

Appendix B: The Council's Delivery of Undertaking Given in 2019 When Declaring a Climate Change Emergency

Undertaking	Evidence	Assessment
1	<p>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.</p>	Achieved
2	<p>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.</p> <p>The Council is a member of UK100 and supports their work in lobbying government and others for climate action. Amongst other things, UK100 is the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) on Sustainable Finance' and Air Pollution. UK100 also holds an annual parliamentary reception to lobby on behalf of its membership for action towards achieving Net Zero. The APPG brings together a wide range of professions to build political consensus for what's needed in the finance sector to reach Net Zero.</p> <p>At a more local level, the meeting of the Council on 2 December 2020, the Council unanimously carried a motion to "call upon the Government to introduce an outright ban on the practice of peatland and vegetation burning and to ensure the protection of peatlands across the UK for the sake of future generations".</p> <p>The Council also unanimously passed a motion at its meeting on 8 December 2021 to " lobby our two Members of Parliament to ask them to: i) raise with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities the need to make it a Statutory Duty for all local authorities to create and deliver a climate change action plan, and ii) to give local authorities the powers and resources to deliver these plans [in line with national policies]."</p> <p>The Council also responds to relevant Government Consultations, eg "DEFRA Waste Consultation" (Cabinet Delegated Decision 22 June 2021), "National Planning Policy Framework Consultation" (19/4/2018)</p>	Achieved

¹ <https://www.uk100.org/about>

3	Requests that the Chair of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel establishes a sub committee 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.	<p>As detailed in the Cabinet report from 7 December 2021 and COSP report of 8 November 2021, the Council went beyond this undertaking and also established working groups to look at district greenhouse gas emissions from Council activity, travel and transport, housing, industry, agriculture, land use and biodiversity, waste, and energy production. These working groups gathered evidence from many outside agencies and experts to identify actions that could reduce emissions.</p> <p>The recommendations from the Working Groups were reported at Appendix A of the report “SMDC Draft Climate Change Part 2 Plan” that was considered by COSP on 15 November 2021.</p> <p>The aim of these task-and-finish groups was to inform the creation of a Climate Change Plan for the district. This plan was adopted by the Council in December 2021.</p> <p>The plan was subsequently independently reviewed by Climate Emergency UK, who gave the plan an overall score of 87%: the 2nd highest score by a district council in the country².</p> <p>Notably, the Council was awarded full marks in several categories including “commitment and integration”, and “community engagement and communications”. The Council was also scored 4 out of 5 for “measuring and setting emissions targets”.</p>	Achieved
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.	Every Council decision-making report includes a section that considers the implications for climate change. This has been in place since the declaration of the climate emergency in 2019. Before that date, all reports required authors to comment on the impact on sustainability.	Achieved
5	Review progress made on an annual basis via Scrutiny and Full Council.	The first annual report was presented to the COSP on 11 July 2022 and six-month interim report on 16 January 2023. Further updates were regularly provided to COSP during 2022/23, including updates on specific projects and activities, eg “Update on the Levels of Pollution and the Air Quality Action Plan” (12/7/21), “Climate Change and Council Building (LED Lighting)” (17/10/2022), “Plan for Nature” (14/11/22), “Wildfire Public Spaces Protection Order” (23 November 2020).	Achieved

² <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/district/>

		<p>The Council's approach is to embed climate action across the authority. As such, reports that deliver the Council's climate change ambitions will be considered by other Council committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery Overview & Scrutiny Panel: "Green Infrastructure Strategy Delivery Plan Update" (27 January 2021), question on external LED lighting (14 July 2021) "SMDC Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy" (25 January 2023) • Resources "Community Orchard Scheme" (23 June 2021), question about Moorlands House energy costs (20 July 2022) • Licensing & Regulatory Committee "Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy Review – Response to Consultation (Emissions Proposals)" (11 November 2022). <p>Reports are also issued, where appropriate, as Cabinet delegated decisions, eg "Leisure Transformation De-risking Surveys and Decarbonisation Project" (23 December 2022) "Outcomes of Alternative Fuel Trial" (11 February 2022), "Energy Company Obligation – Revised Statement of Intent" (14 July 2021), "Community Orchards" (28 May 2021), "Climate Change Fund" (28 May 2021).</p> <p>The Council also issues Information Digests where no decision is required: "Ongoing costs of the Community Orchards Scheme" (23 November 2022), "Environment Act 2021" (17 August 2022) "Climate Change Update" (3 June 2020),</p>	
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