

Solihull Climate Change Prospectus - delivering a *Greener Solihull* for Success 2021/22 Refresh



The aim of Solihull’s Climate Change Prospectus is to articulate Solihull’s low carbon vision - ensuring that we are at the forefront of the UK’s transition to a low carbon economy.

The Growth Agenda - Solihull’s Local Plan Review aims to deliver a substantial level of growth. Whilst this degree of development and infrastructure presents huge opportunities we must plan carefully to ensure that the negative impacts from growth are minimised and opportunities for delivering sustainable growth are maximised - including a net gain in biodiversity. We also need to ensure Solihull captures every economic opportunity it can from the global shift to low carbon technologies and services.

The Challenge - We have recognised the climate emergency and have committed resources to better understand how we can contribute to regional and national carbon reduction targets. We will ensure our transition to a low carbon economy is just and fair, ensuring the borough’s natural capital is safeguarded - embedding sustainability into our wider approach to place making.

Alignment with the Council Plan - the Climate Change Prospectus, with its focus on clean growth, clean air, nature gain and engagement supports the delivery of the Council’s ‘[Climate Change Emergency - Statement of Intent](#)’ and its vision for an inclusive, sustainable, low carbon borough. For more information on our approach to sustainability see our [Climate Change and Sustainability](#) webpages.

Our approach focuses on the following principles:

Valuing Natural Capital - focusing on GDP as a measure of economic progress generally overlooks the contribution of natural assets to wealth, health and well-being. We will adopt an evidence based approach and seek to embed natural capital and well-being in decision making process and development and infrastructure projects.

Collaboration - it’s clear that Solihull cannot work in isolation - it is in everyone’s interest that we work collaboratively with the community and partners such as the GBSLEP and West Midlands Combined Authority, through a range of mechanisms to find solutions that will lead to a smarter, more sustainable Solihull.

Efficiency - work towards greater efficiency in the use of resources and natural assets, including enhancing productivity, reducing waste and energy consumption.

Innovation and Knowledge Sharing - use our influence to create the right conditions for innovation - recognising it plays a key role in greening growth.

Theme	Vision	Objective	
Sustainable Solihull	<p>Clean Growth</p>	<p>A Prosperous Borough with a thriving, sustainable, low carbon economy which enables green growth, capitalising on the growing market for low carbon goods and services and attracting national and international investment.</p>	<p>Create an economic environment that supports progressive, innovative businesses to make the transition to a low carbon economy and deliver Solihull’s green growth aspirations</p>
	<p>Clean Air</p>	<p>A Smart Low Carbon Borough with increased decentralised energy and low carbon generation with smart grids and smart meters to help control the supply and demand of energy.</p>	<p>Develop an efficient and low carbon infrastructure that enables and maximises the opportunity for low carbon economic growth</p>
	<p>Nature Gain</p>	<p>A Resource Efficient Borough where natural resources are used efficiently. Where the emphasis is on moving waste treatment up the hierarchy—promoting waste reduction, recycling and circular production.</p>	<p>Improve the energy efficiency of domestic, commercial and industrial buildings in Solihull to reduce the energy demand required.</p>
	<p>Communication, Education and Engagement</p>	<p>An Accessible Borough with a rebalanced mode share that is less dependent on the car, where road space is used more effectively and streets are created for people and public transport</p>	<p>Efficiently accommodate the future demand for movement. Enhancing Solihull as a sustainable, healthy place to live and work.</p>
		<p>A Naturally Healthy Borough where nature is maintained and enhanced and the benefit of nature provided to society, our economic prosperity and our well-being is recognised, valued and taken into account in decision making</p>	<p>Invest in the boroughs natural environment to maximise its benefit to people and wildlife. Understand the risks from climate change and adapt accordingly.</p>
	<p>An Engaged Borough where all members of the community, from residents, to schools and business, are encouraged and enabled to play their part in creating a sustainable future.</p>	<p>Encourage and enable active participation in sustainability issues—supported by effective communication.</p>	

MEASURING PROGRESS

Direction of Travel Indicators				Local Indicators		Targets
<p>Carbon Emissions (tonnes of CO₂)</p> <p>Commercial/Industry Domestic Properties Transport Emissions per capita Council’s own emissions</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency</p> <p>SAP Rating of SCH Properties Fuel Poverty in Solihull</p>	<p>Waste and Recycling</p> <p>Household Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted Municipal Waste sent to landfill</p>	<p>Transport</p> <p>Electric Vehicle registrations Modal Share</p>	<p>Environmental Engagement Projects</p> <p>Involving community groups Involving businesses</p>	<p>Green Flag Parks Local Nature Reserves</p>	<p>Support the WMCA CO₂ reduction target - net zero carbon by 2041 (36% by 2022, 69% by 2027)</p> <p>CO₂ emissions from Council operations - net zero by 2030</p> <p>Where feasible, be a single-use plastic free Council by end of 2020</p> <p>Waste Strategy 2020 targets including 60% recycling rate, waste arisings of 440kg/person/year and maximum 10% to landfill</p> <p>Deliver 3 high quality cycle routes following C&W strategy standards by 2022</p>
			<p>Clean Air</p> <p>Nitrogen Dioxide (annual average) residential</p>	<p>Natural Capital</p> <p>Wildlife sites, SSSIs and sites in positive management Total area of species-rich grassland Total area of woodland Arden Free Tree Scheme: Number of trees planted.</p>		

Sustainability Roadmap - delivering a *Greener Solihull* for Success

CLEAN GROWTH



Ensure Climate Change is effectively incorporated into the Local Plan Review

Review and update the Conservation Area Appraisals

Ensure the Housing Strategy supports the 2041 net zero carbon target

Deliver the actions in the Home Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy

Promote sustainable warmth to help tackle fuel poverty

Develop a Low Carbon Energy Framework which will establish a Net Zero Action Plan for how the council and the borough can achieve net zero carbon targets

Continue to take forward Solihull's key opportunities for decentralised energy and heat networks - in particular capitalise on opportunities around Solihull Town Centre and UKC Zone 1—The Hub

Develop a detailed Sustainability Vision and Plan for UKC Zone 1—The Hub. Focus on it's contribution to meeting the 2041 net zero carbon target

Ensure the Economic Development Strategy and Inclusive Growth agenda fully supports the transition to low carbon growth and targets new 'green growth'

Continue to support Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group and other business networks to deliver sustainability related activity

Ensure we support the green skills agenda through initiatives such as Life Ready

Investigate the opportunities to linking suppliers to sustainability projects to direct their social value to help achieve Council and borough wide targets

Work with the Climate Change Commission to ensure they can provide oversight and challenge

Embed the Directorate Sustainability Plans, aligned with Climate Change Prospectus

Deliver the Waste Strategy Action Plan and support the development of the next plan, in light of current national consultation

Take part in the CDP (international sustainability benchmarking) Programme

Deliver the Council's Single-use Plastic Strategy

Further develop the Council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 Plan, including aligning/testing targets against Science Based Targets

CLEAN AIR



Deliver Solihull's [Clean Air Strategy](#) - with a focus on embedding its aims and objectives in other council strategies and activity

Have in place a refreshed Solihull Connected — focus on public transport, cycling and walking

Deliver the Council's EV Strategy ensuring continued alignment with the WMCA and consideration of other ULEV fuel sources such as hydrogen

Local Strategic Network Project - the main aims of which are to future-proof highway services, reduce traffic congestion and research and support effective approaches to change travel behaviour in support of modal shift

Deliver UKC Infrastructure Package - key projects include:- Solihull Rail Station remodelling, Town Centre Junctions, Stratford Road Corridor—focusing on encouraging modal shift

Work with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) to deliver the Future Mobility Zone (FMZ). Begin to embed a level of autonomy in a mobility service. Develop the MaaS interface alongside TfWM

Deliver high quality cycle routes through the Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP) - part of our Walking and Cycling Strategy. Support the WMCA Cycle Hire Scheme

Develop partnerships with bus operators to optimise current and potential new delivery models

Have in place our Green Travel Plan

NATURE GAIN



Develop a Health SPD to provide guidance on a Health Impact Assessment Toolkit including Clean Air Strategy objectives

Consider how the Natural Capital Planning Tool can support master-planning for Local Plan Review sites

Develop an SMBC Natural Capital Investment Strategy and delivery programme aligned to the emerging WMCA Natural Capital Investment Strategy and programme

Embed the principle of biodiversity net gain for development

Develop an approach to the role of natural vegetation in improving air quality

Work with stakeholders to develop the 'More Bigger Better' and joined GI ' Delivery Plan' - to include [Wildlife Ways](#), the ERDF Small Habitat Grant Scheme and the Tame Valley Wetland NIA

Deliver the Urban Forestry Strategy - ensuring the Council's tree stock is managed, maintained, promoted and enhanced

Understand how best we can ensure our natural environment is resilient to a changing climate

Assess the Council's approach to ensuring climate change adaptation is embedded in the Council's policy, practices, and processes

COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT



Review the Council's climate change communication, branding and engagement to inform a new approach

Build on the Love Solihull framework model (e.g. CLPI, environmental projects process) to extend it to friends of parks group and allotments.

Investigate the Council's role in supporting the communities to communicate climate and sustainability, for instance through the support of the Climate Café initiative

Roll out carbon literacy training throughout the Council

Support schools, residents and businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics

Deliver Ashden 'Less CO₂' programme and launch and deliver the new carbon reduction

Deliver the Fairtrade Action Plan including Fairtrade Fortnight 2022

Continue to support schools to become more sustainable through programmes such as the [Greener Solihull Schools Award](#), Love Solihull, Modeshift STARS and events