

# STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Cabinet

29 June 2021

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Change Plan (Part 1)</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Joe Porter - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Mark Forrester - Head of Democratic &amp; Community Services</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>(All Wards);</b>

### Appendices Attached – Appendix 1: Climate Change Plan (Part 1)

#### 1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To present the Council's 2021/22 Climate Change Plan (Part 1) 'Towards Carbon Neutrality 2030'.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the 2021/22 Climate Change Plan (Part 1) subject to the suggestions made on the draft plan at the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 and feedback received from external expert agencies which the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity will consider for inclusion.

#### 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 On 10th July 2019, recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, the responsibility for our institutions, businesses and communities to eliminate net CO2 emissions and also the need to take immediate measures to prepare for climate change impacts Staffordshire Moorlands District Council declared a Climate Emergency.
- 3.2 The Council has initiated a series of actions to procure data, analyse options and introduce measures to reduce its own Carbon emissions.
- 3.3 The Plan has been developed in two parts: Part 1 considers the Council's own greenhouse gas emissions and is presented to Cabinet for approval (**Attached: Appendix 1**). Part 2 considers the wider greenhouse gas emissions from the District and remains in development with a target date for

publication of November 2021.

- 3.4 By its nature the Climate Change Plan is a dynamic document with additional actions and milestones to be added in year in response to new opportunities for earlier action, new information and the results of option studies.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 Aim 4 of the Corporate Plan: To protect and improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency

#### 5. **Alternative Options**

- 5.1 To approve the Climate Change Plan (Part 1).
- 5.2 To amend or delay approval of the draft Climate Change Plan (Part1) pending further development (Not recommended – by its nature the Plan needs to be dynamic with further actions to be developed and included as more analysis is completed and in response to opportunities such as may arise from new Government policy initiatives).

#### 6. **Implications**

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications

6.2 Workforce

Heads of Service working with their teams are responsible for the delivery of various elements of the Plan. As an additional resource the Council will be creating a specialist Climate Change Officer post.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

No implications

6.4 Financial Considerations

The measures proposed are within current budgets including the Climate Change reserve fund..

6.5 Legal

No implications

6.6 Climate Change

The report recommends the approval of a plan to enable the Council to work towards its goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 in relation to its own greenhouse gas emissions.

#### 6.7 Consultation

All Heads of Service have been involved in the process of developing the Climate Change Plan (Part 1). The Climate Change Subcommittee received and commented on the action plan table (pages 16 to 28) of the plan (**Appendix 1**).

#### 6.8 Risk Assessment

There is a risk that public expectation of the Council's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the district level is not matched by the Council's current powers and resources.

MARK TRILLO

**Executive Director (Governance & Commissioning)**

#### **Web Links and Background Papers**

\*\*INSERT NAME OF ANY PAPERS AND WEB LINKS\*\*

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### 7. **Detail**

7.1 In 2015, the UK adopted the Paris Agreement, committing to:

- Strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping global temperature rise this century well below 2°C above pre industrial levels.
- Encouraging efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.
- Tackling the climate crisis is a long-standing issue in the UK, reflected in the legally binding target in the 2008 Climate Change Act. This was updated in 2019 to reflect an updated target of net zero carbon by 2050.

7.2 On 10th July 2019, recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, the responsibility for our institutions, businesses and communities to eliminate net CO2 emissions and also the need to take immediate measures to prepare for climate change impacts Staffordshire Moorlands District Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

That this Council declare a Climate Emergency as many councils have already done all over the UK and will undertake to:

1. Start working with partners across the district and region towards making The Staffordshire Moorlands carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account emissions from both production and consumption.

2. Call on The Government to provide guidance, powers and resources to make carbon neutrality possible by writing to local MPs and all relevant government departments.
3. Requests that the Chair of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel establishes a subcommittee to undertake detailed research into the effects of climate change in the District, to include consideration of all relevant data and monitoring information available, and to involve evidence from relevant stakeholders, with a view to recommending to the Council an effective, achievable and costed plan of actions to address climate change within the Staffordshire Moorlands.
4. Ensure that all Council Bodies and Scrutiny Panels consider the impact of climate change and the environment when making decisions and reviewing Council policies and strategies.
5. Review progress made on an annual basis via Scrutiny and Full Council.

### 7.3 Actions to date

- 7.3.1 Housing: The Council is a partner in the Staffordshire Warmer Homes project which successfully secured Green Homes Grant Local GHG LAD (round 1 funding) and will deliver the Council's allocation of GHG LAD round 2 funding in Staffordshire Moorlands. The partnership has also continued to deliver energy saving measures through other schemes and the Council continued to fund Beat the Cold as our key local partner in affordable warmth/fuel poverty.
- 7.3.2 Leisure Centres: Parkwood Leisure has initiated a programme replacing lights with LED lights in all the leisure centres to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. The Council has commissioned work which includes an assessment of options and measures to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's leisure centres. This is due to be completed in July 2021.
- 7.3.3 Council fleet vehicles: AES, the Council's direct services company, is currently trialling an electric light goods vehicle and an electric refuse vehicle. The Council has engaged with the Energy Saving Trust to undertake an analysis of the Council's vehicle fleet and options for decarbonisation to inform the Council's fleet replacement programme. This is due to be completed in December 2021.
- 7.3.4 New ways of working: The response to Covid-19 has accelerated the Council's move to new ways of working – staff home working and increased use of virtual meetings have reduced staff business miles by over 60%, an increase in customer self-service, reduced use of paper and printing. Work began in 2020 to sustain these ways of working post pandemic.
- 7.3.5 The Council has re-joined the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) and APSE Energy the specific climate change network. The Council has joined the UK100 'Countryside Climate Network' group of local authorities with ambitious climate change targets. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Biodiversity also sits as a member of DEFRA's Local Adaptation Advisory Panel. These networks provide an important resource of information and expertise.

- 7.3.6 Waste recycling: the Council continues to be a high performer achieving a 56.4% recycling rate, which is the highest in Staffordshire and in the top 30 in the country.
- 7.3.7 The Council is engaging with a number of key agencies to assist with the development of the Council's plans going forward – The Midlands Energy Hub, the Energy Saving Trust, Keele University and the Centre for Alternative Technology. Keele University has been commissioned to deliver the 'train the trainer' Carbon Literacy programme to Council staff.
- 7.3.8 The Council partnered and funded Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to assist in the development of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The Council's Service Commissioning Team and AES grounds maintenance team have been involved in the planting of 7 orchards as the start of a much wider community orchards initiative to plant many more orchards over the next few years.
- 7.3.9 The Council has engaged with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Tree Council to assist in producing a Tree Strategy as a core part of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This piece of work will include a tree planting target and ways in which this will address climate change.
- 7.3.10 The Council's Climate Change Sub Committee has been meeting, including topic based working groups, and has mainly focused on the District wide greenhouse gas emissions, the actions of key agencies and development of potential actions to be taken by the Council. This work will inform part 2 of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan

#### 7.4 Data

- 7.4.1 Council CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: During 2021 further work will be undertaken to establish an as complete as possible estimate of the Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, including direct and indirect emissions such as the CO<sub>2</sub> embedded in the products and services the Council procures, technically referred to as Scope 1,2 & 3 emissions. The current known figures for emissions related to Council buildings, fleet and travel for 2019/20 are included as an initial baseline in the plan for 2021/22.
- 7.4.2 District wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: The UK Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes annual data for the estimated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by local authority area. This is currently available from 2005 to 2018. The CO<sub>2</sub> emission sources are split into four main categories – Industry and commerce, domestic, transport, land use and land use change and forestry. There are numerous sub categories which allow for a closer analysis.

The Council has commissioned Anthesis to produce an analysis of the District greenhouse gas emissions including the current baseline data and a series of projections based on scenarios – 'do nothing' through to 'ambitious' actions to address climate change locally. This analysis will be available in July 2021.

#### 7.5 The Climate Change Plan.

The plan will be in two parts.

- 7.5.1 Part 1 (**Attached: Appendix 1**) concerns the Council's own CO2 emissions – i.e. where SMDC has direct control and responsibility. Part 1 is in the form of an action plan to cover the period 2021/22 but leading to the Council's 2030 carbon neutral target.
- 7.5.2 Part 2 remains in development and will focus on the broader greenhouse gas emissions in the District. SMDC has levers of influence over some causes of the emissions but the role of others, including the community and voluntary sector, business sector and other statutory agencies such as the County Council and the Government, is critical. The Part 1 Plan includes a number of actions the Council is taking or planning to take and is presented to give a more complete picture of the Council's climate change activity in 2021.
- 7.5.3 Both parts of the plan will be published as one document in a more publicly accessible format in time for COP 26 in November 2021.
- 7.5.4 It should be noted that both parts of the plan are living/dynamic documents with the potential for targets and actions to be added as work progresses and in response to opportunities – such as changes in Government policy or new funds.