

Climate Change Sub-Committee

Terms of Reference (DRAFT)

Introduction

On 10th July 2019 recognising the serious threat posed by climate change, the responsibility our institutions, businesses and communities have to eliminate net CO2 emissions and also the need to take immediate measures to prepare for climate change impacts, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

That this Council declare a Climate Emergency as many councils have already done all over the UK and will undertake to:

- 1. 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.*
- 2. 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.*
- 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.*
- 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.*
- 5. Review progress made on an annual basis via Scrutiny and Full Council.*

Aim

- To translate the aspiration expressed in the emergency resolution for a carbon neutral Staffordshire Moorlands 2030 into a deliverable action plan.

Membership

The Sub-Committee should be politically balanced and comprise 11 elected members.

Task

- To develop a Climate Action Plan for Staffordshire Moorlands which:

- Sets deliverable targets that will reduce the Council's (direct and indirect) carbon emissions. This includes consideration of the cost and benefits of the proposed measures.
- Considers how local business and households can be encouraged and assisted to reduce their carbon emissions.
- Identifies key local actions to prepare for the impact of climate change and increase local resilience.
- Identifies key measures, policy changes and actions by government which the Council should seek to influence.
- Gains community support and further galvanises local action.

Proposed Approach

- Organise initial 'Carbon literacy' training for members and officers – work to ensure a common understanding of the science, the key challenges and what other councils are doing.
- Scope the task – which Council actions, activities and processes are relevant.
- Consider the local data, including trends, identifying key issues for the District.
- Develop and undertake a process of community engagement and draw on the external expertise and support available.
- Identify and learn from best practice within the District and elsewhere.
- Identify low cost/no cost 'quick wins' to generate momentum.
- Develop costed options for consideration by the Council
- Develop a draft Plan to be scrutinised by the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Structure

Establish:

- Climate Change Sub-Committee
- Officer group – to support the Sub-Committee, to identify and start to take actions, to act as service champions
- Links with community groups/climate action group and ensure engagement in the Sub-Committee process
- Links with local businesses/ business groups and ensure engagement in the Sub-Committee process

Key Milestones

- Initial agreement on the appropriate way forward – Group Leaders (August 2019)
- Establish Sub-Committee (September 2019)
- Potential Interim Report – with a view to any possible measures impacting on the 2020/21 budget (December 2019)
- Present Full Plan for agreement (July 2020)