

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

16 January 2023

TITLE:	Climate Change Plan Review
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Councillor Joe Porter - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change
CONTACT OFFICER:	Gillian Wright - Climate Change & Biodiversity Officer
WARDS INVOLVED:	(All Wards);

Appendices Attached – Climate Change Plan 2023 to 2024

1. Reason for the Report

1.1. To review progress towards delivering the Council's Climate Change Strategy and identify priority activities for 2023 to 2024.

2. Recommendation

2.1. That the Committee:

- note the contents of the report and
- recommend that the Cabinet approve the priority activities for 2023/24.

3. Executive Summary

3.1. The report sets out the activities under the 7 themes of the Climate Change Plan for 2023/4.

3.2. Some of the activities will deliver real emissions reductions and improvement to nature, whilst others will be enabling work to assess opportunities, barriers and pathways.

3.3. The Council developed a comprehensive and ambitious strategy for achieving its ambition of both the Council and District becoming Net Zero by 2030. The Council recognises that meeting this target, particularly across the district, will be extremely challenging. In part, this is because of the limited direct impact the Council can have on district-wide emissions and also because local

reductions in emissions will be reliant on national and international targets being achieved.

- 3.4. Discussions at the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel and with key stakeholders, including Moorlands Climate Action, has emphasised the importance of targeting our limited resources on the areas where we can have the greatest impact. In response, we are proposing that the focus in 2023//24 will be on domestic energy, nature initiatives and engaging young people. This is in addition to on-going work to reduce the Council's direct emissions and supporting community groups.
- 3.5. The focus on domestic energy both provides opportunities to reduce domestic emissions, which is a key local contributor to overall emissions, and also supports work taking place to respond to the cost-of-living crisis which has, in part, been fuelled by the volatility in the energy markets. We suggest that the focus on nature initiatives responds to the community consultation that was carried out prior to the introduction of the Climate Change Strategy, and which emphasised the importance that our communities place on nature and their local environment; supports delivery of biodiversity requirements introduced by the Environment Act 2020; builds upon strong relationship with nature-focussed groups including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; and reflects the local geography with our abundance of natural assets.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. This reports supports delivery of Aim 4 of the Corporate Plan: To protect and improve the environment, and
- 4.2. respond to the climate emergency. The focus on domestic energy from a climate change perspective also has a co-benefit / ancillary benefit for fuel poverty, health and cost of living, which helps to deliver priorities under Aim 1 of the Corporate Plan: To help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1. None identified

6. Implications

- 6.1. Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

None

- 6.2. Workforce

The plan is managed through the Climate Change and Biodiversity Delivery Group. Heads of Service are responsible for highlighting workforce issues within their objectives in the plan.

6.3. Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

None

6.4. Financial Considerations

The plan forms a programme of discrete projects. Some of which need to be scoped to understand the requirements. Financial implications would be considered within each project.

6.5. Legal

Local Authorities do not have a statutory obligation to respond to climate change.

6.6. Climate Change

The plan sets out the aims of the work programme for 2023 / 2024 to deliver the Climate Change Plan.

6.7. Consultation

Discussions to inform this report have taken place at the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel, in meetings with partners such as Moorlands Climate Action, and at County Level under the Staffordshire Sustainability Board.

6.8. Risk Assessment

None

Neil Rodgers
Executive Director (Place)

**Web Links and
Background Papers**
[Aiming Low Summary](#)

[Annual Report 2021/22](#)
[Climate Change Action Plan Part 1](#)

[Climate Change Action Plan 2021 to 2030 Part 2](#)

Contact details

Gillian Wright
Climate Change & Biodiversity Officer
gillian.wright@highpeak.gov.uk

7. Detail

- 7.1. The national target is to achieve Net Zero, including becoming net zero for electricity generation, by 2050.
- 7.2. Operational emissions within the Council's control are more easily mitigated but will require targeted capital and operational planning to realise. District-wide targets are ambitious and require understanding of where the emissions are, the barriers to mitigate them and the leverage to induce action. Furthermore, measuring and monitoring of district wide emissions is complex and success of programmes could be restrictive in the ability to monitor.
- 7.3. Appendix A provides a review of progress towards delivering our Climate Change strategy with a particular focus on prioritising actions for 2023/24.
- 7.4. Discussions at the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel and with key stakeholders, including Moorlands Climate Action, has emphasised the importance of targeting our limited resources on the areas where we can have the greatest impact. In response, we are proposing that the focus in 2023//24 will be on domestic energy, nature initiatives and engaging young people. This is in addition to on-going work to reduce the Council's direct emissions and support community groups.
- 7.5. The focus on domestic energy both provides opportunities to reduce domestic emissions, which is a key local contributor to overall emissions, and also supports work taking place to respond to the cost-of-living crisis which has, in part, been fuelled by the volatility in the energy markets. We suggest that the focus on nature initiatives responds to the community consultation that was carried out prior to the introduction of the Climate Change Strategy, and which emphasised the importance that our communities place on nature and their local environment; supports delivery of biodiversity requirements introduced by the Environment Act 2020; builds upon strong relationship with nature-focussed groups including Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; and reflects the local geography with our abundance of natural assets.

Key actions for 2023/24 include:

- Map the pathways to retrofit for housing and ownership types and assess monitoring methodologies to explore means to stimulate upscaling activity.
- Publicise energy saving schemes, advice. e.g. Beat the Cold and Staffordshire Warmer Homes
- Target households where our data may indicate eligibility for funding.
- Ensure website signposts to advice for energy saving and links to information.
- Publicise Retrofit Academy training offer for West Midlands residents for PAS2035

- Publicise opportunities for local businesses to expand services to support the retrofit and renewable supply and skills
- Engage with businesses to explore opportunities for self-funding retrofit service for private owners.
- Engage with Your Housing to implement their energy targets of EPC C by 2030 for the social housing stock.
- Engage with photovoltaic (solar panels) providers to scope the potential for a bulk buying programme in partnership with other local authorities.

How we look after our environment

- *Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has been commissioned to produce a Plan for Nature for adoption in 2023. This will include identification of priority actions.*

How we help change occur

- *We are working with SCVYS to develop a youth engagement programme that has three main elements: carbon literacy training, encouraging democratic engagement, and delivering local projects.*
- We recognise that external opportunities for funding and legislation changes could change the direction of focus and absorb capacity.