

Climate Change Working Group Staffordshire Moorlands

Terms of Reference Climate Change Working Group

Status

This is a working group of the Council.

It may make recommendations but is not a decision-making body.

Membership

Twelve members of the Council will be appointed by the Cabinet on nomination by group leaders, and according to political proportionality based on the applicable ratio.

Substitute members are permitted.

The Portfolio holder for Climate Change and environment may attend but is not part of the Working Group.

Chair/Vice-Chair

The working group will appoint its own Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting.

The Chair will generally serve for the municipal year.

Attendance

Officers will attend to support the Working Group, as necessary.

The Working Group may invite other parties to attend and to contribute to meetings as it decides.

Meetings

The Working Group will fix its own timetable and topic schedule for meetings, meeting between eight and ten times per year.

Reports

There will be a full Annual report with six-month month interim updates.

The group may publish specific reports for approval by cabinet/Scrutiny/IED.

Officer Support

A senior Council officer will be designated as the lead officer for the Working Group.

Democratic Services will provide administrative support for the Working Group.

Heads of Service for actions within the plan shall be invited to attend according to an agreed schedule.

Role of the Working Group

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and approved a Notice of Motion in 2019. It has committed to achieve Net Zero on emissions by 2030.

This is embedded in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Outcomes from the Working Group will contribute to the Climate Change commitments within the Corporate Plan.

The Working Group will:

- Monitor the progress of the Council and the district overall in meeting the commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.
- Consider how the Council may best address the need to adapt to climate change.
- Where appropriate, take account of the need to align the Council's efforts with those of the County and other relevant authorities and bodies.
- Consider key issues, policy, emerging evidence, and legislative changes which impact on the Council's efforts to address these challenges and commitments.
- Oversee the development and delivery of a programme of projects and activity to contribute to the achievements of the targets including net zero carbon by 2030.
- Make recommendations to the Executive Cabinet and Council on matters relating to climate change.
- Enable collaborative working across the Council and engagement with individuals, community groups, businesses, and other partners in the district, including young people who should have a voice to help shape our future.
- Investigate steps that may be taken by the Council and by residents and businesses to work towards the Council's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon status by 2030.
- Identify support needed from Central Government in terms of funding, additional powers and policy changes which are needed to achieve the Council's climate aims and targets.
- Ensure that the council's external communications reflect the high priority that the council places on tackling climate change, and the work it and its partners are undertaking in delivering against the challenges faced.