

## CLIMATE CRISIS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

This document is Wrington Parish Council's strategy and action plan in response to the climate crisis. Approved by WPC on 21 January 2021

### 1. CONTEXT

Following the 2019 declaration of a climate emergency by North Somerset District Council and the subsequent production of a Climate Change Strategy earlier this year, NSDC produced and adopted a "Climate Emergency Action Plan". This plan lays out the overarching actions that are being explored to address the causes and consequences of climate change.

A copy of both the strategy and the action plan are attached to this document and hyperlinks to them are listed below. (ctrl click to follow)

Strategy <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20strategy%202019.pdf>

Action plan <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/North%20Somerset%20climate%20emergency%20action%20plan.pdf>

These actions are allied to the seven key principles in the Climate Emergency Strategy:

- P1. Become a net zero carbon council
- P2. An energy efficient built environment
- P3. Renewable energy generation
- P4. Repair, re-use, reduce and recycle
- P5. Replenish our carbon stores
- P6. Reduce emissions from transport
- P7. Adapting to climate change

It is clearly sensible that the Parish Council strategy should be aligned with this plan and for that reason this strategy document follows those from NSDC and draws out the areas where WPC may be able to take action.

---

## 2. STRATEGY

The strategy document lays out key issues to be addressed in defining a workable and achievable plan.

It is a live document and so open to change as circumstances change and knowledge increases. It clearly recognises the links to and dependencies with other council activities and responsibilities including finance and planning.

It covers:

- Key Principles
- Scope - Using a matrix of influence we can identify and understand where the council has direct control (a small percentage) and where there is influence to encourage change.
- How the council can act in the each area to reduce carbon emissions
- Governance – who owns the strategy and how the council implements it.
- Stakeholders – who we wish to work with to implement the plan
- How to measure progress – setting aims and SMART objectives.

---

## 3. ACTION PLAN

The action plan is also a live document that draws out the actions required to implement change or to influence others to do so.

It is important to acknowledge that the Parish Council has limited powers and resources\* to make direct change in many areas of concern however it does have the ability to influence others and through working with the community to engage with others to further extend that influence.

The council can take a leadership role in building support and alliances within the community in order to influence other stakeholders and decision makers to deliver carbon emissions reductions across the parish.

\*See also the NALC document “Climate change-LC powers Sept 20”

### STRATEGY

This will be clarified and detailed by the climate working group as the first action in order to clarify where we have direct control and influence and to set up the management system and monitoring structure needed to implement and action plan.

We will make contact with other "expert" organisations for help and information to assist with implementation.

### ACTION PLAN

The following action points represent some of the areas that are available for the PC and community to use in our response to the climate crisis and that MAY form the basis of a long term climate action plan. It is not comprehensive and more will be added in the development of the plan.

Note: the phrase "impact reductions" is used below as short hand to include energy efficiency and carbon emissions reductions, water efficiency, air pollution, other negative environmental impact and reductions in wellbeing and quality of life.

#### P1. BECOME A NET ZERO COUNCIL

- Take a leadership role in the Parish to encourage others to reduce their Carbon emissions.
- Set up a council working party to develop the action plan proposals for implementation by the full council.
- Audit the Council's estate and operations to assess their impact on carbon emissions and environmental impacts. To include:
  - Buildings
  - Street lighting
  - Other activities supported by and or funded by the PC.
  - All subcontracted operations
- Assess the Council's current carbon footprint and develop a reduction plan.
- Agree to assess all future activities and operations for impacts as part of the decision and approval process.

#### P2. AN ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Most activity in this area will be in the area of lobbying NSDC and other organisations to deliver these aims.

- Any new developments to be zero carbon or net carbon plus.
- Any new developments to be targeted at local needs and to serve local businesses and organisations in order to minimise the need for additional road transport.
- Work with the school and other organisations in the community to assist with impact reductions.
- Actively research canvas and support community based and community led initiatives for appropriate, "affordable" and self-build housing.

- Support and promote a local housing energy efficiency project.

### P3. RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

---

- Encourage residents to switch to 100% renewable suppliers or tariffs.
- Investigate establishing a local renewable energy information forum and service to help residents understand and make appropriate choices.
- Encourage residents to consider installing renewables in addition to energy efficiency measures.

### P4. REPAIR, REDUCE, RE-USE AND RE-CYCLE

---

- Encourage the establishment of a local project for repair and repurposing.
- Support and promote regular swap and “freecycle” events
- Investigate options for other local waste reduction projects e.g. local green waste composting.

### P5. REPLENISH OUR CARBON STORES

---

- Work with residents to carry out appropriate re-wilding and tree planting.
- Promote/support the establishment of a local ecology and biodiversity group.
- Identify areas of land suitable for re-wilding, increased tree cover and other biodiversity improvements.
- Review grass cutting practices and identify any parcels of council owned land suitable for different management to reduce cutting and encourage biodiversity improvements.
- Encourage residents to use more environment friendly garden management.

### P6. REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT

---

- Continue to oppose any further expansion of air travel until and unless it can be shown to be carbon neutral
- Continue to press NSDC for more improvements to encourage active travel options and reduce car use.
- Actively seek funding to help develop active transport opportunities, including design of common space, parking, speed control and local “quiet lane” projects.
- Support community active travel initiatives.
- Promote a renewed “shop local/shop Wrigton” scheme.
- Assess all local developments and projects for transport impacts.
- Investigate and encourage the installation of electric vehicle charging points in the community.

## P7. ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

---

- Continue to press NSDC for climate friendly policies and decisions.
- Continue to monitor flood management in the parish to mitigate potential flooding events in the future.
- Work to encourage more climate friendly behaviour by individuals and all organisations across the community.

## OTHER ACTIONS

---

While the Parish council is severely restricted in the resources available (financial and human) to directly deliver much of what is needed it can act as leader promoter and supporter of projects set up and delivered by other local residents. It may also be able to put in some small financial help as seed money where appropriate.

It can act as the hub for matching up people and projects and also for the provision of information about how to set up, manage and fund initiatives.

Through communication with other PC's, local councils and other organisation it can help match up our local groups and project with similar activities in other areas, helping spread useful information and ideas and where possible co-operating to make best use of resources.

## PROPOSALS

- 1. Wrington Parish Council will develop a climate crisis strategy and action plan in alignment with those of NSDC.***
- 2. The Council adopt this draft as the live starting document.***
- 3. The Council set up a working party to review and develop the strategy and action plan.***
- 4. The working party to consider all comments and input from councillors, communicate with other interested parties in order to produce a revised action plan for adoption by the council***
- 5. The council allocate a small budget to allow the funding of approved initial projects where required.***

Additional Documents

Climate change-LC powers Sept 20 - Local Council's Powers to address or reduce climate Change. NALC.