**Climate Change Mitigation Action Plan**

**Introduction**

The world is facing an environmental crisis. In recognition of this, Tamworth Borough Council declared a climate emergency in November 2019 which commits to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In November 2023, the Council made a Nature Recovery Declaration which recognises that urgent action is required to prevent and reverse the long-term decline of nature. The Council will take decisions to protect and regenerate biodiversity across our local area.

We’ve developed a climate change mitigation action plan which maps out a decarbonisation pathway to achieve net zero across the Council’s operations and estate by 2050 or sooner. The plan identifies a range of actions (grouped by sector), to significantly reduce the authority’s carbon emissions.

1. Principles for developing the climate mitigation actions

In selecting priority actions for Tamworth, the following principles have been applied

* Align with the wider area strategies for Staffordshire and the West Midlands
* Focus on actions within the council's control that enable the council to begin setting an example in the wider community
* Identify policies, plans and projects already happening in Tamworth
* Prioritise easy wins and low-regret actions with co-benefits where possible in the short term, acknowledging resourcing is often a barrier
* Avoid lock-in i.e. making sure any long-term decisions and strategies such as those for infrastructure and housing are compatible with net zero.

In addition to the mitigation action plan, cross-cutting actions have been identified which will help ensure holistic, systemic action is taken to embed climate mitigation throughout the organisation. The following cross-cutting actions have been identified that would benefit from cross-council implementation to maximise efficiency, take advantage of synergies and avoid siloed working:

1. Building awareness and understanding of climate mitigation action within the council - To support implementation of the actions in this plan and support the embedding of climate mitigation in organisation processes and decision-making, Tamworth could introduce training for staff to improve their understanding of net zero targets and decarbonisation opportunities.
2. Embedding climate change mitigation action across relevant council policies and strategies - If long-term policies and strategies are implemented without due consideration of net zero targets, they may prevent the council from reaching these targets. Hence, the Council should aim to develop processes to include net zero in the development of new policies and strategies, including how it could impact the objectives of the new local plan and proposed corporate plan.
3. **Avoiding risks to the net zero target from climate change –** Tamworth Borough Council’s adaptation strategy complements this action plan by introducing a plan to enable Tamworth to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. Synergies across the mitigation action plan and the adaptation plan can be identified during implementation to ensure net zero targets are not put at risk by climate change and adaptation actions do not increase emissions.
4. Monitoring and review

To measure our progress towards net zero, the plans will be reviewed annually to identify where further action is needed and support cross-council learning on approaches, barriers, and opportunities. This is Tamworth Borough Council’s first climate mitigation action plan; as it is implemented there will be opportunities to learn from and refine the actions proposed. Actions will be implemented where the council is financially able to do so and all opportunities for funding will be explored and utilised where possible.

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| **Action name** | **Action description** | **Proposed timeline for completion** |
| **Transport** | | |
| Transport plan/ Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans | Work with Staffordshire County Council to implement the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (Impacts council fleet, business travel, and commuting. Commuting  excluded from inventory) | 2035 |
| Active travel e.g. walking, cycling | Explore feasibility of incentive scheme or other options to drive modal shift in travel (Impacts council fleet)  Explore feasibility of an incentive scheme that rewards employees who choose low carbon business travel options (Impacts business travel) | 2025-2028 |
| Modal shift | Review and update TBC’s travel policy to facilitate a modal shift towards public transport e.g. could require using active travel, public transport, or Council's electric cars for travel within two miles of the office (Impacts council fleet) | 2025-2028 |
| Logistic efficiencies: Fleet route optimisation | Optimise fleet routes to reduce fuel consumption (Impacts council fleet) | 2027 |
| Demand reduction | Implement a digital-by-default policy to reduce business travel frequency | 2025-2028 |
| Electrification of the fleet | Transition the council fleet to electric vehicles | 2028 – 2040  Assumed 25% fleet is converted to EV at each contract renewal |
| Install electric charging points | As part of our EV strategy, perform a feasibility study to determine viable locations for EV charge points | Changes in EV technology will impact the timeline |
| Switch to biofuels or electric for green spaces vehicles and machinery | Implement HVO fuelling or electric to all suitable highways vehicles, plant, machinery and equipment | 2026 |
| **Streetlighting and infrastructure** | | |
| LED conversion of all remaining non-LED lighting columns | This action replaces all remaining non-LED streetlights with LEDs. It is understood that an LED conversion programme has already commenced, so this action represents a continuation and completion of this work | Already underway, estimated completion in 2027 |
| Reduce electricity demand of other road assets | Reduce electricity consumption of road infrastructure such as car park barriers and street signs through LED lighting and high-efficiency alternatives | 2026 |
| **Buildings** | | |
| Further audit analysis | Conduct further audits on high priority buildings e.g. sheltered housing, to gain insight into potential improvement areas | 2025-2028 |
| Use audit results to build business case for improvements | Review outcomes of energy audits and establish a scheduled programme of works for building energy upgrades (Impacts all buildings) | 2025-2030 |
| Council Housing: Implement a housing stock condition and asset management strategy | Implement a housing stock condition and asset management strategy with integrated mitigation and adaptation aims | 2025-2030 |
| All buildings: Improve electricity efficiency of daily operations | This involves optimising operations by replacing equipment that may result in high electricity consumption, due to inefficiencies rather than use e.g. ventilation, cooking equipment, lift/escalators, space heating, installing LEDs, motion detecting/proximity detector light switches in communal areas, heat sensors | 2026-2035 |
| All buildings: Building optimisation | Use of building management and monitoring systems, such as voltage optimisation or using sensors and sub-metering to understand and control when and where energy is currently being used | 2026-2035 |
| Council Housing: Review impact of receiving Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding | Review impact of receiving funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) as a way of providing increased insulation to housing and as a mechanism of introducing renewable heating systems | 2028 |
| Council Buildings (excluding housing): Heating systems and insulation upgrades, retrofitting measures | Upgrade heating and insulation to reduce gas consumption, through zonal heating, cavity wall or solid wall insulation, double glazing where lacking, roof insulation, insulation of heating pipes, and draft-proofing | 2026-2035 |
| Council Housing: Heating systems and insulation upgrades, retrofitting measures | Phase 1 – Conduct a feasibility Study for  further upgrades to heating and insulation to reduce gas consumption, through zonal heating, cavity wall or solid wall insulation, double glazing where lacking, roof insulation, insulation of heating pipes, and draft-proofing  Phase 2 - Implement if feasible | 2026-2050 |
| All buildings: Switch heating from gas to zero direct emission heating (ZDEH) systems | Phase 1 - Conduct a feasibility study around switching heating from gas boilers to heat pumps, air source, ground source, district heat networks or electric heating. It is essential that fabric measures - heating and insulation upgrades - are delivered first where needed for heat pumps to be effective  Phase 2 - make the switch based on the review | 2026-2035  Review by 2026, act before 2035 |
| Increase deployment of renewables on council buildings | Phase 1 - Conduct feasibility studies to determine the potential for installation of (additional) renewables  Phase 2 - Initiate renewable energy generation where feasible. | 2026 |
| **Waste** | | |
| Municipal Waste: Reduce mileage of waste vehicle fleet | Conduct route optimisation analysis (including relocating of the waste depot) to reduce distance travelled | 2025 - 2028 |
| Municipal Waste : ULEV waste vehicles | Replace waste collection vehicles to be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) in collaboration with Staffordshire’s Joint Waste Management Board | 2040 |
| **Renewables** | | |
| Explore options for using 100% renewable electricity on council owned land assets | Phase 1: Track the gov. decarbonisation plans, but review potential for heat pump installation before this  Phase 2: Decide how to progress if the grid decarb is not likely, this includes  Change to renewable electricity through either the installation of renewable energy systems or adoption of a renewable tariff.  This could be achieved in various ways, with different costs to the Council:   * In future, if the electricity grid is net zero, this will be achieved by default. However, the timing of this is uncertain   Deliver additional renewables on Council-owned buildings and land or other nearby locations | 2025-2028 |
| **Supply chain and communications** | | |
| Develop a communication strategy | Develop an internal communication strategy which includes:   * Ban of unnecessary single use plastics in council buildings * Resource efficiency and staff awareness * Reduction in food waste for events and meetings * Encouraging active and/or low carbon travel when commuting   Develop an external communication strategy which includes:   * Awareness raising of reduce, reuse, recycling principles * Reduction in food waste | 2025-2028 |
| Review potential for partnership collaboration on Borough-wide GHG reduction | Review partnerships and identify the potential to work together on reducing GHG emissions in the wider Borough | 2025-2050 |
| Build carbon reductions into ‘invitations to tender’ | Produce tender specifications that contain requirements for suppliers to show commitment to reducing their environmental impact | 2025-2028 |
| Update repair contracts | Ask suppliers to evidence use of more sustainable materials | 2025-2028 |
| Update energy contract | Stipulate that the new contract must prioritise electricity generated from renewable sources across all operational buildings and housing where applicable. | 2025-2028 |

**Our emissions pathway**

To illustrate the potential impact of this action plan on council emissions, a modelled emissions reduction pathway has been estimated, as shown in **Figure II**. This shows one potential route to net zero for the council and can be compared with a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario where no further action is taken by Tamworth Borough Council. The business-as-usual scenario estimates a 29% reduction in TBC’s emissions by 2050, due to decarbonisation of the national electricity system. This shows the importance of focused action to drive significant cuts in Tamworth’s emissions over the coming decades. As emissions under this scenario are not projected to reach zero by 2050, Tamworth Borough Council would need to offset any remaining emissions to reach net zero.

Figure II: Projected emissions for Tamworth Borough Council under a modelled reduction scenario, 2022/23- 2050/51

