy to Parish and Town Councils, community groups and other targeted partners. The Executive Director (Communities) suggested that a network and stakeholder map be created.

RESOLVED:

1. That a network and stakeholder map be created, to identify community groups and other targeted partners.
2. That Climate Change education be included as an area of focus going forwards.

62 **COLLABORATION BETWEEN SMDC AND HPBC - JOINT WORKING GROUP**

Members discussed and were in agreement of working together with High Peak Borough Council, and the formation of a Joint Climate Change Working Group to address the common issues with regards to climate change; whilst still maintaining ongoing partnerships and projects, and continuing to work on local issues.

**RESOLVED:**

That a joint group with High Peak Borough Council be established from May 2025 with further details to be considered at the next meeting.

63 **NEXT STEPS**

Next steps and timescales were discussed around the Climate Change Strategy, Action Plan, Project Trackers and new governance structure; as well as the restructure underway within the Communities Team.

Options regarding the refresh of the timetable within the Climate Report were discussed.

The meeting closed at 7.51 pm

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Chair

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# Plan for Nature

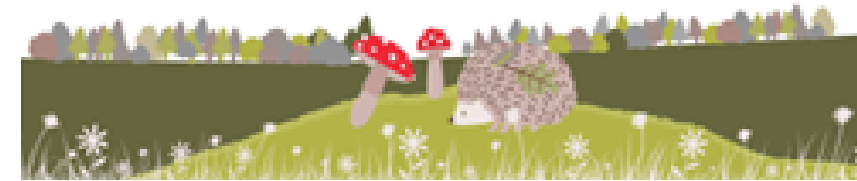


# CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION



# Climate and Nature Team

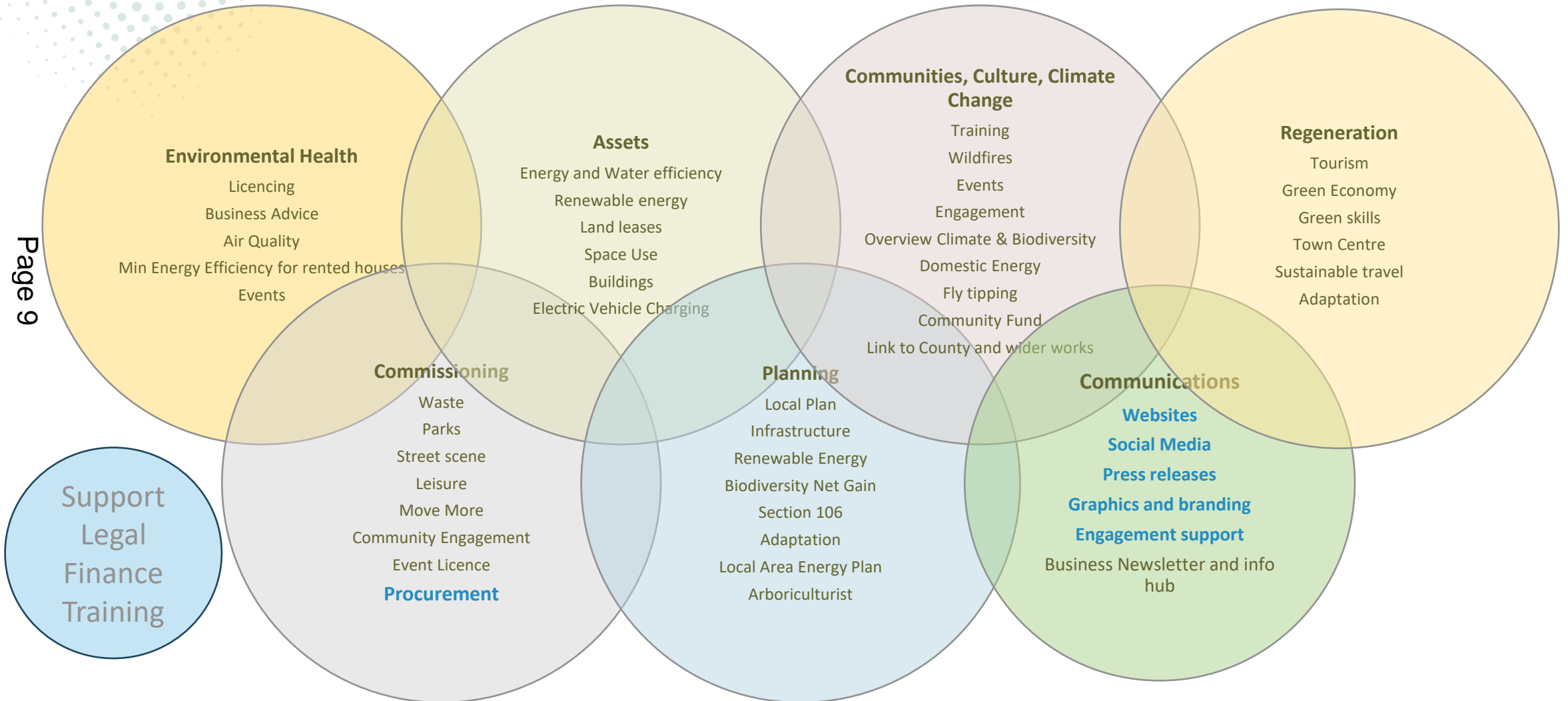
- New Director
- Interim Principal Officer
- Climate Change Officer (3 years)
- Biodiversity Officer (1 year)
- Domestic Energy Officer (6 months)
- Other changes to Heads of Service plus additional capacity in engagement on parks, move more, air quality and social housing.





# Climate Change & Biodiversity Delivery Group

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# Climate Change Action

- A few highlights



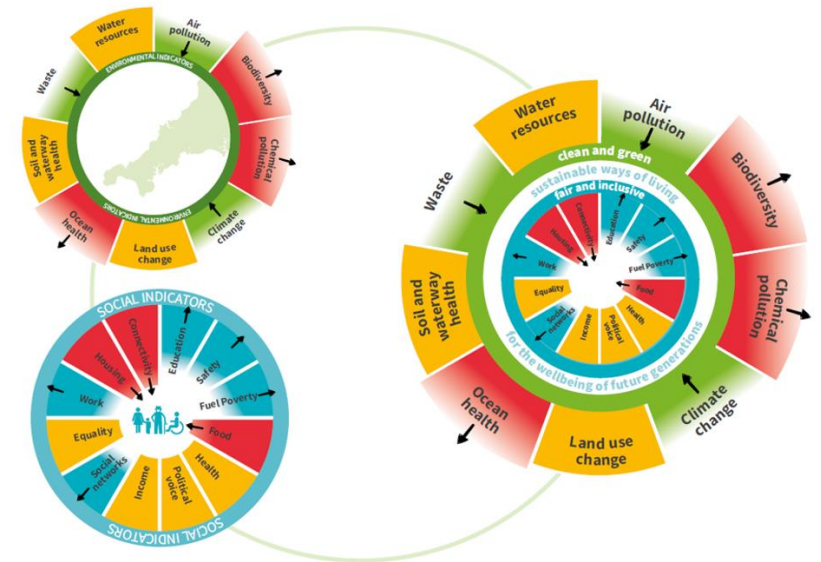
CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
ACTION

# The Way we Work

- EV Salary Sacrifice Scheme – explore charging point options
- Leisure PV and Air Source Heat Pump
- Inclusion of Climate Change and biodiversity on reports
- Induction climate briefing to new councillors using Doughnut Economic principles
- Procurement
- Carbon Literacy training for staff and councillors. Partnerships

Cornwall Decision Wheel

Long Lasting or Extensive Positive Impact	5
Short Term or Limited Positive Impact	4
No Impact or Neutral Impact	3
Short Term or Limited Negative Impact	2
Long Lasting or Severe Negative Impact	1



# Partners

- **Staffordshire County Council**
  - Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)
  - Climate Change group
  - Adaptation
- **Local Authority Energy Partnership**
  - Adaptation
  - Carbon Literacy
- **Beat the Cold**
  - Fuel Poverty
  - Community Engagement
  - HEAT hub research innovator
- **Staffordshire Warmer Homes**
  - Grant Recipient for energy funding
- **Community Home Solutions**
  - Deliver energy grant programmes
- **Midlands Net Zero Hub**
  - Local rep for Dept of Energy Security and Net Zero
- **Staffordshire Moorlands Green Network**
  - Environmental community groups
  - Links to youth programmes
  - Engagement
- **Support Staffordshire**
  - Climate and Nature Fund
  - Community Energy Fund
  - Staffordshire Green Network
  - Administer green Network

# Make Change Occur

- Climate and Nature Community Fund
  - 40 community action grants provided since 2022
- Communications and engagement
  - High presence on all social media channels, consistent use of branding feel across campaign strands
  - Developed assets and messages to drip feed and keep front of mind
- Support school influence initiatives



CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
ACTION

# Manage our Waste

- AES – trialling new technologies for fleet
- AES mapping routes for greatest efficiencies
- Preparing for new legislation
- Supporting businesses with new legislation
- Prevent fly tipping
- Comms and Engagement
- Contamination stickers
- Follow waste hierarchy on comms
- Support repair cafes, library of things and circular economy

# Domestic Energy Update – The Way We Live



CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
ACTION

# UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Cost of Living

Aims	Target	Actual
People supported	500	373 households 555 people
Households taking up energy efficiency measures	50	340
Organisations receiving grants	3	4
Savings - Annual estimated	n/a	£137,290
Carbon emission reductions - Annual estimated	n/a	524tCO <sub>2</sub> e

Data analysis exercise commissioned to targeted areas with future funding

## Top 10 tips to save energy

1. Switch off standby
2. Choose energy efficient appliances
3. Control your lighting
4. Reduce your water use
5. Take control of your heating
6. Get savvy with smart controls
7. Draught-proof your home
8. Upgrade your windows and doors
9. Install insulation
10. Financial support for energy saving measures

## We can help you save energy

Help is at hand for:

- Impartial energy advice
- Getting assessed for grant funding for energy efficiency or energy generating measures
- Accessing a free home visit with tailored advice and some small energy measures
- Support to understand your bill

For more information please scan the QR code or go to:  
[www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/Beat-the-Cold](http://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/Beat-the-Cold)  
 Telephone 01782 914 915  
 Email [enquiries@beatcold.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@beatcold.org.uk)  
 Visit <http://www.beatcold.org.uk/>





# Nature and Biodiversity – Key Achievements 2024



# Nature Declaration and Plan for Nature



- We adopted a Nature Recovery Declaration for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council in May 2024.

- Our Plan for Nature (an evidence-based strategy for nature recovery) was the first of its kind in the county and SMDC is in the top 3% of councils\* who have committed to protect and manage 30% of council landholdings for nature recovery by 2030.



## Nature commitments

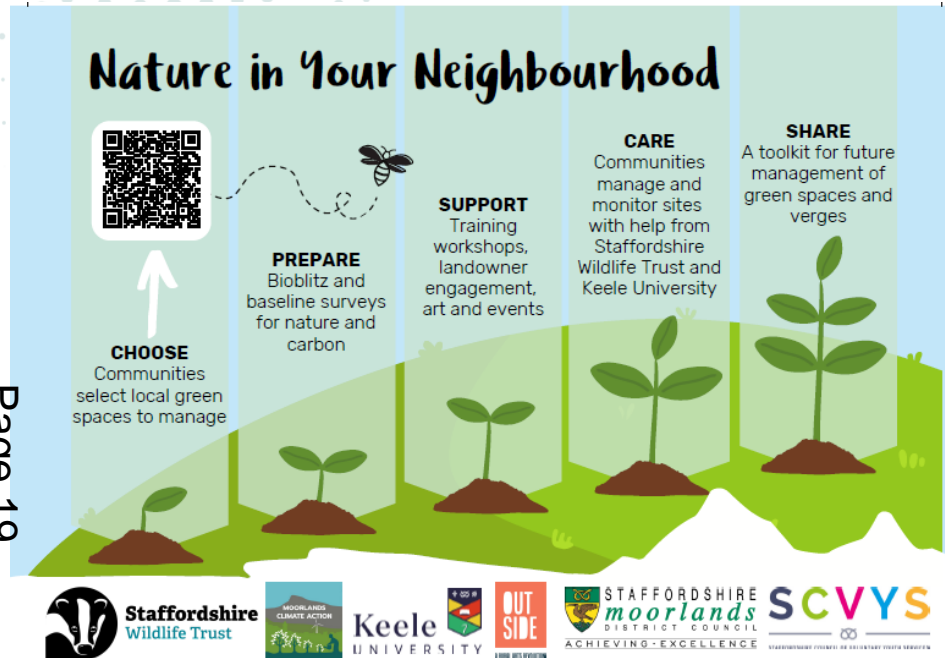
<b>!</b>	<b>Nature emergency</b>
✓	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council declared a nature emergency in 2024. ▶ <a href="#">Read the full declaration</a>
<b>1</b>	<b>Evidence-based action plan</b>
✓	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has committed to develop an evidence-based action plan for pushing nature into recovery.
<b>2</b>	<b>Embedded in strategy</b>
✓	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has committed to embed nature's recovery into all strategic plans and policy areas.
<b>3</b>	<b>30 by 30</b>
✓	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has committed to protect and manage 30% of council landholdings for nature recovery by 2030.



- We have launched a comms campaign to publicise our Plan for Nature and small actions people can take at home for nature.

# Partnership working

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- We have worked on launching the Nature in Your Neighbourhood partnership project with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and other stakeholders.



- We have worked with the County Council as a supporting authority on the Staffordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), due to launch in Summer 2025.



- We have represented SMDC on the Dove Catchment Partnership.



- We have worked with local community groups on a number of biodiversity and nature initiatives, and awarded grants to many successful community projects through the Staffordshire Moorlands Community Climate and Nature Fund and other funds.

# Cross departmental working

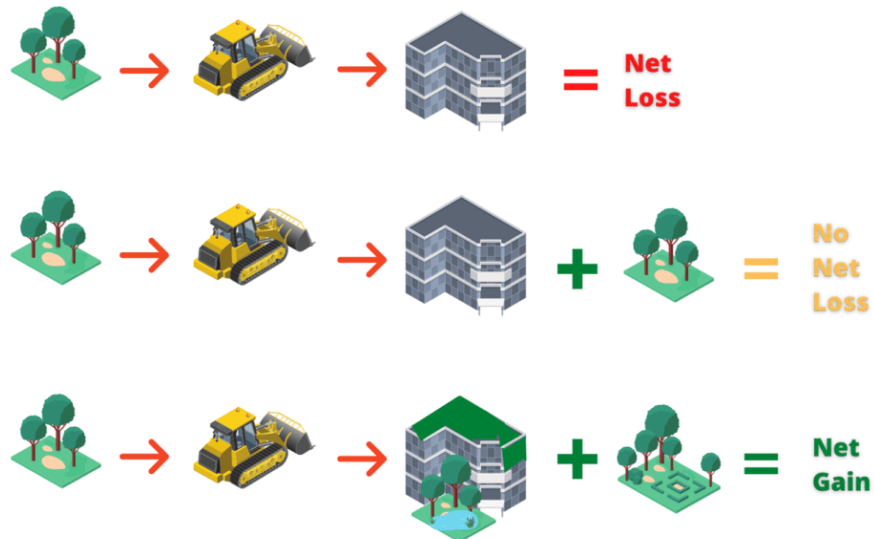
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This area is left unmown to promote biodiversity and support wildlife, scan the QR code to find out more.



- Work with the parks department on changes to mowing regimes for improving biodiversity, review of management plans for sites, launch of Green Spaces Strategy.
- Work with the planning department on implementing BNG, exploring habitat bank potential, and working with neighbouring authorities.



# Focus/Emerging Workstreams

## Part 1 direct control

- Fleet strategy and procurement (AES)
- New waste legislation
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Funding
- Procurement tools – New Procurement Act
- Park Management Plan updates
- Mowing regime review
- Carbon Literacy and induction training

## Part 2 district/borough influence

- Local Area Energy Plan (HP only)
- Local Plans Reviews
- Joined up housing strategy and working group
- Housing energy funding – incl Damp and Mould.
- Plan for Nature delivery
- Scope shovel-ready plans
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy (supporting County Council as lead)
- Electric Vehicle infrastructure Strategy (supporting County Council as lead)

- Waste legislation – businesses, Simply Recycling
- Adaptation reporting (Defra)
- Carbon Disclosure Project
- Community engagement and communications
- Continue the Community Climate and Nature Fund
- Biodiversity Net Gain implementation
- Create Tree Strategy
- Partnership work
- **PESTLE for new gov legislation and opportunities**

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# Climate Change and Nature Working Group Proposal

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Agenda Item 6

# Background

At February's Climate Change Working Group the following was proposed;

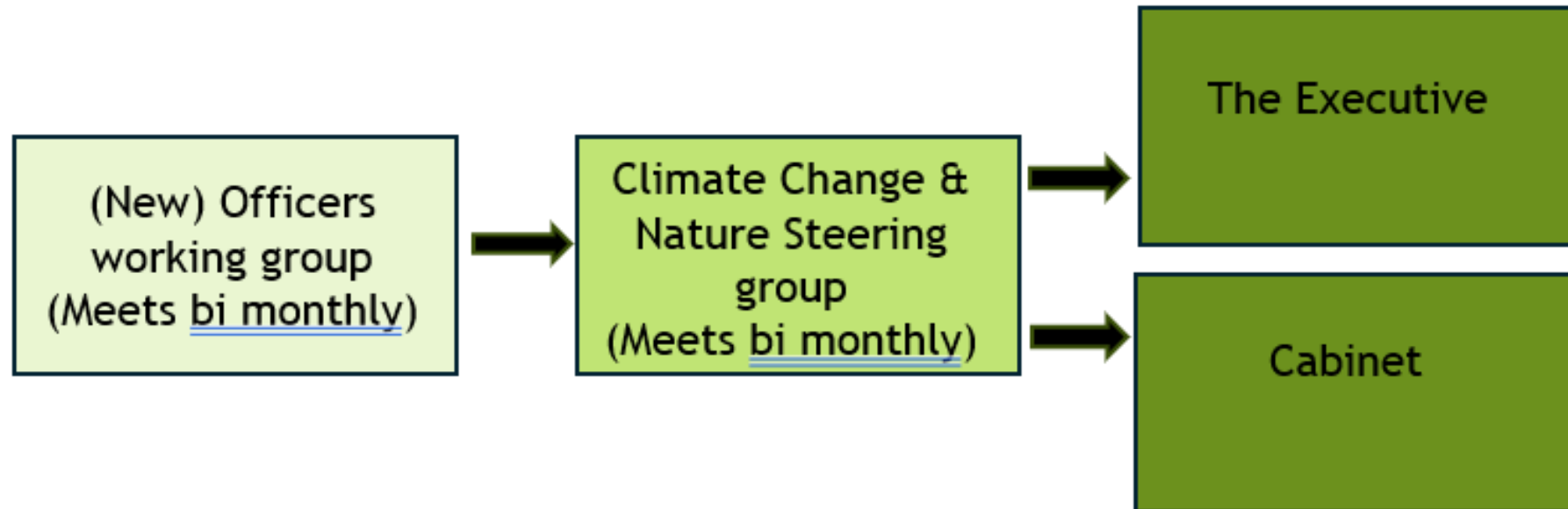
- ▶ To review how we operate in light of the current landscape and the changes coming
- ▶ Combine strategy, action planning and governance - with one working group providing;
  - ▶ Opportunities for greater collaboration and partnership working on delivery if focus is aligned
  - ▶ Opportunities for improved community working and legacy impact
- ▶ Revision of current Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan - combine/align both strategies
- ▶ Previously Plan for Nature Governance has sat informally within Climate Change Working Group - new approach formalises and aligns agendas



# Key Considerations

- ▶ Combine both Working Groups and proposed change of name of group to a 'Steering Group'
- ▶ Plans for Nature are proposed to be included as part of Steering Group
- ▶ Steering group frequency - bi monthly
- ▶ Meetings no longer to be public - Comms plan to publish outcomes/outputs for visibility for community groups/interested parties
- ▶ Governance model to include a Working Group of Officers that feeds into the Steering Group
- ▶ Group to have a focus on delivery against Climate Strategy and Plans for Nature and action plan to drive delivery and outcomes
- ▶ Review of both Climate Strategies with a view to combining/aligning - define key priorities for delivery over short/medium/long term- formulate an action plan to meet priorities, including Plan for Nature actions
- ▶ To agree format/date of annual reporting, along with mid point updates

# Proposed Governance Structure



Officers will have responsibility for feeding in updates on delivery against agreed timescales at the Officers Working Group

# Road Map

Journey to Delivery



# Proposed Timeline

Building Strong Foundations

