



**Staffordshire Sustainability Board
Monday 25 September 2023**

Briefing Note – Base Pledge Review

Introduction

In March 2022 the Staffordshire Sustainability Board committed to 10 base pledges to ensure collaborative, joint up working on key issues in the fight against Climate Change. It was noted at our recent presentation to the Staffordshire CEO group that great progress has been made with the majority of pledges. One suggestion from the CEO group is that, rather than adding in new pledges in place of those completed, to maintain and increase the focus more on the other remaining pledges. Recommendations were received following the SSB on 31st July 2023 to review and refresh the Base Pledges for the 2023/24 cycle. Below is a summary of all pledges reflecting recommendations from the SSB, the Staffordshire CEO group and the relevant officers' groups (SSBOG & SWOG).

Briefing Note

1- Baseline Reporting

All Councils will prepare and publish an annual baseline analysis of their organisations carbon footprint. All Councils will assess and publish progress in reducing their carbon footprint in October each year.

- Previous financial years carbon emissions published by October each year.
- Council carbon reduction achievements published by October each year.

This annual process is rolling over year on year.

2 - Carbon Literacy

All Councillors and Senior Management Team will undertake carbon literacy training to build corporate awareness of the issue and the Council's role in securing carbon reduction. All Councils will conduct a community impact assessment for key projects and proposals and include an assessment of Climate Change Implications in all key decisions.

- 100% completion of carbon literacy/general awareness training by Councillors and Senior Management by December 23.
- Community Impact Assessment template to include climate change evaluation by June 23.
- Cabinet report templates to include climate change evaluation by June 23

This pledge is still ongoing.

SCC is in the process of refreshing its Climate Change training and will be offering the revised module to districts and boroughs this autumn.

3 – Ambassadors

All Councils will encourage members to act as climate change ambassadors, to encourage reduction in organisational carbon footprints and champion this in their own division/ward areas.

This pledge has been completed for 2022/23 and will be reset for the new financial year.

4 - Green Travel Planning

All Councils will support and facilitate green travel by members, employees, and their communities through promotion of green travel planning. Policy implementation on green transport and ways of working.

- Suitable policies and strategies in place for supporting green transport.

This pledge is still ongoing.

5- Communications

All Councils will contribute to a countywide communications group who will plan to deliver and manage a countywide Communications Plan, working together to drive our collective net zero vision forward, throughout the County.

This pledge will be renewed for 2024. The new Joint Communications Plan will be presented to the board during the November SSB.

6- Green Energy

All Councils will commit to procure 100% green energy supplies for their electricity as soon as existing contract commitments allow.

- Switch to 100% REGO certified green electricity.

This pledge is still ongoing.

7 - Energy Reduction

By 2024, all Councils will start/complete energy audits on operational buildings only. This would exclude ancillary items such as housing or HRA funded assets.

- Energy Audit started/completed by Dec 2024.

8 - Low carbon fuelled fleet vehicles

Moving towards an aspirational zero emissions operational vehicle fleet, the Councils will by 2025, establish a plan to move to low carbon fuels within their internal fleets by 2030.

- Internal fleet low carbon plan completed by December 2025.

This pledge is on target to be completed within the timeline set out above.

9 - Waste and Recycling

All Councils will be actively supporting the development of a new Joint Waste Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent by 2025.

- Develop district specific Local Plan in conjunction with the new strategy by 2025.

10 - Innovation and Technology

Working collaboratively with research institutions, businesses and partners the Councils will encourage both innovation and technology development, that will assist the delivery of our combined net zero visions.

- Explore new avenues and provide new examples of engagement with businesses and industries – a particular focus point should be the recommendations received following completion of the Energy Audits as stated in pledge 7 – Energy Reduction - .

Recommendations:

- That the Board recommit to the above pledges for 2024.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

N/A

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