

## **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Climate Change Working Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

#### **Update on the Council's work:**

- 1. The 10 year fleet replacement programme - this is an opportunity to plan the purchase of more fuel efficient vehicles with an ambition to use Electric Vehicles or non CO2 producing vehicles towards the end of that period.**

Following an initial meeting with SMDC Officers the Energy Saving Trust has offered to review the Councils fleet, type and use of vehicles, travel distances and patterns, and advise on a transition. The data and information required is being compiled by AES and the Energy Saving Trust will start to analyse this in late September 2020.

- 2. Procurement strategy update – this is an opportunity to ensure products and services with zero or lowest greenhouse gas impacts are favoured in purchasing decisions.**

A consultation paper has been produced which outlines potential elements of a new procurement strategy including measures to reduce the councils greenhouse gas emissions (technically - scope 2 & 3 emissions). The paper was discussed at the last Climate Change Working Group. A draft strategy is now being prepared for consideration.

- 3. Asset management strategy – this is an opportunity to consider measures to save energy costs when replacing plant or machinery, energy efficiency measures and possible investment in photovoltaics.**

When the condition survey work is completed the Asset Management Plan will be reviewed – Targeted for 2021.

- 4. Energy: ESPO Framework – Total Gas and Power are our suppliers, at the end of the contract period there is an opportunity to consider switching to a green energy supplier.**

This is being considered as part of the procurement strategy. The current electricity supply source mix includes 47% renewable and 9% nuclear. While this contract is for four years there are opportunities within that to consider options for increasing the renewable source in the mix.

- 5. AES parks management contract – an opportunity to include appropriate action to encourage biodiversity and resilience (reduce mowing, encourage wild flowers and trees).**

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been engaged to provide advice and potentially to oversee a pilot programme in the management of council land in Staffordshire Moorlands with the aim of supporting nature recovery and biodiversity.

## **6. Treasury Management Strategy (TMSS) – an opportunity to consider investments in green energy and other projects.**

The 2020/21 TMSS includes reference to Ethical Investing under Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations and that the Council would consider investment opportunities with ESG links provided that the Treasury Management Investment priorities are met – 1<sup>st</sup> Security, 2<sup>nd</sup> Liquidity, 3<sup>rd</sup> Yield (SLY).

- An opportunity to invest with Barclays in a Green deposit arose – Barclays as an institution meet the Security criterion, and the liquidity and yield of the product was the same as a standard investment with Barclays, therefore we opted to take the Green Deposits (£500,000).
- The deposits are linked to Barclays' Green Bond Purchasing Programme which covers 'a variety of thematic projects including energy efficiency, renewable energy, green transport, sustainable food, agriculture and forestry, waste management and greenhouse gas emission reduction'.

Work has begun to revise the Medium Term Financial Plan in the context of the Covid-19 impact.

## **7. A new Facilities Management Contract – an opportunity consider practices and products can reduce our CO2 footprint.**

Discussions have commenced with Norse Group to look at the options to achieve this aim.

## **8. Local Plan, Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan**

The evidence based assessment of the physical landscape is complete – this helps to identify the most appropriate sites for tree planting, peatland restoration, enhancing biodiversity, and green corridors to support resilience to climate impacts;

The work is now at project identification stage. (The opportunity to deliver schemes both large and small which join up over the years to maximise the benefits of this work.)

## **9. Transfer of the 12 SMDC countryside parks to the management of the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, including a 5 year management plan (including tree planting, habitat enrichment) – taken with the Green Infrastructure Plan this provides an opportunity to build a delivery partnership with Staffordshire's leading conservation group.**

Currently only waiting on legal agreement with Stoke-on-Trent City Council in relation to Wetley Moor Common which is currently a joint responsibility with SMDC.

**10. Secure data on the Council's CO2 emissions – travel, buildings, operations and procurement – and use this to inform Council CO2 reduction targets and performance management.**

We have data for staff travel, fleet vehicles and buildings. A meeting has been held with the Energy Saving Trust to enlist their help in developing our staff travel policy and a key strand of the Council's current Covid-19 recovery planning includes consideration of new ways of working which reduce CO2 emissions (Green Recovery).

**20019 Data:** Indication of CO2 emissions for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council - Initial assessment of CO2 emissions from fleet vehicles (waste, Street scene, parks), staff business mileage.

- Fleet: 636 metric tonnes of CO2
- Business Travel: 63.75 metric tonnes (shared with HPBC) = 31.875 metric tonnes
- Property: Gas and electricity (Leisure Centres not included) = 421 metric tonnes
- **Total 1,089 metric tonnes of CO2**

Note:

- Further work is required on the data (to check data is fully inclusive, take account of recording systems which have changed over time to make sure year on year comparisons are robust and to provide a detailed breakdown by area of operation)
- CO2 from business travel has been reducing year on year - from 110.34 metric tonnes (2013) to 63.75 metric tonnes (2019). Mileage has reduced in that period from 459,407 miles in 2013 to 284,985 miles in 2019.
- **Covid-19** Comparing business miles/CO2 for the 5 month period April to August 2020 with the same period in 2019 – 27 metric tonnes of CO2 (2019), 9.1 metric tonnes CO2 (2020)

**11. Deliver staff training as required – priorities include training for key staff to be able to assess and report the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Council operations, policies and plans in order to inform decision making.**

This has been on hold due to impact of Covid-19 on staff capacity but new contact has now been made with Keele University to provide training to get back on track.

**12. Undertake investigative work and where possible feasibility testing of the most obvious large scale projects which a council might undertake:**

- **Green energy – the potential for Council investment in solar energy projects and wind farms.**

Officers have secured national grid data on the location of the energy grid and in particular electricity sub stations – this is being mapped initially against the local Plan and Council owned land. An advisor from the Midlands Energy Hub is assisting the Council to make an initial assessment of potential locations for solar farms. (Proximity to a sub station is one of the key factors in determining the commercial viability of a solar farm - or wind farm).

- **EV charge points**

An initial meeting has been held with the Energy Saving Trust to secure their assistance to develop a strategy and consider the viability of installing EV charging points in the District.

- **Local offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions (none CO2)**

To be considered as part of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan process.

**13. Continue to develop partnerships with other councils – seek to use common frameworks, tools (including the Tyndall Centre Carbon Budget tool) and the opportunity to share costs/expertise.**

We supported and now await the result of the Staffordshire Warmer Homes Partnership bid for funding from the Government's Local Authority Led - Green Homes Grant scheme. Officers are also working with Beat the Cold to support the Green Home Grants that are available directly to individual households – preparing scripts for our customers service staff, website information and publicity.

**14. Council Heads of Service to encourage staff over the course of the year to identify and take practical actions to reduce CO2 emissions – encourage suggestions, investigate measures, share good practice across the organisation, flag good ideas which require authorisation.**

Covid-19 has impact on this priority however there will have been a significant reduction in CO2 emissions from staff travel as a result of home working and virtual meetings. The lessons learned from this experience are being actively considered as part of the Council's Covid-19 recovery work. A staff survey will be undertaken in the near future.

**15. Encourage local community initiatives to tackle climate change –**

A small grant fund of £10,000 was established with the aim of mobilising community support. The grant called the Staffordshire Moorlands Community Climate Change Fund. The priority for the fund in 2020/21 is the establishment of Eco schools – this is now on hold.

**16. Support the work of the Council's Climate Change sub-committee and produce a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan within the timescale to ensure agreed measures can be included within the budget for 2021/22.**

The Working Group has been impacted by the need to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and is now working virtually with a number of sub groups developing ideas around specific topic areas.