CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE DELIVERY PLAN

2025 to 2028 High Peak Borough and Staffordshire Moorlands District Councils

The Councils acknowledge that climate change and nature are both separate, yet interlinked issues.

Climate and nature are essential systems that can provide or disrupt ecosystem services which we and other species depend on to sustain the conditions we need to live and thrive.

The two Councils have declared both climate and nature emergencies in recognition of the impacts these changes are already having and will have in the long term. These impacts can already be felt locally as well as across the world.

The subsequent plans and targets for 2030 are ambitious with many varying delivery strands. Many actions within the plans overlap with deliverables in legislation and other council-led strategies.

Climate & Nature – the strategic picture

The Councils also contribute to partner strategies through working with county councils, other districts and boroughs, community groups and other partners.

Local Government Reorganisation leaves us with limited time to deliver the existing strategies. The Councils are taking this as an opportunity to reflect and consider what we can realistically deliver or facilitate in the time available and with the resources at hand. We will focus on achieving maximum impact and legacy within the communities but also on what processes internally we can improve to take best practice into the new local government arrangements. Best practice will be embedded into operations and rolled out across the entire climate and nature agendas.
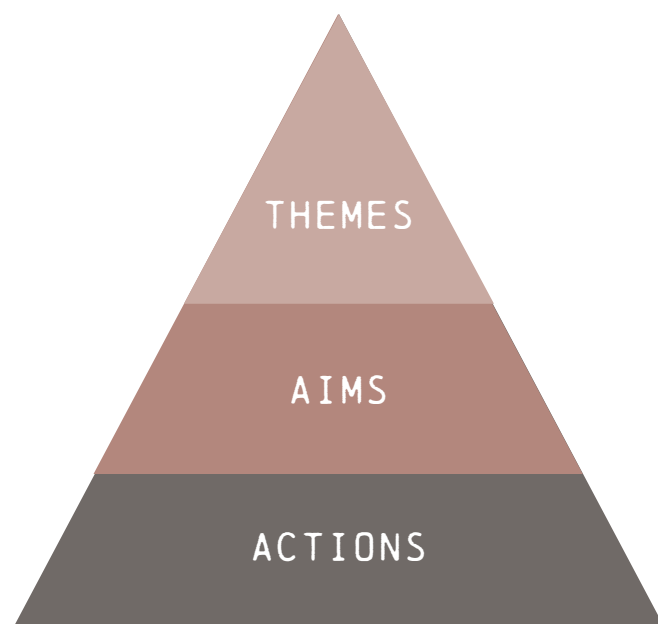
We will:

- Continue to work in partnership with county councils, other borough and districts, the Peak Park, the community sector and specialist bodies.

- Set targets for delivery of projects that are within the council's control, work with external partners to influence and support delivery and engage and enable our communities to deliver on climate action.

- Establish one joint Climate Change and Nature Steering group of both Councils to provide the governance to oversee the delivery of the aims and the actions to deliver them.

THEMES, AIMS AND ACTIONS

There are four overarching themes in this delivery plan. These have 25 aims with a suite of supporting actions under each aim.

THEMES

AIMS

ACTIONS

Themes

1 MITIGATION

The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. For simplified communications this is often called carbon or carbon dioxide or carbon dioxide equivalent. Emissions primarily come from using fossil fuels in heating buildings and transport, along with agriculture. Unusually, in our area, the main contributor is from a chemical process used in the production of lime and cement products.

2 ADAPTATION

These are strategies to support and build resilience in our communities, infrastructure and support systems to still function when the climate changes. This includes overheating, drought, flooding and their impact on health, infrastructure, crops and agriculture and all aspects of life.

3 PLAN FOR NATURE

Looking after and improving quality and access to nature, as well as improving biodiversity.

4 CHANGE

Use our influence to support systematic change to improve awareness in communities, improve infrastructure and review our own operations.

Aims

The aims under each theme total 25 and are set out below, recognising that some aims will cut across themes.

MITIGATION

- Influence new buildings and other developments within the area to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and to minimise carbon emissions.

- Enable retrofit of existing houses for energy efficiency, to combat fuel poverty damp and mould and to encourgage low carbon technologies.

- Reduce transport related emissions and encourage residents to change behaviour.

- Reduce emissions from Council owned buildings.

- Promote the use of renewable energy.

- Work in partnership to continue to improve air quality.

- Implement measures to reduce carbon emissions from the Council's waste and recycling service.

- Prevent wildfires and damage to moorlands.

ADAPTATION

- Assess built environment and potential public health consequences of climate change, identify opportunities, and take action to improve for climate adaptation.

- Reduce risk of and susceptibility to flooding.

PLAN FOR NATURE

- Work towards protecting and managing 30% of land in the borough/district for nature by 2030, including focussing on Council land.

- Improve biodiversity on council-managed land.

- Work with communities, partnerships and landowners on biodiversity initiatives.

- Increase the number and quality of designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).

- Increase public engagement and education with nature.

- Implement Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.

- Enhance planning policy for biodiversity.

- Establish suite of shovel-ready projects to capitalise on funding opportunities.

- Improve biodiversity features in the built environment.

CHANGE

- Influence local economic priorities and activities to drive growth of the green economy and creation of local, green jobs.

- Encourage reduction of waste and increase of recycling.

- Promote, encourage and support climate change and nature projects, schemes and initiatives.

- We will use our influence to make changes to local, regional and national legislation, policies and guidance where appropriate.

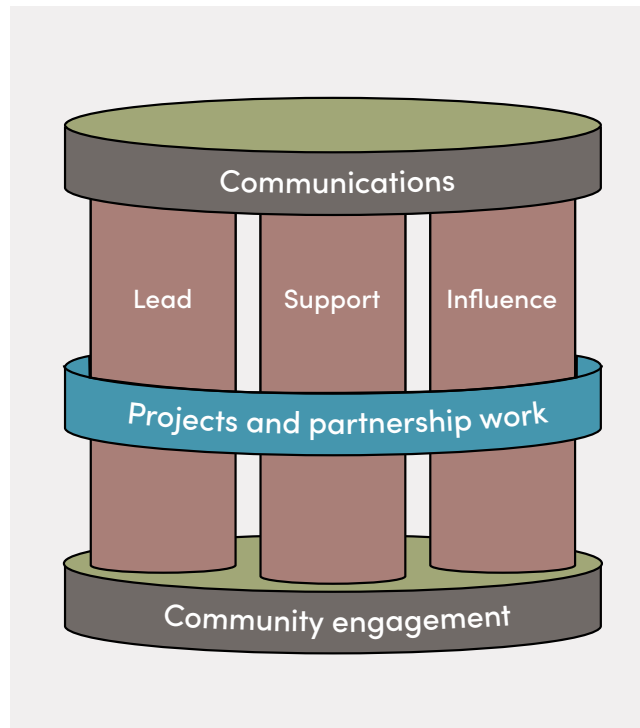- Embed nature and climate considerations into the organisational culture.

Actions

The actions which will support delivery of the aims are listed as a project tracker as an appendix to be reviewed annually and reported through the Climate Change Steering Group.

The actions have been categorised to support prioritisation and highlight delivery requirements.

All the actions will require communication and engagement, either internally or externally or both.

The pillars of delivery principles are set out, defining roles of each action depending on whether we lead, support or influence.

Communications

Lead   Support   Influence

Projects and partnership work

Community engagement

The second principle defines whether the action can be considered as 'Business as Usual' (BAU) or a distinct project or strategy.

- Business as Usual (BAU) Aims have been embedded into our existing systems and processes. Whilst there is possibility of improvement, the general aims and actions are being fulfilled.

- Project or Strategy are distinct pieces of work which could lead to embedding good practice into BAU or a stand-alone legacy.

PRIORITISATION

A prioritisation process has been completed with both members and senior officers, reviewing what is achievable with the time and capacity we have, what has the maximum impact and the potential legacy.

Each project will be scoped with an assessment of resources needed to deliver, realistic timescales and enabler solutions. The advancement of each project will be monitored within the newly established governance processes.

APPENDICES

HIGH PEAK

[Climate Change – High Peak Borough Council](#)

[Our climate change work – High Peak Borough Council](#)

[Towards Carbon Neutrality, 2030 Climate Change Plan (part 2)](#)

[Towards Carbon Neutrality 2030, Climate Change Plan 2021/22 (part 1)](#)

[Nature and Biodiversity – High Peak Borough Council](#)

[Plan for Nature summary](#)

[Nature Recovery Declaration](#)

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS

[Climate Change – Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#)

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