

### Sustainable Environment Strategy Action Plan 2022/2023

Themes	Action	By when?	Updated 15 June 2022	Action Owner
Overarching	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.	At the adoption of the Local Plan	Jemma has confirmed that this is currently on target.	JM
	2. The following policy principles are likely to be taken forward in the emerging Local Plan:-			
	2.1 Presumption in favour of wind energy development on unconstrained areas (which will be identified on the Policies Map), subject to specific criteria on design, siting, amenity impact etc.	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM
	2.2 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;	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM
	2.3 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.	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM
	2.4 Requirement on proposals for major developments to submit a sustainability statement demonstrating consideration of energy efficiency measures and low carbon technologies;	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM
	2.5 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;	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM
	2.6 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;	At the adoption of the Local Plan		JM

	2.7 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		JM
	3. Continuing 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:  3.1 Hydrogen Fuel  3.2 Solar Panels	2022/2023  2022/2023  2022/2023	  Keele University have a demonstration plant that makes Hydrogen and their next stage is to look at putting in a fuel station.  Andrew has had a site visit to St. Helens where they have a Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicle. Andrew will arrange a meeting with Keele University and St. Helens to look at ways of taking this forward with the Council's fleet.  This is currently up and running at Keele and they have a plan in place working towards becoming carbon neutral.	AB  AB
	4. To explore if there is any national best practice examples and/or guidance to support the delivery of such work.	2022/2023	No new updates at present.	All
	5. Commission a base line study and roadmap plan to reach carbon neutrality for the Council's operations by 2030.	2022/23	Brief is currently being prepared by AB.	AB/SS
<b>Reduce our reliance on Fossil Fuels</b>	6. An Air Quality Final Business Case will be considered by Cabinet for submitting to DEFRA which will include a package of measures to be implemented with respect to Air Quality improvements.	2022/2023	Looking to go back to Cabinet late Autumn with the Business Case.  Looking to submit a bid to the Clean Air Fund for a range of green travel type initiatives.	NB/DAA
	7. 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.	2020-2030	No new updates at present.	JC
	8. Promote the Council's agile working policy and Green Travel Plan, encouraging Car Sharing, Cycle Loans, and Annual Bus Travel Card for its employees to reduce CO2 from travel to work.	Ongoing	HR are currently looking at options.  A staff survey will need to be carried out to see how staff are travelling to work and what fuel they are using.	GE/HS

	9. A consortium bid, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approved eight rapid electric vehicle charging points to be installed within the Borough.  To complete the installation of electrical vehicle charging points in car parks managed by the Borough for customer usage.	2022	Charging points have now been installed. Simon (M) to check with Neil Guest to see if they are working yet.	NG
	10. Staffordshire County Council have developed an EV strategy for the County. The Council will use this as a basis for its borough-wide strategy.  Continue to investigate further opportunities for on street parking charging points.	2022/2023	No new updates at present.	AB/JC
	11. To consider future amendments of Taxi Policy.	2025	To be reviewed in 2024.	MB/AB
	12. 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).	2025	Steve Gee will monitor and update the Group accordingly as this develops.	SG
	13. 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.	2025	Steve Gee will monitor and update the Group accordingly as this develops.	SG
	14. Hydro Bio Fuel Project.	Ongoing	Andrew (B) is preparing a paper for EMT as there are cost implications involved.	AB/SG
<b>Reduce Emissions</b>	15. Build on vehicle route optimisation work in recycling, waste and fleet service and extend it to other parts of the Council's operations to reduce vehicle mileage and emissions.	Ongoing	Steve Gee looking at Recycling & Waste, Fleet Services and Streetscene.	SG
	16. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.	Ongoing	Steve Gee will monitor and update the Group accordingly as this develops. Possibility of revisiting the training for business drivers.	SG

	17. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, for utilities consumption, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.	2023	Sites will be monitored until the end of the year and then a report will be prepared on the findings.	GT
	18. Monitor and utilise the data from the new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.	2022/2023	Leisure Energy have provided a quote but this does not include structural assessments, looking to have this report in September then will seek to procure via framework or select list, utilising capital funding for this financial year. Andrew (A) will discuss with Gordon the potential for Salix bids later this year for the LED lighting and Pool Pumps.	GT/AA
	19. To procure specialist energy consultants to provide energy advice on a project by project basis to reduce carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio. The costs will be built into each project.	2022/2023	Current projects are those listed with 18 above. Need to look at other sites such as Cremators and heat recovery. Following work on the road map we should seek to prioritise individual site feasibility studies.	All
	20. The Council has appointed external consultants, Wardell Armstrong, to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Council's landholdings and buildings.	ongoing	Gordon and Simon (M) to review the report from Wardell Armstrong to see if the Council need to continue with this.	GT/SMc
	21. The 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.  To develop a proposal/business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting.	2022/2023	The Council will do this direct and Neil Guest will progress.	NG
<b>Minimise Waste, Recycle More</b>	22. 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.	2022/2023	The Council is currently looking to procure a new AD Provider for the food waste.	AB/All
	23. 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.	2022/2023	Rachael Cleary to progress.	RC
	24. 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).	2022/2023	Rachael Cleary to progress.	RC

<b>Offset</b>	25. Continue the planting of trees on Council owned land as part of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy and declare planted sites Urban Carbon Capture Areas.	2022/2023	Phase 3 has been completed and plans are being made for Phase 4 to be implemented in winter 2022/23. Dave to speak to Councillor Simon Tagg to see which sites will be included in Phase 4.	BA
	26. Explore the feasibility of installing a 30kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot.	2022/23	Panels are on hold whilst the Depot feasibility work is completed.	GT
	27. Implement Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Bid projects for sustainable energy solutions. Including LED street lighting, community building energy efficiency and feasibility of Keele solar green energy generation.	2022/23	CRF project has been awarded to Wardell Armstrong for 9 sites for completion by September. The Solar Farm Project at Keele Cemetery is progressing well and could supply power to the Depot, there are also several other options for the power generation and discussions are taking place with Marley's at Madeley, Newcastle College and St.John Fisher School.  Andrew will speak to the Property Team to look at the other sites.	AB
	28. Social Housing & Decarbonisation Fund	2022	Ongoing.	GT
	29. Prepare a Nature Recovery Action Plan in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	2022/23	Becky Allen and Jemma March are having a meeting with SWT regarding the scope and format of the Nature Recovery Action Plan. Roger to check with Becky when the meeting is due to take place.	BA/JM
	30. J2 Tree Planting Scheme - to plant a tree for every new Member signed up at J2.	2022/23	Andrew (A) and Becky Allen are progressing this.	AA/BA
	31. Sustainable Environment Training Project	2022/2023	Cabinet and WMT have completed the online training and this will now be rolled-out to all staff and Members. Dominic Taylor to arrange for a direct link to be set up so that Members are able to complete the training.  Rachael Cleary to progress with the manual workforce.	DAA/DT  RC
	32. Explore Long Life/Long Term Energy Storage opportunities	Ongoing	Solar PV/fuel cell/battery storage to be looked at - GT to bring any proposals back to this group.	GT
	33. Green Gas Provision		Simon (S) to arrange a meeting with Simon (M), Andrew (B), Gordon and Craig Turner to discuss the implications of what the carbon offset will be and what the caveats are.	SS/SM/AB/GT /CT

22. Hydro Bio Fuel Project.	Ongoing	The Council to look at alternative fuel sources.
23. Build on vehicle route optimisation work in recycling, waste and fleet service and extend it to other parts of the Council's operations to reduce vehicle mileage and emissions.	Ongoing	Steve Gee will monitor and update the Group accordingly as this develops.
24. To continue to provide driver CPC training and offer ECO driving aimed at Driver behaviour and well-being.	Ongoing	Steve Gee will monitor and update the Group accordingly as this develops.
25. Based on the data captured by Wi Bees Data Loggers, for utilities consumption, the Council will seek to effect behaviour changes and optimise energy usage.	2023	Sites will be monitored until the end of the year and then a report will be prepared on the findings.
26. Monitor and utilise the data from the new "e-telligent" packages of building management systems.	2022/2023	<p>Andrew (A) has received a report from Leisure Energy which was circulated to the Group.</p> <p>The report summary shows three main areas where carbon reduction can be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LED lighting and lighting controls - £92K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Pool Pumps - 60K</li> <li>• Review of Pool Covers - £40K</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The biggest carbon reduction would be from the Pool Covers and this comes within budget. The other 2 options would need reports to go to the CAC Group to agree funding.</p>
27. To procure specialist energy consultants to provide energy advice on a project by project basis to reduce carbon emissions across the Council's portfolio. The costs will be built into each project.	2022/2023	Ongoing
28. The Council has appointed external consultants to assess the feasibility of deploying low carbon technologies, across the Council's landholdings and buildings.	ongoing	Gordon has sent a copy of the Wardell Armstrong report to Andrew (B).
29. Continue to work collaboratively with Keele University to explore new energy efficient schemes such as district network heating.	2022/2023	Ongoing
30. The 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.		Gordon and Neil Guest are progressing this and looking to replace the lights where possible over the next 12 months.
To develop a proposal/business case to install LED to Council's owned street lighting	2022/2023	
31. 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.	2022/2023	The Council is currently looking to procure a new AD Provider for the food waste.
32. 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.	2022/2023	The new Environmental Sustainability Officer will progress this once appointed.
33. 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).	2022/2023	The new Environmental Sustainability Officer will progress this once appointed.

34. Continue the planting of trees on Council owned land as part of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy and declare planted sites Urban Carbon Capture Areas.	2022/2023	One site is being planted up tomorrow with four other sites being planted in late March/early April.
35. Explore the feasibility of installing a 30kw array of solar thermal-PV hybrid at south facing roofs of NULBC central Depot. Battery Solutions for the Depot. To store excess energy from the solar panels.	2022/23 2023	A report will go to EMT to approve a consultant for a high level feasibility study which should be ready by Summer.
36. Implement Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Bid projects for sustainable energy solutions. Including LED street lighting, community building energy efficiency and feasibility of Keele solar green energy generation.	2022/23	Cabinet have approved this and the contract is currently being signed off.
37. Social Housing & Decarbonisation Fund	2022	The funding has been approved and the money received from the Government. The Council is currently signing a legal agreement with Aspire to sign the money over to them.
38. Prepare a Nature Recovery Action Plan in conjunction with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	2022/23	Ongoing - Habitat Mapping will need to be carried out.
39. J2 Tree Planting Scheme - to plant a tree for every new Member signed up at J2.	2022/23	Andrew (A) to speak to Becky Allen about progressing this.
40. Progress Carbon Literacy Project	2022/2023	The training programme for staff without access to PCs and Members is currently being finalised. Andrew will send the computer link to this Group so that they can complete the online training
41. Explore Long Life/Long Term Energy Storage opportunities	Ongoing	Solar PV/fuel cell/battery storage to be looked at.