

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

17 January 2022

TITLE:	Climate Change Update
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor **INSERT SURNAME** - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity
CONTACT OFFICER:	David Smith - Head of Communities and Climate Change
WARDS INVOLVED:	(All Wards);

Appendices Attached – Appendix A: Procurement Analysis, Appendix B: Climate Change Strategy Summary

1. Reason for the Report

1.1 To provide an update on the Council's response to the climate and nature emergencies

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Committed Members note the content of report.

3. Executive Summary

3.1 Anthesis have submitted their draft report on emissions from the Council's procurement of services and items. The estimated emissions created because of this expenditure in 2020/21 was 12,649 tonnes of CO₂e.

3.2 The Council has produced an easy-to-read summary of its climate change strategy with the assistance of the Plain English Society and have commissioned two animated explainer videos that will be made available on the Council's website.

3.3 Support Staffordshire has also been commissioned to support local, community-based action to help deliver the Council's Climate Change Strategy. This will include administering a Community Climate Change and Nature Emergency fund on behalf of the Council from April 2022.

3.4 The Council is proposing to use the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool that was developed by 'Local Partnerships' in association with the LGA to monitor

Council emissions and will continue to be measured reported using the Scatter methodology developed by Anthesis.

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

4.1 The report supports delivery of Aim 4 of the Corporate Plan: To protect and improve the environment and respond to the climate emergency.

5. **Alternative Options**

5.1 None

Neil Rodgers
Executive Director (Place)

Web Links and Background Papers

<https://localpartnerships.org.uk/greenhouse-gas-accounting-tool/>

Contact details

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6. **Detail**

Procurement Analysis

6.1 Anthesis have submitted their draft report on emissions from the Council's procurement of services and items. The estimated emissions created because of this expenditure in 2020/21 was 12,649 tonnes of CO₂e¹. This compares to an estimated 2,284 tonnes of CO₂e emissions from Council buildings, vehicles and Councillor and Officer travel in 2018.

6.2 The top 4 categories contribute to 91% of total emissions and are:

- 'Environmental Services',
- 'Financial Services',
- 'Vehicle Management' and 'Works – Construction'.

6.3 The Environmental Services category contributes over 58% of emissions and includes refuse collection and disposal as well as recycling. The total emissions associated with procurement represents 85% of the council's total emissions.

6.4 The top 4 suppliers contribute to around 80% of all emissions produced through the delivery of the Council's services. These are Alliance

¹ To provide some idea, 1 tonne of CO₂ is approximately the equivalent of 500 CO₂ fire extinguishers or a 500m³ hot air balloon.

Environmental Services Limited, Dennis Eagle Limited (refuse vehicles), and Parkwood Leisure Ltd.

- 6.5 The Council are reviewing the conclusions of the report to identify ways of reducing future emissions. Several actions are already planned, including:
- developing a green fleet strategy
 - conducting a review of our assets (which includes the depots that AES work out of)
 - producing a leisure transformation plan that will consider options for reducing emissions.

Communication and Engagement

- 6.6 The Council has produced an easy-to-read summary of its climate change strategy with the assistance of the Plain English Society. A copy of the draft summary is provided at Appendix B. We have also commissioned two animated explainer videos that will be made available on the Council's website. One will explain the Council's strategy and the other will provide advice to residents on reducing their carbon footprint.
- 6.7 The Council organised several events to raise awareness of the climate and nature emergency during COP 26 event. This included:
- Community clean-up and recycling awareness events at Haregate Community Centre and Biddulph Learning Curve with AES,
 - An awareness campaign using social media;
 - Planting a Community Orchard Newpool Meadows;
 - An air pollution (Air Awareness) event with Staffordshire County Council; and
 - A recycling awareness event in Leek Market Place with AES.
- 6.8 The social media campaign linked to COP 26 ran for 6 weeks. As an example, in the period from 1 to 5 November, the Council posted 35 times about climate change on Twitter and 13 on Facebook.
- 6.9 Anthesis has been commissioned by the Council to carry out a series of workshops to gather opinions on how the district can work together to become Net Zero. Anthesis delivered two workshops – one with Elected Members and one with Council Officers – in December 2021 and two further workshops will be delivered this month. One workshop will involve members of the community and town councils, and the other will involve local businesses. The District Council has been working with Support Staffordshire, Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services and Staffordshire County Council to identify people to take part in the community workshop. The Council took this approach to try and attract broad representation at the workshop and to hopefully engage new people in this agenda.
- 6.10 Support Staffordshire has also been commissioned to support local, community-based action to help deliver the Council's Climate Change Strategy. This will include administering a Community Climate Change and

Nature Emergency fund on behalf of the Council from April 2022. The mechanics of delivering the fund are still to be agreed with Support Staffordshire but it is suggested that the criteria will include the following:

- Projects must support delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy,
- The maximum value per bid is £300
- Funding will only be provided to non-political groups.
- Groups can only submit one bid per year,
- Any funding not spent in the financial year will be rolled over to the next financial year for as long as the fund remains open.

Performance Management

6.11 The Council has been developing its performing management arrangements and is proposing to use the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool that was developed by 'Local Partnerships' in association with the LGA to monitor Council emissions. This will ensure that the Council has a comprehensive and consistent methodology for measuring and reporting emissions. It will also allow the Council to participate in benchmarking against other Councils. The Council intends to use figures from 2019/2020 as a baseline with a view to preparing six-monthly reports from April 2022. District-wide emissions will continue to be measured reported using the Scatter methodology developed by Anthesis.