

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Health and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**24 July 2023**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Climate Change Six Monthly Update</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Nigel Yates - Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Environment</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>David Smith - Head of Communities and Climate Change</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**Appendices Attached – Appendix A:** Annual Report 2023; **Appendix B:** Anthesis Supplementary Action Plan Report; **Appendix C** Nature Recovery Network Mapping Evidence Base by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust 2021; **Appendix D:** Nature Recovery Declaration

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 The Council's committed to provide an annual report and a six-month update report on progress made towards delivery of its Climate Change Strategy. This report presents the Annual Climate Change Report 2023.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Panel note the:

- Annual Report 2023 and progress to date, and
- next steps for 2023/2024 and beyond.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Council approved its Climate Change Strategy (Aiming Low: The Way to Net Zero 2021 to 2030) in December 2021. The strategy was independently reviewed by Climate Emergency UK, who awarded it a score of 87%: the second highest score by a district council in the country. This score reflects the organisation of our response to declaring the climate emergency, not the effectiveness of delivered actions.
- 3.2 This report details progress towards delivering the Council's Climate Change plan. Key activities include:

- The Council is a partner in the Staffordshire Warmer Homes partnership which successfully secured Green Homes Grant Local GHG LAD (round 1 funding) and delivered the Council's allocation of over £600,000 GHG LAD round 2 funding in Staffordshire Moorlands. For LAD3 and HUG1 the figures up to March 2023 are below. LAD3 targets households with mains gas and HUG2 households without. HUG1 ended in May 2023 and LAD3 ends in September 2023.
- Through the engagement of Air Aware, several schools and businesses now have travel plans accredited by ModeShift Stars.
- The Local Plan adopted in September 2020 sets out ambitions to reduce the need to travel or make it safer and easier to travel by more sustainable forms of transport. (Spatial Objective SO11)
- The Council's pioneering project to use spent hydrogenated vegetable oil on suitable vehicles, not only reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also particulates. Unfortunately, the 10 fold increase in price for HVO has meant that it is now significantly more expensive to run the fleet compared to traditional diesel. A decision was made to revert to traditional diesel until a cheaper source is found or prices drop. The cost of HVO is related to its finite supply being a recycled product, this has been recognised by the Staffordshire Sustainability Board who have agreed to write to the Exchequer to request a review of fuel duty to make the product more attractive for adoption.
- The Council is accredited with the Carbon Literacy Bronze Award and are close to receiving silver through training more staff and members. Members climate training is booked for October 2023, for the new administration and councillors.
- Carbon emissions generated by Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre are set to fall thanks to a £2.1million project to improve energy efficiency and reduce the building's impact on the environment.
- The Agile working policy for staff has enabled suitable roles to use blended working approaches to reduce travel time and resources for both commuting and meetings. The new Climate Change and Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document will encourage the use of renewables in new and majorly renovated properties.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust are preparing a Plan for Nature for the district. This will incorporate the Council's response to the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements under Part 6 of the Environment Act 2021, which is likely to be mandatory by November 2023 subject to further guidance. It will also incorporate our strategic approach to improve and increase tree cover and deliver the Green Infrastructure Strategy, mitigate against climate change and potentially improve air quality.
- The Council continues to be a high performer achieving a 52.3% recycling rate, which is the high compared to national statistics.
- The Council is engaged with several key agencies to assist with the development of our plans including all the other councils of Staffordshire,

The Midlands net Zero Hub, the Energy Saving Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Anthesis sustainability consultancy and Keele University.

- We have worked with Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to develop a Youth ECO Leaders programme. The programme has three parts following the learn-talk-do model.
- 3.3 Discussions with the Portfolio Holder, at the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel and with key stakeholders, including members of the Staffordshire Moorlands Green Network, have (re)emphasised the importance of targeting our limited resources on the areas where we can have the greatest impact. These discussions have led to the creation of a "Short List" of targeted actions that are being proposed to Cabinet for delivery, and a "Long List" of deliverable actions that will be uplifted into the short list as these tasks are concluded to ensure that there is always a focused, deliverable list of targeted actions.
- 3.4 Reducing the Council's own emissions and meeting the ambitious target of achieving net zero by 2030 will always be the main priority as we have most influence over this. Measures for achieving this target will be included in each year's action plan.
- 3.5 We are proposing that the 2023/2024 action plan concentrates on the following priorities in addition to reducing the Council's own emissions:
- The Way We Live, and zeroing in on domestic energy,
  - The Way We Travel, and zeroing in on increasing the use of Electric Vehicles
  - The Way We Look After Our Environment
  - The Way We Can Help Change to Occur, spotlighting community engagement.
  - The Way We Work
- 3.6 A detailed action plan will be developed once the Council has concluded its corporate priority setting exercise during the summer to ensure that the climate change action support broader council priorities wherever possible. We aim to bring the plan before the Health and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its September meeting. Current actions will continue to be delivered and this does not represent a pause in activity.
- 3.7 The nature (or biodiversity) crisis links to, but is separate from, the climate change crisis. The Council adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy in May 2018 and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust subsequently prepared a Nature Recovery Network Mapping Evidence Base in 2021 to support delivery of the plan (Appendix C). More recently, SWT have been commissioned by the Council to develop a Plan for Nature for the district. The Plan for Nature is currently being finalised and will be brought forward for Councillors' consideration shortly. The Plan is intended to guide district council actions to halt and reverse the decline of the natural world across the authority area.
- 3.8 We propose to report on the delivery of "The Way We Look After Our Environment" aspect of the Climate Change Strategy as part of the overall

reporting on delivery of the nature recovery agenda. This should provide a simpler delivery and reporting structure, ensure that that both climate change and nature recovery are given adequate consideration, whilst recognising that there are The Council is proposing to adopt the Nature Recovery Declaration at Appendix D.

- 3.9 When declaring a Climate Change emergency, the Council adopted the target of achieving Net Zero by 2030 that had been recommended by Moorlands Climate Action. This was unanimously supported by Councillors. This is amongst the most ambitious targets in Staffordshire.
- 3.10 The Council is strongly committed to achieving Net Zero across its own operations by 2030. This will remain a corporate priority and a key aim of the Council.
- 3.11 Much has changed since the declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019 including new national strategies, and legislation; greater cross-Council working within Staffordshire; and an increase in the Council's own skills, knowledge, experience and capacity. Work carried out on the Council's behalf by Anthesis demonstrates that the ambitious aim of achieving Net Zero across the district is not achievable. See Appendix B
- 3.12 The Council intends to review the target with the aim of ensuring that any targets that the Council is working towards are achievable, science-led and consistent with the approach of other key partners within Staffordshire. This will include holding discussions about aligned Countywide targets at the Staffordshire Sustainability Board. This only covers the district-wide target and the 2030 target for reducing Council emissions will be retained.
- 3.13 The Council is committed to driving forward this important agenda and recognises the importance of transparency, accountability and the involvement of Elected Members. We are proposing to establish a joint Climate Change Sub-committee with High Peak Borough Council. This will primarily oversee the reduction of the Councils' emissions and achievement of the 2030 reduction target that have been previously approved by both Councils. We will bring forward terms of reference and an initial work programme with a view to commencing monthly meetings from September (subject to confirmation of the arrangements with High Peak Borough Council).
- 3.14 We will bring forward suggestions for the oversight of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Plan for Nature when the latter is presented to Councillors.

#### **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report supports delivery of Aim 4 of the Corporate Plan: "*To protect and improve the environment, and 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**

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

None

b. Workforce

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

c. Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

None

d. 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.

e. Legal

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

f. Climate Change

The plan sets progress towards delivering the Climate Change Plan and future plans for implementation.

g. 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.

h. 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

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### 7. Detail

- 7.1 The Council approved its Climate Change Strategy (Aiming Low: The Way to Net Zero 2021 to 2030) in December 2021. The strategy was independently reviewed by Climate Emergency UK, who awarded it a score of 87%: the second highest score by a district council in the country. The Council achieved maximum marks for “commitment and integration”, “community engagement and communications”, “co-benefits”, “diversity and social inclusion” and “education, skills and training”. This score reflects the organisation of our response to declaring the climate emergency, not the effectiveness of delivered actions.
- 7.2 Our Climate Change Strategy is based upon our 7 Ways to Net Zero approach. A short video that explains the Council’s approach can be found on our website or at <https://youtu.be/D9B64fGchq8> and a summary is provided at Appendix A.
- 7.3 The strategy incorporated an annual action plan that set out activities for the 2022/23 financial year. Going forward, the Council will adopt a more explicit separation of the strategy, which sets the direction over several years, from the yearly action plan.
- 7.4 Appendix A provides detail of progress towards delivering the Council’s Climate Change plan. Key activities include:
- The Council is a partner in the Staffordshire Warmer Homes partnership which successfully secured Green Homes Grant Local GHG LAD (round 1 funding) and delivered the Council's allocation of over £600,000 GHG LAD round 2 funding in Staffordshire Moorlands. For LAD3 and HUG1 the figures up to March 2023 are below. LAD3 targets households with mains gas and HUG2 households without. HUG1 ended in May 2023 and LAD3 ends in September 2023.
  - Through the engagement of Air Aware, several schools and businesses now have travel plans accredited by ModeShift Stars.
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- The Council's pioneering project to use spent hydrogenated vegetable oil on suitable vehicles, not only reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also particulates. Unfortunately the 10 fold increase in price for HVO has meant that it is now significantly more expensive to run the fleet compared to traditional diesel. A decision was made to revert to traditional diesel until a cheaper source is found or prices drop. The cost of HVO is related to its finite supply being a recycled product, this has been recognised by the Staffordshire Sustainability Board who have agreed to write to the Exchequer to request a review of fuel duty to make the product more attractive for adoption.
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- The Council continues to be a high performer achieving a 52.3% recycling rate, which is the high compared to national statistics.
- The Council is engaged with several key agencies to assist with the development of our plans including all the other councils of Staffordshire, The Midlands net Zero Hub, the Energy Saving Trust, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Anthesis sustainability consultancy and Keele University.
- We have worked with Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) to develop a Youth ECO Leaders programme. The programme has three parts following the learn-talk-do model.

## **8 Next Steps**

- 8.1 Discussions with the Portfolio Holder, at the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel and with key stakeholders, including Staffordshire Moorlands Green Network, have (re)emphasised the importance of targeting our limited resources on the areas where we can have the greatest impact. These discussions have led to the creation of a "Short List" of targeted actions that are being proposed to Cabinet for delivery, and a "Long List" of deliverable

actions that will be uplifted into the short list as these tasks are concluded to ensure that there is always a focused, deliverable list of targeted actions.

8.2 Reducing the Council’s own emissions and meeting the ambitious target of achieving net zero by 2030 will always be the main priority as it is where the most influence is. Measures for achieving this target will be included in each year’s action plan.

8.3 Additional priorities for action to reduce district-wide emissions will be agreed annually as part of the annual reporting process and will take account of factors such as:

- Potential for carbon savings;
- Impact;
- Cost;
- Achievability, including ability to control or influence;
- Co-benefits, and links to delivery of other aspects of the corporate plan;
- Opportunities for accessing external funding or partnership working.

8.4 We are proposing that the 2023/2024 action plan concentrates on the following additional priorities:

<b>WHAT?</b>	<b>WHY?</b>
The Way We Live, and zeroing in on domestic energy,	<p>Most in-boundary emissions come from buildings (61%) with around 20% of building emissions coming from residential buildings.</p> <p>A focus on domestic energy provides opportunities to reduce domestic emissions and 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.</p> <p>The council can help to ensure that our residents benefit from external, energy efficiency funding streams.</p>
The Way We Travel, and zeroing in on increasing the use of Electric Vehicles;	<p>Around 20% of in-boundary emissions come from on-road transport. The Council is not the transport authority but can play an active role in encouraging people to move to lower emission forms of transport.</p> <p>The council can help to ensure that our residents benefit from external funding streams aimed at increasing the uptake of electric vehicles and encourage adopting active travel habits .</p>
The Way We Look After Our Environment	Nature based solutions can support climate change mitigation and adaption, and deliver co-benefits connected with water management; urban regeneration; social cohesion; economic opportunities and green jobs; green space management, air quality, and public health and



	<p>well-being.</p> <p>Many of these co-benefits have strong links to other areas of Council responsibility including economic and physical regeneration, management of our parks and open spaces, pollution control, and sport and physical activity.</p> <p>We know that the local environment is important to our residents. Our consultation on attitudes to climate change revealed that residents' top concerns were "loss of animals, plants, habitats and biodiversity" (93% concerned), "extreme weather" (91%), "environment destruction" (90%), and "species extinction" (87%). This concern is reflected in the large number of nature-focused community groups across that have been established across our district.</p> <p>The council can use its land management function to support this, planning process to futureproof protecting the landscape and working with communities to engage, protect and develop new and existing habitats and green spaces.</p>
<p>The Way We Can Help Change to Occur, spotlighting community engagement.</p>	<p>Local authorities collectively<sup>1</sup> have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas and UK100 estimate that local authorities are responsible for around 6% of emissions. Our Climate Change Plan recognises that more than half of the emissions cuts needed rely on people and businesses taking up low-carbon solutions. It is therefore crucial that we continue to encourage our residents, businesses, suppliers and visitors, to reduce their own carbon footprints.</p>
<p>The Way We Work</p>	<p>The council can influence carbon emissions of its own operations and service provision.</p> <p>There is scope within how the council uses and powers buildings, fleet and how staff, services and contractors operate to reduce emissions and improve biodiversity.</p> <p>The council can influence suppliers and contracts through the new Sustainable Procurement Policy</p>

<sup>1</sup> For Staffordshire Moorlands, the local authorities are Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Staffordshire County Council, and the Peak District National Park Authority.

	<p>and push climate change up the supply change, leading by example.</p> <p>Working better with the community, stakeholders and other councils, accelerates the breadth, reach and pace of delivery of initiatives.</p>
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- 8.5 A detailed action plan will be developed once the Council has concluded its corporate priority setting exercise during the summer to ensure that the climate change action support broader council priorities wherever possible. We aim to bring the plan before the Health and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel at its September meeting. Current actions will continue to be delivered and this does not represent a pause in activity.
- 8.6 The nature (or biodiversity) crisis links to, but is separate from, the climate change crisis. The IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) has identified five key drivers of biodiversity loss: climate change; changes in land and sea use; direct exploitation of natural resources; pollution; and invasion of alien species.
- 8.7 The Council adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy in May 2018 and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust subsequently prepared a Nature Recovery Network Mapping Evidence Base in 2021 to support delivery of the plan (Appendix C). More recently, SWT have been commissioned by the Council to develop a Plan for Nature for the district.
- 8.8 The Plan for Nature is currently being finalised and will be brought forward for Councillors' consideration shortly. The Plan is intended to guide district council actions to halt and reverse the decline of the natural world across the authority area and will
- draw together data on the current state of nature within Staffordshire Moorlands;
  - offer recommendations on how and where conservation efforts should be prioritised;
  - assist the Council to take forward its Green Infrastructure Delivery Strategy;
  - help the Council to respond to the forthcoming biodiversity net gain requirement that will apply from November 2023 for developments in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (unless exempt) and to small sites from April 2024; and
  - complement our Climate Change Strategy with climate actions being implemented in a biodiversity-conscious way where practicable with an adoption of a "Right Action, Right Place" framework to maximise positive biodiversity benefits<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>Courtney E. Gorman, Andrew Torsney, Aoibheann Gaughran, Caroline M. McKeon, Catherine A. Farrell, Cian White, Ian Donohue, Jane C. Stout, Yvonne M. Buckley, Reconciling climate action with the need for biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation, Science of The Total Environment, Volume 857, Part 1, 2023,

- 8.9 Going forward, we propose to report on the delivery of “The Way We Look After Our Environment” aspect of the Climate Change Strategy as part of the overall reporting on delivery of the nature recovery agenda. This should provide a simpler delivery and reporting structure, ensure that that both climate change and nature recovery are given adequate consideration, whilst recognising that there are complementary, win-win solutions for both the climate and nature crises.
- 8.10 The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and made a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality. Staffordshire County Council and four district councils have also subsequently made a nature recovery declaration, acknowledging that we are experiencing a global nature crisis, adopting the wording developed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (Appendix C). We know that 41% of wild species are in decline nationally and that 15% face extinction and that global wildlife populations have declined by 69% on average since 1970<sup>3</sup>. In response, the Council is proposing to adopt the Nature Recovery Declaration at Appendix D.
- 8.11 When declaring a Climate Change emergency, the Council adopted the target of achieving Net Zero by 2030 that had been recommended by Moorlands Climate Action. This was unanimously supported by Councillors. As shown in the following table, this is amongst the most ambitious targets in Staffordshire. The table also shows a variation in approach across Staffordshire: with some Council’s only setting targets for Council emissions, some setting the same target for Council and District-wide emissions, and some setting different targets for Council and District-wide emissions.

Council	Net Zero Target Date	Coverage	Climate Emergency UK Total Score <sup>†</sup>
United Kingdom	2050	UK-wide	N/A
Staffordshire County Council	2050	Council emissions	24%
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands District</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>Council and District emissions</b>	<b>87%</b>
Stafford Borough Council	2040	Council emissions	37%
South Staffordshire District Council	2050	Council and District emissions	34%
Newcastle Borough Council	2030	Council emissions	30%
	2050	District emissions	
East Staffordshire Borough Council	2040	Council emissions	24%
Lichfield District Council	2035	Council emissions	0% <sup>††</sup>
	2050	District emissions	
Tamworth Borough Council	2050	Council emissions	0% <sup>††</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Living Planet Report 2022, produced by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Zoological Society of London. <https://livingplanet.panda.org/en-GB/>

Cannock Chase District Council	2030	Council (and District emissions) †††	0%††
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	None set	Not applicable	0%††
<p>† Climate Emergency UK assessed plans according to 28 questions across nine sections, based on the expert-approved checklist for Council Action Plans. Each council was marked against these criteria and given a right to reply before the scores underwent a final audit. This work was completed between June and December 2021.</p> <p>†† Council did not have an action plan when all plans were assessed on 20th September 2021</p> <p>††† Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) commissioned AECOM in 2020 to create a costed action plan, which was delivered at the end of 2022. This led to the Council concluding that the financial burden, the scale and pace required, and remaining timeframe for the district to become Net Zero were not considered achievable by CCDC, its partners, or its stakeholders. As a result, CCDC is amending its approach and is now proposing to (i) work on decarbonising the whole organisation to become carbon neutral by 2030 (replacing its previous target that sought to also achieve Net Zero district-wide by 2030), and (ii) to seek to align with other Staffordshire council's or regional bodies, in a single (existing or new) countywide target.</p>			

8.12 Local emission reduction rely in a large part upon the implementation of the national Net Zero Strategy that was published in October 2021<sup>4</sup>. The Climate Change Committee's most recent report to Parliament described government efforts to scale up climate action as "worryingly slow" and reported that it was less confident than a year ago that the UK would reach its targets for cutting carbon emissions.

*"At COP26, the UK made stretching 2030 commitments in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) – now only seven years away. To achieve the NDC goal of at least a 68% fall in territorial emissions from 1990 levels, the rate of emissions reduction outside the power sector must almost quadruple. Continued delays in policy development and implementation mean that the NDC's achievement is increasingly challenging. Some of the key planks of the UK Net Zero Strategy have substantial lead-times (e.g. hydrogen storage, greenhouse gas removals and carbon capture and storage (CCS) more generally). Progress in other areas is also too slow, including tree planting and the roll-out of low-carbon heating. There continues to be an overly narrow approach to solutions, which crucially does not embrace the need to reduce demand for high-carbon activities".*

- Climate Change Committee, June 2023. Progress in reducing UK emissions 2023 Report to Parliament

8.13 Several measures within the Net Zero Strategy are not scheduled to begin until 2030 or later, including:

- Fully decarbonise our power system by 2035.
- Deliver 5 GW of hydrogen production capacity by 2030, whilst halving emissions from oil and gas.
- Set a path to all new heating appliances in homes and workplaces from 2035 being low carbon.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

- End the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.
  - All cars must be fully zero emissions capable by 2035.
- 8.14 District-wide reductions are also dependant on other Countywide and regional actions, particularly those relating to transport and industrial emissions. The Peak Cluster<sup>5</sup> is an innovative collaboration to capture, transport and permanently store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from the cement and lime industry in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, as well as neighbouring industries in Cheshire. The project will capture and transport carbon dioxide emissions from industry across the region, before permanently locking it away beneath the eastern Irish Sea. This is a very exciting project, but the scheme, if successful, will not be operational until 2030 and the results will not be realised until after that. From 2030, the project will remove over three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year.
- 8.15 The Council commissioned Anthesis to carry out a pathway analysis, to facilitate a series of workshops and identify actions that the district council could consider implementing locally. The resulting report is provided at Appendix B. Some of the suggested actions may not be considered desirable, affordable, practicable or otherwise deliverable within the district and many are outside the control of the district council. However, it does provide a useful list of possible actions that can be considered by the district council, other statutory agencies, business, community groups and others when developing their plans. Crucially, the Anthesis pathway analysis shows that it will not be possible to meet the 2030 net zero target for district-wide emissions.
- 8.16 The Council is strongly committed to achieving Net Zero across its own operations by 2030. This will remain a corporate priority and a key aim of the Council.
- 8.17 Much has changed since the declaration of a climate change emergency in 2019 including new national strategies, and legislation; greater cross-Council working within Staffordshire; and an increase in the Council's own skills, knowledge, experience and capacity. The 2019 target was not science-based and is not achievable district-wide. The Council intends to review the target with the aim of ensuring that any targets that the Council is working towards are achievable (taking account of international, national and regional contexts), science-led and consistent with the approach of other key partners within Staffordshire. This will include holding discussions about aligned Countywide targets at the Staffordshire Sustainability Board. This only covers the district-wide target and the 2030 target for reducing Council emissions will be retained.
- 8.18 The Council is committed to driving forward this important agenda and recognises the importance of transparency, accountability and the involvement of Elected Members. We are proposing to establish a joint Climate Change

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<sup>5</sup> Five cement and lime plants across Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire, owned by Tarmac, Breedon, Lhoist and Aggregate Industries, together with Lostock Sustainable Energy Plant in Cheshire, known locally as LSEP, have come together with Progressive Energy to form Peak Cluster.

Sub-committee with High Peak Borough Council. This will primarily oversee the reduction of the Councils' emissions and achievement of the 2030 reduction target that have been previously approved by both Councils. We will bring forward terms of reference and an initial work programme with a view to commencing monthly meetings from September (subject to confirmation of the arrangements with High Peak Borough Council).

- 8.19 We will bring forward suggestions for the oversight of the Green Infrastructure Strategy and Plan for Nature when the latter is presented to Councillors.