

Newcastle-under-Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy

Our Commitment for Newcastle-under-Lyme

Newcastle under Lyme is dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future that leads to improvements within our communities and we will continue to strive to reduce our own impact on the environment in everything we do.

Foreword by Councillor Trevor Johnson Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling

Over the last two years the Country has been focussing on the sustainability agenda and the environmental threats caused by rising carbon emissions, habitat loss, plastic pollution and poor use of dwindling natural resources. As a result, Councils around the UK and Governments around the world are responding to these threats and public calls for a robust and rapid reduction and mitigation measures and have declared Climate Emergencies as well as pursuing environmental strategies with the aim of accelerating action to achieve carbon neutrality, consider how to mitigate the effects of climate change and change how resources are used.

In April 2019, the Borough Council passed a climate emergency motion. A central element of this was the aim of becoming carbon neutral with respect to the Council's own estates and activities and those related to our residents and businesses.

The Cabinet have committed to establishing a Sustainable Environment Strategy. The Borough Council has historically had a strong commitment to biodiversity and energy efficiency. In 2007, the Council was a participant in Staffordshire Climate Change Partnership and climate change adaptation group. In 2008, we were a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration, making a public commitment to tackle climate change in concert with other councils. In 2013, the Council subscribed to the 'Climate Local' commitment, preparing and authorising an action plan to reduce carbon emissions and to promote action to tackle climate change with our partners and residents.

The Government has recently announced a ten point plan which is aimed at eradicating the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050.

We are now working in partnership across the Borough to tackle the environmental issues facing our communities and businesses and in particular with key partners such as Staffordshire County Council and Keele University.

Many of the issues can only be tackled together and to this end the Staffordshire County Council has very recently launched its own Climate Change Action Plan which will link into and support the Borough's Strategy.

Why have an environmental strategy and a plan?

A strategy is needed to protect our local environment and achieve our wider sustainability goals for the Borough. The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere from human activity is changing the world's climate and the planet is warming up. Rising global temperatures in the long-term will create more extreme and unpredictable weather changes, rising sea levels, severe flooding and reduced water availability, all of which pose significant risk to human health, wildlife and ecosystems.

The Committee on Climate Change in its May 2019 report, recommended replacing the UK's previous target to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 with a new statutory target for at least a 100% reduction of UK greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels), and called for a set of "clear, stable and well-designed policies" to be introduced "without delay."

By this reasoning, it is understood that for the Borough Council to achieve its aim of carbon neutrality, it has to have a strategy and an action plan, which sets clear, stable and well-designed policies, delineating a 'roadmap' as to how it will arrive at this target. This is intended to be such a document, but at the same time, it is acknowledged that this is not a 'perfect strategy' and there will be information, plans and actions that may not have been included within it. This Strategy will not be static but one that will be regularly reviewed, added to, expanded on, specifically as more suitable and appropriate projects are identified.

All Local Authorities also have a "biodiversity duty" under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, A Green Future (2018), pledges that this will be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it, and pass on to the next generation a natural environment protected and enhanced for the future.

We are committed to keeping Newcastle under Lyme clean, green, attractive and sustainable. Our teams already undertake a huge amount of work to ensure that we honour this pledge and below we give examples of some of that work.



Recycling, waste and resource management

- **Recycle More** - from July 2020, as part of the new recycling service, the types of items that can be collected at kerbside has been expanded to include plastic tubs, pots and trays.
- **Zero to Landfill** - none of the waste collected at kerbside in Newcastle under Lyme will go to landfill; instead it will be used to generate clean energy.
- **Over 90% of all recycling** in Newcastle under Lyme stays in the UK and provide transparent information about what happens to waste collected for recycling.
- **Recycling of household items** is used to help residents furnish homes.
- **Separate food waste** collection and recycling service is provided to residents in the Borough as well as food waste reduction awareness programmes.
- **We recycle machinery parts** and waste oil used at our Knutton depot.
- **The Cremators at Bradwell Crematorium** are designed such that the emissions from mercury fillings are captured by abatement plant, along with particulate and other emissions. 100% of our cremations are mercury abated and recoverable metals are recycled through a national scheme.
- **Keele Cemetery utilises sustainable building techniques** including ground source heating, recycled aluminium roofing, natural ventilation and a Sustainable Urban Drainage system.
- **We use only Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified timber** wherever possible and recycle our tree surgery arisings into mulch for shrub beds.
- **Peat Free compost** is used in all of our remaining bedding plant public floral displays. We have replaced over 70% of our annual bedding with permanent herbaceous perennials, and drought tolerant plants, and we have also introduced self-watering hanging baskets to reduce water use.
- **We have reduced our water usage** in public buildings with initiatives such as

waterless urinals at Jubilee 2 and flush controls in the town centre public toilets.

- **Across our offices we are 'Digital by Default'** and discourage unnecessary printing.



Travel and Transport

- **We are currently accessing Highways England funding** to install rapid electric car chargers at strategic points which are easily accessible to the general public.
- **We operate a cycle to work scheme** and offer bike loans to employees.
- **We're working in partnership with the transport authority** (Staffordshire County Council) to develop cycling and walking infrastructure for the Borough.
- **We are trialling an electric scooter pilot** for Newcastle Town Centre and surrounding area.
- **We have procured fully electric vehicles** for our pest control and dog warden services and a Recycling and Waste fleet using the very latest Euro IV. engines.
- **We operate agile and home working**, allowing staff to work home where possible or from a location that is convenient to them, to minimise unnecessary travel.
- As part of the Kidsgrove Town Deal improvements to the canals will give **access to the town centre and wider countryside**.





Built Environment

- **Our Emerging Local Plan** encourages sustainability and energy assessment for new planning applications/encourages new build to be low or zero carbon.
- **Our flagship Jubilee 2 sports centre** was built to BREAM 'Very Good' standards, has solar panels, and combined heat and power systems.
- We will deploy **sustainable building techniques** in or work to refurbish Kids-grove Sports Centre.
- **We are currently exploring options to bring forward key housing sites** and associated infrastructure and consider how solutions might use energy sourced at point such as through air/ground heat source pumps, solar or other means.
- **We consider and secure green infrastructure** in all larger scale projects



School's Planting Scheme, Newcastle-under-Lyme

through contributions to public open space on- and off-site.

- **We are developing a North Staffordshire Air Quality Plan** with Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council in key areas of local concern.
- **We secure the planting of new trees and shrubs** where appropriate, whenever we grant a planning consent.



Castle House and Queens Gardens, Town Centre



Energy and Renewables

- **We have installed photovoltaic panels** on the roof at Knutton Lane Depot.
- **We have reduced our energy use** across our built estate by 17% for electricity and 8% for gas over the last two years.
- **We use state of the art environmental building controls** at our Castle House headquarters building.
- As part of the Newcastle Town Deal we will **install solar panels** on the roofs of the shelters in the bus station.



Natural Environment

- We are proud of our heritage in creating award-winning open spaces – we have been awarded 6 Green Flag Awards for the Boroughs Parks, Gardens and Cemeteries and will continue to work to this standard
- We have an adopted Open Space Strategy and a Green Infrastructure Strategy which allows the Council to plan for the management of its open spaces for the long term benefit of residents and visitors, as well as improving resilience in relation to climate change.
- We engage the community to manage our local open spaces, parks, gardens, playing fields, woodlands and allotment sites and support community volunteering across a range of sites.
- We run and facilitate educational programmes and events under the banner of the long established Newcastle in Bloom initiative, including a high profile town centre and gateway public art programme, designed to raise awareness of our local natural environment.
- We manage 4 Local Nature Reserves with a diverse range of habitats, and encourage other recreational uses which can take place in harmony with nature, to maximise opportunities for people to interact with their natural environment.
- We encourage biodiversity and habitat creation across our open spaces through the use of wildflowers, native planting schemes and diverse floral planting displays which include pollinators to attract bees and other insects
- The Boroughs Urban Tree Strategy aims to protect, preserve and enhance the Boroughs tree and woodlands for current and future generations, and to adapt our tree stock over time to better respond to and mitigate climate change.
- We manage approximately 368 ha of native woodlands giving opportunities to get close up with nature and improve local air quality, as well as helping to address the national decline in native broadleaf woodland.

- We work with partners such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency on sub-regional projects such as SUNRISE, to protect and enhance local wildlife assets and create a connected network of green infrastructure.
- We will work with the Environment Agency on issues such as air quality, odours and flooding.



Award-winning Brampton Park, Newcastle-under-Lyme

Plans are being developed in two complimentary works streams. The first is to fundamentally and comprehensively review the Council's own activities and services and incorporate actions into the Action Plan that make a significant contribution to this Strategy, the second is to work with partners across the Borough and Staffordshire to work together on Borough wide actions that will help achieve the targets set.



Our Ambition

Newcastle Borough Council's aspiration is to become an exemplar authority, known for both preserving and protecting our local environment for the present and future and also for enhancing our environment and the quality of life of residents.

Being more sustainable and mitigating the effects of climate change will require changing the way we do things, looking at our own services and ways of working and taking direct action wherever possible, as well as encouraging, supporting and enabling others to do the same.



We Recognise

The Council has formally recognised a climate emergency and in doing so it acknowledges that there is a real need to act now and plan ahead in how to tackle the environmental threats posed by climate change. This need to act will require a balance to be found between the prioritisation of funding for projects and the duty to be accountable for the way in which public funds are used. We will make bold decisions where there is a good business case to deliver the right outcomes for our residents and businesses that consider both financial and environmental returns for that investment.



We Will Review

We recognise that the pace of change related to climate change and policy direction is fast as well as the development of technology and best techniques to support these changes and become more sustainable as a Borough.

This strategy will therefore be fully reviewed annually to ensure that our ambitions and actions are aligned to emerging local, national and global policy and to identify the refresh the Action Plan as necessary to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

The recent international focus on the impacts of climate change and the requirement for a sustainable future has also highlighted the importance of nature and bio-diversity to the planet. Biodiversity is critically important to our health, to our safety and even to our livelihood.

Five ways in which biodiversity supports our economies and enhances our wellbeing according to the World Economic Forum are:

1. Biodiversity Ensures Health and Food Security

Biodiversity underpins global nutrition and food security. Millions of species work together to provide us with a large array of fruits, vegetables and animal products essential to a healthy, balanced diet – but they are increasingly under threat.

People once understood that the conservation of species was crucial for healthy societies and ecosystems. We must ensure this knowledge remains part of our modern agricultural and food systems to prevent diet-related diseases and reduce the environmental impact of feeding ourselves.

2. Biodiversity Helps Fight Disease.

Higher rates of biodiversity have been linked to an increase in human health.

First, plants are essential for medicines. For example, 25% of drugs used in modern medicine are derived from rainforest plants while 70% of cancer drugs are natural or synthetic products inspired by nature. This means that every time a species goes extinct, we miss out on a potential new medicine.

Second, biodiversity due to protected natural areas has been linked to lower instances of disease. As human activities encroach upon the natural world, through deforestation and urbanization, we reduce the size and number of ecosystems. As a result, animals live in closer quarters with one another and with humans, creating ideal conditions for spread of disease.

Page 089 Biodiversity Benefits Business

According to the World Economic Forum's recent Nature Risk Rising Report, more than half of the world's GDP (\$44 trillion) is highly or moderately dependent on nature and there is great potential for the economy to grow and become more resilient by ensuring biodiversity.



4. Biodiversity Provides Livelihoods

Humans derive approximately \$125 trillion of value from natural ecosystems each year. Globally, three out of four jobs are dependent on water while the agricultural sector employs over 60% of the world's working poor.

Ecosystems, therefore, must be protected and restored – not only for the good of nature but also for the communities that depend on them and nature-positive businesses can provide cost-effective, robot-proof, business-friendly jobs that stimulate the rural economy without harming the environment.

5. Biodiversity Protects Us

Biodiversity makes the earth habitable. Biodiverse ecosystems provide nature-based solutions that buffer us from natural disasters such as floods and storms, filter our water and regenerate our soils.

Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems is vital to fighting climate change. Nature-based solutions could provide 37% of the cost-effective CO2 mitigation needed by 2030 to maintain global warming within 2°C (35.6 F).

As ecosystems are increasingly threatened by human activity, acknowledging the benefits of biodiversity is the first step in ensuring that we look after it. We know biodiversity matters. Now, as a society, we should protect it – and in doing so, protect our own long-term interests.

We recognise the need for a considered and robust approach to Biodiversity and nature conservation across the Borough. Our teams manage 1800 acres of the Authority's own land, as natural greenspaces for people and nature. The Borough maintains and protects its Local Nature Reserves, Countryside Parks Woodlands and waterways. The Boroughs award winning parks and greenspaces retain conservation management principles at their core and include this in our strategies and management plans.

We recognise the importance of protecting the existing tree stock of the district; from street trees, woodlands, hedgerows and veteran specimen trees. We will prioritise and accelerate tree planting on our own land and we will also support and encourage local groups and communities to deliver and manage their own planting projects in their neighbourhoods and parishes through the provision of technical advice and signposting to funding opportunities.

The importance of creating green networks and corridors is a key feature of the Boroughs Open Spaces Strategy and we will strive to reduce fragmentation and isolation of species through the provision of new networks of green infrastructure where possible on our land. We also recognise the importance of accelerating the capture of carbon wherever the opportunities arise.

The Scope of this Strategy

The focus of our strategy is on delivering those actions that we know will deliver a positive impact and importantly where we know we have the greatest control and influence to turn our plans into actions for the benefit of the Borough.

Earlier in this Strategy a number of themes have been followed in exploring what we already do, what we currently know and what we might do to protect and enhance our local environmental quality and reduce our carbon emissions. Under each theme we have given consideration to what we might do around our own estate to improve environmental performance and what we might do across the wider geography of Newcastle to achieve the outcomes and Vision that we committed to.

The themes identified include:



Waste, Recycling & Resource Management



Natural Environment



Built Environment



Energy consumption & Renewables



Travel & Transport

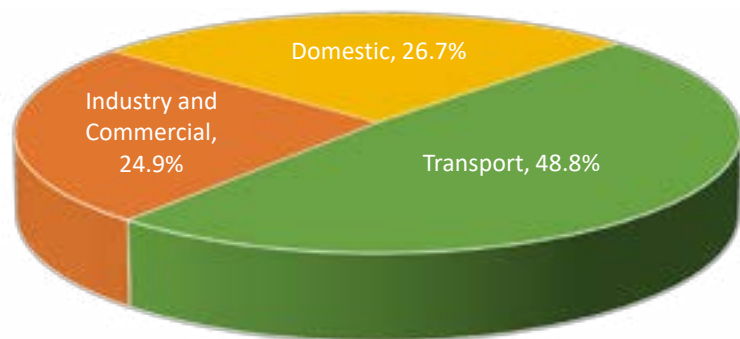


Awareness, Engagement & Behaviour Change

What do we do know already?

National data available from BEIS Local Authority Emissions dataset on the level of carbon emissions within Newcastle-under-Lyme are split by domestic, industrial and transport emissions. It shows that for 2018 24.9% of total emission were from Industry and Commercial, 26.7% from Domestic and 48.8% from Transport.

Carbon emissions in Newcastle-under-Lyme, 2018



Source: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2018

As part of developing its new Local Plan, the Borough Council in collaboration with neighbouring Staffordshire authorities commissioned AECOM to quantify the current energy and greenhouse gas emissions.

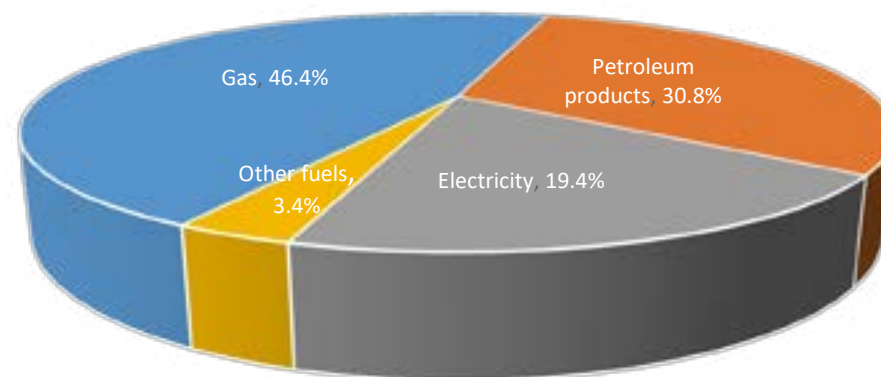
In 2017, total fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme was approximately 1,278 GWh (5% of all fuel consumption in Staffordshire). The largest proportion of fuel consumed was gas (46.4%), with

Total Fuel Consumption

The domestic sector accounts for the highest proportion of fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme, followed by road transport and industrial & commercial sectors. Within the domestic sector, approximately 75.2% of fuel consumed is gas and 22.9% is electricity. In the industrial & commercial sector, approximately 49.3% of fuel consumed is electricity and 37.5% is gas.

The baseline GHG emissions in Newcastle-under-Lyme are estimated to be 903.02 ktCO₂e. Of this total, Scope 1 and 2 emissions (i.e. those associated with fuel consumption and electricity used within the area boundary) account for roughly 767.38 ktCO₂e. the largest portion of emissions result from petrol and diesel used in road transport (38%), followed by residential buildings (27%). Within the residential sector, the use of natural gas (e.g. for heating, hot water and cooking) accounts for the majority of GHG emissions. Non-domestic buildings collectively account for around 25% of total emissions. Emissions from aviation make up around 8% of the overall total; these are based on UK-wide aviation emissions, allocated to Newcastle-under-Lyme based on its population. Other sectors, such as wastewater treatment, waste disposal, and livestock collectively account for less than 3% of total emissions.

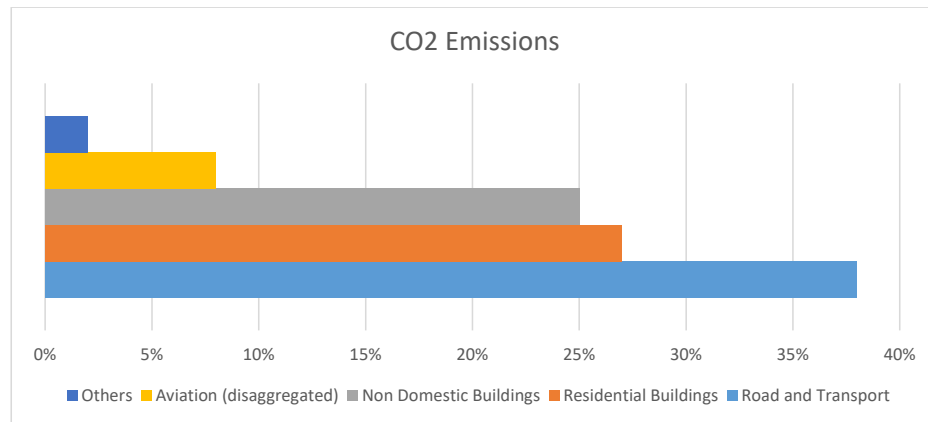
Fuel consumption in Newcastle-under-Lyme, 2017



What do we do know already?

C02 Emissions

- Road and Transport 38%
- Residential Buildings 27%
- Non Domestic Buildings 25%
- Aviation (disaggregated) 8%
- Others 2%



The Tyndall Centre, a collaborative academic research project for Climate Change, has quantified carbon budgets at local authority levels. These carbon budgets are based on translating the “well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C” global temperature target and equity principles in the United Nations Paris Agreement to a national UK carbon budget. The UK budget is then split between sub-national areas using different allocation regimes.

The complete report for the Newcastle under Lyme is available at: <https://carbon-budget.manchester.ac.uk/reports/E07000195/>

According to Tyndall Centre, for Newcastle-under-Lyme to make its ‘fair’ contribution towards the Paris Climate Change Agreement, it must remain within its maximum cumulative carbon dioxide emissions budget of 4.6 million tonnes (MtCO₂) for the period of 2020 to 2100.

Table 1: Periodic Carbon Budgets for 2018 for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Carbon Budget Period	Recommended Carbon Budget (Mt CO ₂)
2018 - 2022	3.2
2023 - 2027	1.5
2028 - 2032	0.7
2033 - 2037	0.3
2038 - 2042	0.2
2043 - 2047	0.1
2048 - 2100	0.1

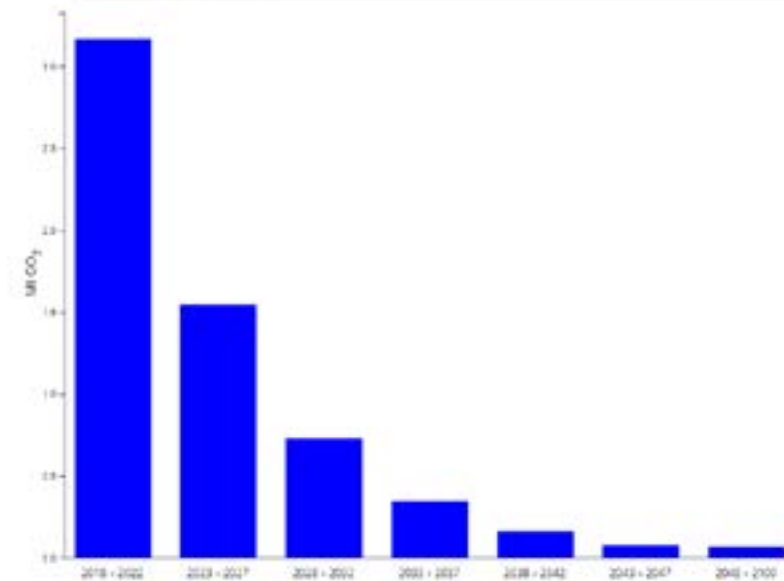


Figure 2: Cumulative CO₂ emissions for budget period (based on Table 1) from 2018 to 2100 for Newcastle-under-Lyme

The allocated Carbon budget of 4,600 kt Co₂ from 2020 to 2100 (6,100 kt CO₂ for the period of 2018-2100, as the current estimates for emissions for 2018 and 2019 have been included).

However, at the current 2017 CO₂ emissions levels, Newcastle under Lyme would use this entire budget, (which has been allocated a period of 80 years) within 6 years from 2020.

Although there has been good progress already made in a number of areas that support and enhance our natural environment, it is acknowledged that we could do and have to do more to achieve the aims of this Strategy and our goal of carbon neutrality.

We commit to achieving 100% carbon neutrality across our own operations and assets by 2030 at the latest through a combination of reducing carbon production and offsetting of any residual carbon emissions.

We will also work in partnership to achieve a significant reduction in emissions and improve carbon offset rates across the wider Borough and support Staffordshire as a County to meet its ambitions through the way we do things; ensuring that working towards carbon neutrality is a thread which runs through all of our decision-making.



We will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by

- Reducing our overall energy consumption from our operations and assets.
- Harnessing natural resources, for example by harvesting rain and grey water.
- Switching to green and renewable sources of energy.
- Raising expectations of developers, through our Local Plan policies.
- Making sustainable procurement choices.
- Investigating green energy investment.



We will minimise waste and increase recycling

- Producing less waste, and encouraging the use of sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics and other single use items
- We will reduce our use of natural resources and encourage their reuse and recycling.
- We will continue to provide a wide range of recycling opportunities including a wide range of plastics.
- We will provide separate household and business food waste recycling services and promote reduction in food waste.



We will reduce emissions by

- Reducing our business mileage by more agile and home working
- Decreasing reliance on the car journeys
- Facilitating the growth of electric vehicles for both personal and operational use through provision of charging infrastructure
- Reducing the level of particulates in the district through the North Staffs Clean Air Project
- Facilitating alternatives to motor vehicle modes of transport including cycling and walking



We will offset carbon emissions by

- Increasing our tree canopy and sequestration of carbon through the combined efforts of the Borough Council, town and parish councils, volunteers and residents.
- Establish carbon capture parks and community orchards on greenspace and encourage community ownership.
- Protecting existing hedgerows and tree canopy from the effects of development and maintaining our policy on tree preservation.
- Protecting existing habitats wetlands, marsh and encouraging additional vegetation planting in rivers and ponds
- Increasing biodiversity, habitat protection, replacement and enhancement across our green open spaces.
- Working with local food producers to accelerate the production and availability of local environmentally friendly food stuff.
- Consider investing in offset as a last resort where we are not able to deliver it ourselves.

How we will deliver our priority outcomes

The following section identifies a range of actions which covers the next five years. The main focus are actions which relate to the Council's own activities and estate. In addition, there are a number of actions which benefit the wider Newcastle-under-Lyme borough.

Themes	Action	By when?
Overarching	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Staffordshire Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Report has been finalised and key policy recommendations will inform policies in the Local Plan to ensure that new development will seek to mitigate the impact on climate change. 2. The following policy principles are likely to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presumption in favour of renewable energy development on unconstrained areas (which will be identified on the Policies Map), subject to specific criteria on design, siting, amenity impact etc. • Electric vehicle charging points should be included in all developments' parking proposals. Where use of existing parking facilities are being utilised, contributions towards electric vehicle infrastructure is likely to be required; • Requirement that all development should be adaptable to climate change and help reduce carbon emissions by including, wherever appropriate, decentralised and renewable and low carbon sources. • Requirement on proposals for major developments to submit a sustainability statement demonstrating consideration of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies; • Requirement for all development and energy proposals that would generate significant surplus or waste heat should take all practicable measures to utilise that heat to meet local energy needs; • Requirement to connect into the heat network or be designed to do so where this is planned or exists, unless it can be demonstrated that there are more effective alternatives for minimising carbon emissions or such connection is impracticable; • The Report also recommends consideration of a carbon offset fund. Should the Council choose to adopt this, the level of charge set would need to be tested in a Viability Report and additional resources may be required to manage this fund. 	At the adoption of the Local Plan
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. To engage with Keele University (possible Staffordshire University) to explore what they are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral and to examine if the Council can learn anything from the work being undertaken. 	2021/2022
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To explore if there is any national best practice examples and/or guidance to support the delivery of such work. 	2021/2022

	<p>5. The Council has modified its Invitation to Tender (Open Procedure) Part 2 Questionnaire to include the questions linked to provider's carbon reduction plan and officers will monitor and report on responses received as part of any future procurements.</p>	2020
<p>Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels</p>	<p>6. An Outline Business Case is to be submitted to DEFRA, which will include a package of measures to be implemented with respect to Air Quality.</p> <p>7. DEFRA funding will be required to implement and monitor required measures. Measures likely to be implemented are anticipated to be taken forward by Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council as the Highways Authorities with input from Borough Council.</p> <p>8. A 'pilot' of a Government funded E-Scooters scheme in collaboration with Staffordshire County Council has commenced for a period of 12 months within the Town Centre.</p> <p>9. To explore the option of expanding the use of E-scooters for local employees to use on distribution centres.</p> <p>10. Staffordshire County Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) 2020-2030 establishes a programme of improvements for pedestrians and cyclists to include better access and improved cycle routes for the residents of the Borough.</p> <p>11. Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council, as an employer, has for a number of years, implemented agile working, to reduce Co2 from employee commuting. It has adopted a Green Travel Plan, encouraging Car Sharing, Cycle Loans, and Annual Bus Travel Card for its employees.</p> <p>12. The Borough Council has installed four electrical vehicle charging outlets for its fleet vehicles at its Central Depot.</p> <p>13. A consortium bid, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approved eight rapid electric vehicle charging points to be installed within the Borough.</p> <p>14. Staffordshire County Council have developed an EV strategy for the County. The Council will use this as a basis for its borough wide strategy.</p> <p>15. To investigate the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in car parks managed by the Borough for customer usage.</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>End of 2022</p> <p>2020 – 2021</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2020-2030</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2022</p>

How we will deliver our priority outcomes

	<p>16. The requirements for taxi vehicles to be electric or of a maximum age were rejected by Committee, as part of the last Taxi / Private Hire Vehicle policy update. Therefore older vehicles continue to be utilised and will continue to be licensed for as long as roadworthy and meet license standards in force at time.</p> <p>17. To consider future amendments of policy and further consultation and adoption to the Taxi / PHV policy</p> <p>18. To assess the suitability and applicability of financial support schemes from the Office of Low Emissions Vehicles grants for new vehicles / grant for second hand (loan schemes to support purchase of New and Used vehicles)</p> <p>19. To assess schemes established by Local Authorities such as Birmingham / Coventry / Nottingham with respect to electrical vehicles and its associated infrastructure improvement and to incorporate learning for the Council.</p> <p>20. To assess whether the Taxi and PHV is to be affected by the current / future clean air work. Will be subject to Ministerial Approval of measures to improve Air Quality.</p>	<p>2019</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2021/2022</p>
<p>Reduce Emissions</p>	<p>21. As part of the new recycling service, the Council has invested in Routesmart, allowing route optimisation with the new waste service. It is envisaged that once the new service has been embedded and routes optimised; fuel and emissions reduction will materialise.</p> <p>22. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.</p> <p>23. The current lease vehicles, which use diesel fuel, used by the Council Dog Warden & Pest Control Services will be replaced with 3 x Nissan E-NV200 Acenta Vans (electric vehicles).</p> <p>24. The Council has installed Wi Bees Data Loggers in six of its buildings.</p> <p>25. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.</p> <p>26. To begin the installation of a new Building Energy Management System at our Main Leisure Centre Jubilee 2</p> <p>27. To utilise data of energy usage in Council Buildings to procure new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.</p> <p>28. To appoint an energy specialist in-house or to engage an external specialist Consultant with the remit of reducing carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2023</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2020/2021</p> <p>2021</p>

	<p>29. To Council has appointed external consultants to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Councils landholdings and buildings.</p> <p>30. The Council has begun working collaboratively with Keele University to explore new energy efficient schemes, district network heating.</p> <p>31. To Council has made preliminary assessment of the type of street lighting for which the Council is responsible for, 382 lights of which only 4 are currently LED.</p> <p>32. To develop a Capital Assets Strategy, which establishes the building maintenance and capital spend for Council Assets, which is consistent with the Carbon Reduction Agenda.</p> <p>33. To develop a proposal / business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p> <p>2021/2022</p>
<p>Minimise Waste, Recycle More</p>	<p>34. To review what neighbouring authorities are delivering as part of their carbon reduction/carbon neutrality programme, examine if there might be benefits from a combined public sector L.A. approach;</p> <p>35. To engage with the Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce to understand the messages/guidance they are providing to the business sector on CO2 neutral energy tariffs;</p> <p>36. To explore what local medium to large size private sector organisations are doing in relation to reducing carbon / becoming carbon neutral (examine any learning from the work being undertaken).</p>	<p>2021/2022</p> <p>2021/2022</p> <p>2021/2022</p>
<p>Offset</p>	<p>37. The Borough Council will undertake a feasibility study for a tree planting programme on sites around the borough, to facilitate carbon capture and greening. Consultation, detailed design and cost estimates are to be prepared in 2021 and implementation to commence in 2021.</p> <p>38. The Borough Council is exploring the option of purchasing electricity and gas that is green tariff and assessing the financial implication of doing so and its likely carbon saving.</p> <p>39. To explore the feasibility of installing a 50kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot.</p>	<p>2021</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2021</p>

We need to work with our partners to be able to deliver some of our aims and to enable and support others in delivering their priorities for change. We commit to:



Awareness, Engagement and Behavioural Change

- Work with groups and individuals across the district to develop a tree planting network, invite the Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission to share funding opportunities and build a volunteer group to help with planting and maintenance.
 - Producing information on how businesses can help themselves to be greener and reduce their carbon footprint.
 - List funding opportunities on the Economic Development webpage as and when they become available.
 - Signposting business community to Government/ Local Enterprise Partnership and other environmental initiatives.
 - Clarify the government offer/regional/Local / Enterprise Partnership.
- Seeking best practice and information sharing with local businesses.



Natural Environment

- Work with our Parish and Town Councils and Staffordshire County Council to protect and increase tree canopy.
- Work with environmental bodies such as the Environment Agency to improve and protect local air quality, odours and flooding.
- Support local food producers markets and local food production.
- Support the development of a county-wide Air Quality Strategy.
- Work with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to protect and restore wildlife habitats.



Minimise waste and recycle more

- Take an active role within the Staffordshire Joint Waste Management Board to support and progress projects to reduce waste, increase recycling and enhance re-use of recycled materials.
- Design and implement communications programmes to encourage waste minimisation.
- Work to implement the forthcoming Government Waste and Recycling Strategy for the local area including deposit return schemes if implemented by Government



Built Environment

- Encourage developers to use sustainable materials and techniques through the Councils emerging Local Plan.
- Exploring with local partners opportunities to develop geothermal recovery projects that make use of residual minewater from the areas previous industrial heritage.
- Work closely with local registered social landlords such as Aspire Housing to implement energy saving projects, efficient building maintenance techniques.

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