

Staffordshire Sustainability Board

Vision and Pledge

Cabinet Member for Housing, Ecology and Climate Change



Date: 07/06/2022
Agenda Item: 6
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Key Decision? YES
Local Ward All

CABINET

Members

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Lichfield District Council is a member of the newly formed Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB), alongside 8 other Staffordshire authorities. The SSB facilitates the collaborative forum, to work together as democratically elected bodies in Staffordshire, to influence change and to encourage organisations and individuals to ensure Staffordshire is net carbon zero by at least 2050 or before.
- 1.2 The board works collectively to both curb and cope with the impacts of climate change and to influence and facilitate change. It is proposed as an initial commitment, each council will implement the same ten commitments – articulated through a common vision and pledge - but acknowledge that the larger scope of climate change mitigation and adaptation is within the wider community of Staffordshire.
- 1.3 This paper introduces the SSB Vision and Pledge (see Appendix 1) and seeks authority to adopt it.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves and adopts the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) Vision and Pledge.
- 2.2 That, subject to Council approval, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Biodiversity and Climate Change be appointed as the Council's representative on the SSB.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Staffordshire Leaders and Chief Executives Group has committed to work collaboratively to successfully achieve net carbon zero in line with each authority's climate change declarations.
- 3.2 While the councils' collective carbon footprint is less than 2% of Staffordshire's 5.8MtCO₂e annual carbon footprint, collectively they could have an influence on a significant proportion of these emissions. This collaboration is to enable and facilitate change, where possible, throughout the geographic area of Staffordshire as a whole.
- 3.3 Work in the longer term will also bring into discussion and actions, climate change adaptation and sustainable environment concerns. Sustainability and habitat biodiversity will be reviewed throughout 2022 and shall be considered in a revised vision in January 2023.
- 3.4 The SSB will actively engage with external organisations that can bring specialist knowledge, understanding and facilitation to the board throughout all activities and discussion. The SSB will comprise senior members of each authority and supported by a team of advisors drawn from across the authorities.

3.5 The SSB Vision and Pledge asks each member and council of the SSB to agree to the same 10 commitments. The commitments help the council work towards net zero targets, and help halt and reduce the impacts of Climate Change (see Appendix). The SSB is a new but active group that has already created actions and work that make a difference. It is in the council's best interest to sign up to the Vision and Pledge so the council stays up to date and involved with the ongoing work of the SSB, demonstrating our willingness to respond to the climate and nature crisis, in a collaborative way with the rest of the county.

Alternative Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing. Lichfield District Council will become detached from the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB), and disconnected from the other Staffordshire authorities who are working together to become more sustainable and respond to the climate crisis in a more joined up, collaborative approach.
Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership Team 2. Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB)
Financial Implications	<p>There are no direct financial implications associated with adopting this pledge.</p> <p>However, responding to the climate crisis, which has been articulated within this document, may have financial implications, which would be dependent on the mitigating activities chosen and carried out.</p>
Approved by Section 151 Officer	Yes
Legal Implications	<p>There are no direct legal implications associated with adopting this pledge.</p> <p>However, if the pledge is not approved and adopted, Lichfield District Council may be at risk and vulnerable to challenge (i.e., by the public, community groups, media) – over our response to the climate and nature crisis.</p>
Approved by Monitoring Officer	Yes
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable people to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – live healthy and active lives • Shape place to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – keep it clean, green and safe – preserve the characteristics – make sure sustainability and infrastructure needs are balanced • Develop prosperity to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – enhance the district for all – invest in the future • Be a good council that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – transparent and accountable – responsive and customer focussed
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	None
Crime & Safety Issues	None

Environmental Impact	<p>Approving and adopting the SSB Vision and Pledge sets the council's ambition to halt and combat the impacts of climate change, and work to become a more sustainable organisation. Remaining an active member of the SSB allows us to work collectively with other Staffordshire authorities sharing data, opportunities and resources, whilst helping achieve our own targets for the organisation (net zero by 2035), all of which will positively enhance and protect the environment and help halt and reverse damage being caused.</p> <p>Not approving the SSB Vision and Pledge, will require Lichfield District Council to define their own commitments, separate to those of the rest of the county, and respond to the climate and nature crisis independently. This may lead to lesser outcomes that aren't as significant and more difficult to achieve, than if the work is accomplished collaboratively.</p>
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GDPR / Privacy Impact Assessment	None
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	Risk Description & Risk Owner	Original Score (RYG)	How We Manage It	Current Score (RYG)
A	Reputational. Lichfield's current reputation as a lead authority in ecological matters is jeopardised - owned by Cabinet	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY	By remaining a member of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB), Lichfield District Council will be playing an active role in a collaborative forum to respond to the climate and nature crisis, which will reflect on the organisation's reputation positively.	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY
B	Environmental. Impacts to the environment are not mitigated or worsened - owned by Cabinet	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY	By adopting the SSB Vision and Pledge, Lichfield District Council will take action towards implementing the commitments articulated within the document, which will positively impact the environment and respond to the climate and nature crisis.	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY
C	Legal Responsibilities towards the Climate and Nature Crisis are not met - owned by Cabinet	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY	As an organisation, our active role in the SSB and work to respond to the climate and nature crisis, helps us satisfy environmental legislation and show we are having due regard to biodiversity. Local authorities do not have a statutory duty to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act, but they do need to produce plans that have a big bearing on emissions (e.g. transport, local plans, minerals plans, procurement).	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY
D	Legal, Open to Challenge due to lack of action or refusal to work with SSB in regards to the Climate and Nature Crisis - owned by Cabinet	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY	By remaining a member of the Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB), Lichfield District Council will be able to demonstrate their willingness to respond to the climate and nature crisis alongside other Staffordshire authorities and can receive support by the SSB should challenge occur.	LIKLIHOOD IMPACT SEVERITY

Background documents Any previous reports or decisions linked to this item	Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) Vision and Pledge
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Relevant web links Any links for background information which may be useful to understand the context of the report	None
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