# Solihull Climate Change Prospectus - delivering a *Greener* Solihull for Success 2020/21 Refresh

Solihull

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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 technology 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 <u>just and fair</u>, 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 Greener Solihull for Success 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 is 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 Combined Authority, through a range of mechanisms to find solutions that will lead to a smarter, more sustainable Solihull.

### Theme



Clean Grow



Clean A



Nature Gain



Communication, Education and Engagement

## Vision

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

# Objective

Create an economic environment that supports progressive, innovative businesses to make the transition to a low carbon economy and deliver Solihuli's green growth aspirations

Develop an efficient and low carbon infrastructure that enables and maximises the opportunity for low carbon economic growth

Improve the energy efficiency of domestic, commercial and industrial buildings in Solihull to reduce the energy demand required.

Efficiently accommodate the future demand for movement. Enhancing Solihull as a sustainable, healthy place to live and work.

Invest in the boroughs natural environment to maximise its benefit to people and wildlife. Understand the risks from climate change and adapt accordingly.

Encourage and enable active participation in sustainability issues—supported by effective communication.

**Opportunity** - capitalise on the opportunities presented to us by the growth agenda, new funding streams and new markets for green technologies, goods and services.

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.

### **MEASURING PROGRESS**

# Carbon Emissions (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>)

Commercial/Industry
Domestic Properties
Transport
Emissions per capita
Council's own emissions

# Energy Efficiency

SCH Properties
Fuel Poverty in
Solihull

SAP Rating of

# Waste and Recycling

Household Waste Reused, Recycled or Composted

# Municipal Waste sent to Landfill

# Transport

**Direction of Travel Indicators** 

Electric Vehicle registrations Modal Share

# Clean Air

Nitrogen Dioxide (annual average) residential

#### **Natural Capital**

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.

#### **Local Indicators**

Environmental Engagement Projects

Involving community groups

Involving businesses

# Green

Local

Nature

Reserves

Flag Parks

 $CO_2$  emissions from Council operations - net zero by 2030

Support the WMCA CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

target - net zero carbon by 2041

(36% by 2022, 69% by 2027)

Where feasible, be a single-use plastic free Council by end of 2020

#### Targets

Waste Strategy 2020 targets including 60% recycling rate, waste arisings of 440kg/ person/year and maximum 10% to landfill

Deliver 2 high quality cycle routes following C&W strategy standards by 2022

# Sustainability Roadmap - delivering a *Greener* Solihull for Success



#### **CLEAN GROWTH**

Ensure Climate Change is effectively incorporated into the Local Plan Review

delivery of sustainable, clean growth

Ensure the refreshed Council Plan fully supports the

Review and update the Conservation Area Appraisals

Have in place an adopted Backland **Development SPD** 

**Ensure Social Value supports** Ensure we support the green skills agenda through initiatives the sustainability agenda such as Life Ready

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

Have in place individual Directorate Sustainability Plans aligned to the Climate Change Prospectus

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

Develop a Low Carbon Energy Framework which will establish an action plan for how the council and the borough can achieve net zero carbon targets

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

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

Work with WMCA to develop a customer focused Fuel Poverty project with potential to extend support to SCH and other residents via a new 'Green Deal' offer

Establish the Climate Change Commission

Ensure the Strategic Housing Strategy supports the 2041 net zero carbon target

Deliver the Council's enhanced carbon management programme including setting annual carbon budgets, developing a 10 year roadmap 2030 and a carbon offsetting strategy

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 the Council's EMS 'Lite' programme as part of our Lead by Example approach

Deliver the Council's Single-use Plastic Strategy as part of our Lead by Example approach

#### CLEAN AIR



Deliver Solihull's Clean Air Strategy - with a focus on embedding its

aims and objectives in other council strategies and activity

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

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

> Have in place our Green Travel Plan as part of our Lead by Example approach

Work with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) to deliver the Future Mobility Zone (FMZ) including:- Begin to embed a level of autonomy in a mobility service. Build on earning from FMZ to inform SMBC mobility interventions. Develop the MaaS interface alongside TfWM

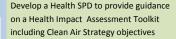
Deliver high quality cycle routes through the Local Cycling and Walking Implementation Plan (LCWIP) - part of our Walking and Cycling Strategy

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

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

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

#### **NATURE GAIN**



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, so we understand and make the most of Solihull's green infrastructure and the benefits it brings. We will strive to deliver a year on year increase in tree planting throughout the borough, both in terms of tree planting on public space and in facilitating and enabling tree planting on private land

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

Apply the principle of biodiversity net gain for development

Understand how best we

can ensure our natural

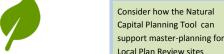
a changing climate

environment is resilient to

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

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

Progress the River Cole Strategic Community and Environment Fund (CEF) submission with Tame Valley Wetlands Partnership/ Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Birmingham City Council and Warwick District



COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT



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

Support schools, residents and businesses to reduce their use of single-use plastics (see objectives 8, 9 and 10 our SUP Strategy)

Continue to deliver the Fairtrade Action Plan including Fairtrade Fortnight 2021

Continue to support schools to become more sustainable through programmes such as the **Greener Solihull Schools Award**, Eco-Schools, Love

Solihull and Modeshift STARS and Oaks and Shires

Increase the number of partner groups engaging in Love Solihull activities

Continue Year 5 of the Ashden 'Less CO2' programme and launch and deliver the new carbon reduction programme for schools

Launch the Learning Pool e-learning module on sustainability