



Environmental Management Action Plan

2010-2013

February 2011

Introduction

In December 2006 Stafford Borough Council, Staffordshire County Council, South Staffordshire District Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, East Staffordshire District Council, the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority joined in partnership to formally adopt, promote and implement the Staffordshire Declaration. The declaration commits all partners to take action to combat Climate Change and leads others to do so. It is recognised that a considerable amount of work has already taken place in making our environment a healthier and vibrant one but there is still work to do. This Environmental Management Action Plan takes account of the work that is still to be done.

This Action Plan contains both internal and external work. All external work will be included in the refresh of the Community Plan. Monitoring and management of the plan will be co-ordinated by the Environmental Management Steering Group - an internal Officer Working Group with representatives from across all departments. It will work with the Policy and Partnerships Team, partner organisations and service areas to assist in the assessment and management of climate risks and opportunities across all levels of services, plans, decisions and arrangements. They will also work together to identify and implement activities that assist us as a Local Authority in managing and enhancing our environmental performance. This will involve the setting of SMART performance measures and the monitoring and evaluation of performance throughout the life of this Action Plan.

Work will continue at a local level, working with partners to deliver sustainable development/support sustainable communities and to encourage residents to reduce their energy costs, reduce congestion, to adapt to the impacts of extreme weather changes, to improve the local environment and to deal with fuel poverty in our communities through the rollout of the 'Stronger Localities' programme. The success and learning experiences from the Low Carbon Community pilot at Derrington will be used as a strong base for the 'Stronger Localities' project at Penkside.

There are three main priority areas featured in this plan and these are:

- Strong Communities
- Risks and adaptation – extreme weather events
- Environmental Management

PRIORITY ONE: STRONG COMMUNITIES

There is a need to ensure that we come out of the current economic recession with stronger, more connected, cohesive and more caring communities. A community is likely to achieve this at a local level when people feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and have had the opportunity to be involved in the decision making in that area. Stafford is a very diverse Borough which has a distinct rural – urban split. Projects that are rolled out in the Borough under the strong communities theme will be planned in a way that reflects the diverse nature of the communities.

Working in partnership with a wide range of agencies, Stafford Borough Council launched their first Low Carbon Community initiative in Derrington in May 2009. We now want to build on this success by incorporating the principles and learning experiences from this project into our Stronger Communities programme initially focused on the Penkside locality area.

The roll out of our Stronger Communities programme will include the provision of advice and support to communities across Stafford Borough by helping them to become more sustainable by encouraging them to reduce their carbon footprint; adopting healthier and more active lifestyles and becoming more self sufficient. This will be achieved by working in partnership and through the development of renewable energy technologies, carrying out home energy audits, encouraging people to grow their own produce and encouraging more physical activity.

Promoting and supporting healthy lifestyles is also an important contributory factor in our communities, well being and many health interventions can also bring about reductions in CO2 emissions. We recognise that having access to green open space is an important part of social and environmental wellbeing too. We are fortunate to be based in one of the most picturesque parts of England offering a range of high quality attractions and beautiful countryside. Maintaining our natural and built heritage and managing change and well planned, appropriate growth, is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development and create more cohesive and sustainable communities. Over the past decades much of Stafford Borough's wildlife has been in decline – and some of our favourite species have disappeared. It is important that we protect and enhance biodiversity in our Borough and we are proud to promote our Local Nature Reserves as places that are of benefit to both people and wildlife.

DELIVERY PLAN: STRONG COMMUNITIES

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC1 - Strong Communities							
SC1.1	Develop and implement a strong localities programme for Penside drawing lessons from the Derrington Low Carbon project	All Service Areas Plus partners	Derrington Low Carbon Initiative programme rolled out	Complete initiatives within programme. Derrington Evaluation Report completed	30% of programme complete	60% of programme complete	100% of programme complete Evaluation undertaken
			Penkside Stronger Communities Programme rolled out	Complete initiatives within programme	20% of programme complete	60% of programme complete	100% of programme complete
			CO2 Reduction Homes are more energy efficient	50 of Audits completed and appropriate works undertaken in Penside	50	50	50
SC1.2	Identify and develop further locality programme		Further locality benefits from programme of initiatives	Commence programme of stronger communities initiatives in another area	Further area identified	Programme of initiatives agreed by partners	Programme of initiatives commenced

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC1.3	Participation in stronger community initiatives	All Service Areas Plus partners	People living in the Borough are more aware of and participate in community initiatives	Complete then Promote Derrington Evaluation Report completed No of schools participating in Eco-Schools network or involved in sustainable schools activities	10 schools attending SBC Eco-Schools Network Eco-Action day	10 schools attending SBC Eco-Schools Network Eco-Action day	10 schools attending SBC Eco-Schools Network Eco-Action day
				Number of entrants in Green Awards	16	20	25
		EH	People living in the Borough take pride in the area they live in	Introduce Community Spring Clean	4	6	8
		PR	Local communities are engaged in improving their locality	No of projects approved	3	4	2

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC2 - Health and Wellbeing							
SC2.1	Encourage and promote Healthy Lifestyles	EH LC	People lead more healthy lifestyles Carbon Reduction	Increase in the number of people visits to our leisure centres	620,000	640,000	660,000
				Health inequalities work at the three Signpost Centres	350x12 attendees	400x12 attendees	450x12 attendees
				Increase in the no of led - Health walks	18	24	Review
				60 New walkers	60	60	60
				30 New Volunteer Walk Leaders	30	30	30
SC2.2	Nurturing Health Award	EH	People leading more healthy lifestyle	Roll out of the project to 9 premises Offered to 7 new premises	12	12	12
SC2.3	Start to Play Scheme	EH	People leading more healthy lifestyle	Extended to 12 Early Year Settings Child minders - to include work on SFBB (Subject to C&LP funding being available)	12	0	0

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC2.4	Workplace Health initiatives Deliver healthy workplace pilot in partnership with South Staffs PCT and SCC, to include work on health and safety advice. Programme of events each month Introduce and maintain notice boards Exercise taster sessions	EH	People leading more healthy lifestyle	Workplace Health Fairs to be organised	4	4	4
				Workplace health initiative newsletter to be published for Stafford Borough Council staff	12	12	12
SC2.5	Healthy Eating Projects	EH	People leading more healthy lifestyle	Cook and eat campaigns delivered in locations - Alleynes High School - MOD Youth Group - Walton High School - 2 Farmers Markets - Penkside	5	6	6
SC2.6	Invest in the private sector housing block through grants and other assistance including promoting the Kick Start Programme to make available loan assistance	EH	Vulnerable people can access loans and homes are made decent	10 Vulnerable home owners accessing loans	10	45	55
				8 private rented homes made decent	8	8	10

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC2.7	Increase the outreach opportunities from the Sports and Leisure Centres	LC	To increase the number of outreach visits using the H Zone model	Number of outreach visits	12 Outreach visits	12 Outreach visits	12 Outreach visits
SC2.8	Revamp the sports development programme and increase the number of rural activities	LC	Identify new activities in rural areas Encourage volunteers in rural areas	Number of volunteers and activities in the rural areas	Further 6 activities developed 10 new voluntary	Further 6 activities developed 10 new volunteers	Further 6 activities developed 10 new volunteers

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SC3 - Biodiversity							
SC3.1	Work in partnership to promote positive conservation and management of Local Nature Reserves in the Borough	PI	LNR's protected and biodiversity enhanced	Maintain programme for 7 LNR's	7	7	7
SC3.2	Work in partnership with the SBC Planning Service, Streetscene and Leisure Services to develop and implement a Biodiversity Toolkit	PI	Biodiversity issues considered as integrated across SBC activities and functions	Toolkit introduced	1	Completed and effectively implemented	Toolkit reviewed
SC3.3	Address biodiversity data needs inc assess need to resurvey remaining sites of Biological Interest (SBIs)	PR	Biodiversity monitored within the Borough	% of sites resurveyed per annum	20%	20%	20%

PRIORITY TWO: RISKS AND ADAPTATION – EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

It is projected that rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. The effects will be felt across the UK, including in Stafford Borough so it is essential that we now take action to ensure that we are able to adapt the way in which we live our lives in order to accommodate for these projected changes.

Over the past six months we have been looking at these projections and developing a Local Climate Impact Profile for Stafford Borough (LCIP). This impact profile will outline vulnerable communities within the Borough which will help us to decide how we may need to adapt our own services in the future. Because the impacts of this will be long lasting we need to ensure that the decisions we make are the right ones but at the same time maximising the benefits and minimising the costs.

We need to ensure that we develop adaptation responses for both 'weather' and 'climate' and they need to:

- improve and enhance our resilience and that they are kind to the environment around us;
- be flexible and inclusive of everyone
- improve wellbeing and health;
- maximise opportunities and minimise threats

To enable us to measure our success in this area, over the next twelve months we will be developing a comprehensive risk and adaptation plan in conjunction with our partners. This work will include the:

- Assessment of risks and opportunities across all areas of the Borough and take action in any identified priority areas;
- Development of an adaptation strategy and action plan setting out the risk assessment, where the priority areas are – where necessary in consultation & exhibiting leadership of local partners - what action is being taken to address these, and how risks will be continually assessed and monitored in the future; and the
- Implementation, assessment and monitoring of actions on an ongoing basis.

DELIVERY PLAN: RISKS AND ADAPTATION – EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Risks and Adaptation							
RA1.1	Complete a Local Climate Impact Profile Report for Stafford Borough	PI	The Council are aware of past, present and projected extreme weather events	Report completed	1	1	Report refreshed
RA1.2	Develop a comprehensive risk and adaptation plan	All services	Impacts, risks and mitigation actions are embedded in all strategies; plans; investment decisions and partnership arrangements	All service areas ensuring that climate change issues are covered in either operational risks or service plan where appropriate	8	8	8
RA1.3	Manage the Borough Council's Strategic Risk on Climate Change	PI	Climate change issues reviewed at Performance Clinics	High risks identified and managed	At 2 clinics per year	At 2 clinics per year	At 2 clinics per year

PRIORITY THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Council realise that in order to continue to reduce its carbon emissions it needs to be managing resources more effectively and in a more innovative way. This will mean investigating the use of renewable energy and looking at more effective ways to save energy. These will be a particular challenge to us in the next few years in terms of the kinds of assets that we own. However, in saying that, the Council has made quite a lot of progress in respect of energy management within the Council. We already purchase 'green electricity' which contributes to 10% of our total consumption and there have been a series of energy efficiency measures undertaken across main sites. It is recognised that further activity in this area is vital in order to improve efficiency further and as such we will build a programme of energy efficiency measures into the refresh Council's Asset Management Plan this year starting with a feasibility study at our main Council premises to consider the potential of installing solar Photo Voltaics and at Riverway site in respect of Biomass.

The predicted changes in weather patterns means that it is likely that the Borough will see an increase in both the risk of flooding and extended dry spells, which will exacerbate the challenge and complexity of water management. The development of practical ways to reduce water demand is increasingly critical, particularly for potable water. More appropriate use of water is also important. For instance, encouraging the recycling of rainwater and reducing the amount of mains potable water used for external water uses, such as watering, makes good environmental and economic sense.

Stafford Borough Council is committed to tackling the problems associated with the production and disposal of waste. The Council, across its functions, will focus on reducing the amount of waste that enters the waste stream, and will ensure that all waste generated is dealt with in a way that minimizes its environmental impact.

Transport is a major contributor to the production of carbon emissions from our own operations, our employees and contractors that we use. During the past six months we have introduced a 'Cycle to Work' scheme; purchased low emission pool cars and encouraged our waste contractors to look at their own vehicle fleet. Work will continue in this area over the next three years.

Procurement is an area that the Council has been developing over the past few years. Effective and efficient procurement not only saves money but also improves supplier relationships internally and externally and can also encourage innovation. The Council has a Procurement Strategy which supports sustainable procurement by encouraging residents and businesses to procure goods and services locally.

Delivery Plan: Environmental Management

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
EM1 - Energy and Water							
EM1.1	Investigate opportunities for renewable energy throughout the Council and its operations	EMS Group	Renewable energy opportunities at the Civic Building, Riverway Nursery and the Crematorium	Feasibility studies completed and decisions made on scheme	Feasibility study/ies undertaken as appropriate	Evaluation of feasibility studies.	Renewable energy installation/s installed if appropriate
EM1.2	Reduce energy consumption and emissions for our buildings	EMS Group	Energy consumption by the Authority has reduced by 6%	% decrease in 2010/11	2% per year	2% per year	2% per year
EM1.3	Investigate further opportunities to reduce and recycle water consumption as and where appropriate	EH	Systems to monitor and report on water consumption and storage at Victoria Park	Water storage/extraction facilities installed at Victoria Park	Feasibility study undertaken	Reduction in water consumption from mains water	

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
EM2 - Waste and Recycling							
EM2.1	Investigate the merits of recycling food waste separately or combined with green waste (CGS0106)	EH	Complete the feasibility study in connection with the recycling of food waste	Feasibility study completed	Feasibility study completed	Recommendations agreed	Recommendations imported into tender document for Term 5 Contract
EM2.2	Engage with stakeholders to reuse, minimise waste and improve recycling performance (CGS0105)	EH	Improved recycling lower residual waste and improved service quality	54% of household waste being recycling or composted: 480Kg of residual waste per household per year 35 missed collections per 100,000 collections.	54Kg of household waste being recycled or composted: 480Kg of residual waste per household per year	55% of household waste being recycled or composted: 475Kg of resident waste per household per year	55% of household waste being recycled or composted: 470Kg of residual waste per household per year
EM2.3	Work in partnership with contractor to improve the quality of waste collection service				35 missed collections per 100,000 collections	35 missed collections per 100,000 collections	35 missed collections per 100,000 collections
EM2.4	Work in partnership with contractor to reduce the carbon dioxide footprint of the waste collection service	EH	Reduced CO ₂ output reduction for NI 185	Feasibility study for route optimisation	Reduction in CO ₂ from domestic waste collection in Stafford Borough	Reduction in CO ₂ from domestic waste collection in Stafford Borough	Reduction in CO ₂ from domestic waste collection in Stafford Borough

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
EM2.5	Introduce a pilot scheme for on-street recycling facilities in key areas in Stafford and Stone town centres (CGS0107)	EH	On-street recycling facilities installed in key areas	Reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill	Increase or decrease street recycling facilities dependent upon evaluation of usage	Increase or decrease street recycling facilities dependent upon evaluation of usage	
EM3 - Planning							
EM3.1	Work in partnership to minimise greenfield land loss	PR	New dwellings built on previously developed land	In accordance with the core strategy of LDF	60%	In accordance with the core strategy of LDF	In accordance with the core strategy of LDF
			Permitted planning applications granted against Environment Agency advice	No applications determined against Environment Agency advice	0	0	0
EM4- Procurement and Modernisation							
EM4.1	Promote the Think Local Campaign	PR	Local economy is stronger and more sustainable	3 Farmers Markets held per month	36	36	36
				Number of procurement opportunities - posted on the TL website	2	6	6

Ref	Project	Lead	Outcome	Smart Target	Measures		
					2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
EM4.2	Continue to modernise services (LD0201)	DCE/IT	Technology is sufficient to enable a paperless office	% reduction in the amount of paper used for printing	15%	20%	25%
			Service is more efficient	Cremators and mercury abatement equipment is replaced at Stafford Crematorium	Carry out a full procurement exercise in accordance with European Legislation and Local Requirements	20% Award contract in July/August 2011	Equipment installed and commissioned by 31 December 2012 and compliant with Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requirements
			Accessibility of Leisure services and facilities have improved	20% of bookings are made electronically	10%	15%	20%

Reviewing and Refreshing this Action Plan

This Action Plan will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress against actions and targets will be assessed and reported on a quarterly basis.

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