Stockport Climate Action Now – Funding and Summit 2021

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1. Summary

This report provides an overview of how Stockport Council are progressing a Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN) Summit and Stockport CAN Funding scheme.

Within the CAN strategy, the Climate Friendly Borough workstream sets out that the council will work with residents across the borough to enable and grow climate action, supporting the aims of the CAN strategy. The Summit and launch of a funding scheme form a part of this workstream.

Section 3 of this report updates Members on the Stockport CAN Funding scheme, a new source of funding available in 2021-22. Funding will go towards micro projects that enable groups of residents to directly reduce or mitigate local carbon emissions, in line with the CAN strategy.

Section 4 provides an update for Members about work to deliver a Stockport CAN Summit, an online event scheduled for Tuesday 9th November 2021. The summit will be a collective call to action to everyone in the borough to help deliver the aims of the CAN strategy. The event aims to demonstrate the council's commitment to the climate action agenda, showcase the work of communities, residents and businesses, launch climate networks, and encourage people to join us on the path to net zero carbon by 2038.

Section 5 asks Members to comment on the CAN funding and summit outlines and to submit suggestions for the climate summit.

2. Background

In March 2019, the council declared a climate emergency, and Full Council agreed that Stockport should become carbon neutral by 2038, therefore committing to reduce the amount of warming greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) that are released into the atmosphere.

The Stockport CAN strategy was developed to underpin this agreement, which was approved by full council in October 2020. The strategy sets out our aims to ensure that Stockport achieves net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2038, in order to support global efforts to prevent global warming above 1.5°C globally.

The CAN strategy contains seven workstreams which are as follows:

A. Stockport Council CAN – Leading the way by building climate action into everything we do

B. Sustainable Financial Appraisal – Introducing a new model of financial appraisal which informs all decisions the council makes
C. Climate Friendly Borough – Working with businesses and people to take action
D. Low Carbon Buildings – More energy efficient homes, now and in the future
E. Renewable Energy – Ensuring that the future energy needs of the borough can all be met in a sustainable way
F. Sustainable Transport – Moving to carbon-free transport options and increasing walking, cycling and use of public transport
G. Natural Environment – Protecting and enhancing our natural environment

The Climate Friendly Borough workstream includes working with residents across the borough to take climate action. Through education, advice, and engagement, this workstream aims to encourage businesses and communities to work differently and to inspire individual behaviour change in residents.

This report provides details of how we are progressing aims within this workstream, firstly by hosting a climate summit for residents, businesses, communities and schools, and secondly by launching a Stockport CAN community funding scheme to fund microprojects that will act as a catalyst to reduce carbon emissions in the borough.

3. Stockport CAN Funding Scheme

3.1 Funding Brief

The aim of the Stockport CAN funding scheme is to engage residents with the Stockport CAN strategy by providing funding for micro projects that directly reduce or mitigate local carbon emissions. The fund will enable residents to work together to impact carbon emissions in their community. This may include activities such as community food growing, enabling repair cafes, energy saving in buildings and more.

The fund aims to increase the amount of climate action in Stockport by reaching new groups who do not usually apply for funding and by highlighting the co-benefits of climate action, such as health and wellbeing, financial savings and community development.

There will be £9000 available to residents and community groups within each ward from November 2021 – December 2022 which will be distributed through area committees.

The fund will be launched at the Stockport CAN Summit on Tuesday 9th November 2021. Thereafter it will be promoted by Members as well as widely through community networks and communications.

3.2 Criteria

Grants typically from £100 - £500 will be available for micro projects that help to reduce carbon emissions in Stockport.

The funding is open to all Stockport residents. Groups of residents can apply for the funding. A ‘group’ must be a minimum of two residents from two households. Applicants do not need to be a constituted group to apply. Eligible groups include but are not limited to:

- Group of residents who live on the same street or nearby to each other.
- Shared interest groups, such as sports clubs or walking groups. This includes informal shared interest groups, such as a group of parents.

- Community groups.
- Not-for-profit organisations.
- Schools.

The funding cannot be used for private benefit, such as energy saving or food growing that benefits a single household or individual. Therefore, not eligible for this funding includes:

- Individuals.
- Single households.
- Businesses.

The amount of funding requested should be relative to the number of people benefitting from the activities. For example, 2 people taking energy saving actions within their households would not be awarded the maximum grant. However, 15 households applying together as a street for the same energy saving actions may be able to access the maximum grant.

Applications will be assessed by Members and presented for approval by exception at area committees. Guidance on eligible activities will be provided to applicants and to Members.

This fund will be distinguished from other existing funding schemes through the requirement for applicants to relate all projects to carbon saving and to state the carbon saving in their application process.

All applications will be subject to necessary permissions, such as planning.

The council will not have ongoing responsibility for any maintenance of projects/schemes as a result of the funding.

3.3 Guidance

The below table provides examples of what the funding could contribute towards and how each reduces carbon emissions. This list is not exhaustive.

Climate action	Activity
Food growing in a community	Raised beds Peat free compost Seeds, seedlings Gardening equipment Safety equipment Water butts / rainwater collection systems
Circular Economy	Equipment to enable repair and reuse in communities
Tree planting	Planting on private land – whips. Native trees.
Reducing energy demand	Radiator boosters / reflectors Draught excluders – front door / internal Eco Flap for letter box Hot water cylinder jacket Automatic radiator bleeder

	Power down plugs Eco Charger / solar charging for devices LED lighting / energy saving bulbs Hippo – water cistern Aerated shower head
Zero Waste	Equipment to enable community cooking / food sharing

3.4 Example funding scenarios

Example 1: A community centre could apply for £200 of energy saving devices for their building, achieving a combined carbon saving of over 645kg a year. Additionally, this could save them up to £175 on their energy bills each year.

LED lightbulbs would cost around £100, would save around 65kg of carbon a year.

Hot water cylinder jackets and pipe insulation would cost around £25 and could save up to 450kg of carbon a year.

Radiator reflectors would cost around £25 and would save up to 70kg of carbon a year.

Adding draught excluders to the doors, letter box and windows would cost around £50 and save up to 60kg carbon a year.

Example 2: A community group could apply for seed-funding of £185 equipment to start a repair café. Repairing 24 items of clothing in a year would save 250kg of carbon, divert waste from landfill and share new skills with community members.

A sewing machine costing £125

Sewing equipment costing £60

Example 3: A school could apply for £500 to build 2 raised beds that would enable them to start food growing. This will directly reduce and capture emissions but could also educate pupils and parents about how choosing local, seasonal produce will lower carbon footprints.

Labour and wood £400

Peat free compost £50

Gardening equipment £50

3.5 Decision-making process

Applications will be granted by Area Committee Members. To manage demand on Member's time, it is suggested that Members present applications by exception at Area Committee meetings.

Any monies outstanding will be used to fund initiatives within the Stockport CAN programme.

3.6 Administration process

The suggested administration process is as below:

- Alongside communications, Members share information about the fund within their wards.
- Residents complete an online application form, or pick up a paper copy from a library.
- Forms reviewed for eligibility by the 'administrator' and eligible applications sent to relevant Wards.
- Members approve applications through area committees, presenting applications by exception at area committee meetings.
- Members notify the administrator of decisions, and the grants are paid.
- Post-funding, Administrator follows up with recipients post-funding to collect evidence of spend. Members to follow up with recipients post-funding to monitor progress and improvements within their Ward. Members can highlight success stories within their wards to feature in comms.

3.7 Role of Members

Members will be crucial in the delivery of this funding scheme regarding the decision-making around which projects to fund. Full guidance and promotional material will be provided to Members for the launch of the scheme.

Additionally, the growth of climate action in local communities is reliant on grassroots links so knowledge of local groups will be key to the success of this scheme. Members are asked to promote the scheme to groups, communities and residents and to encourage applications from residents within their wards.

Members are encouraged to engage with funded projects to assess progress.

The council CAN team are available at StockportCAN@stockport.gov.uk to discuss any feedback Members may have regarding the CAN Funding scheme.

4. Stockport CAN Summit

4.1 Overview of the Summit

A climate summit is scheduled for Tuesday 9th November 2021. The Stockport CAN summit will be a collective call to action to everyone in the borough to help deliver the aims of the CAN Strategy and to showcase the council's plans for CAN.

The key aims of the event are to:

- Engage and inspire residents who are not yet active on climate change.
- Showcase the ongoing work of communities, residents and businesses in the borough.
- Be interactive and engaging through a mix of talks, presentations, Q&A's, videos, breakout rooms, Menti surveys and activities.
- Demonstrate the council's commitment to the climate action agenda, through sharing what we are doing and how we are embedding carbon reduction into the way the council operates.

- Launch a Stockport CAN funding scheme where community groups, schools and residents can bid for funding for micro projects that will directly reduce or mitigate local carbon emissions.
- Build upon the actions of businesses, community groups and residents to strengthen Climate Networks.

The 9th November summit date is in-line with COP26, which is taking place in Glasgow from the 1st to the 12th November.

The event will be held online to enable maximum reach and ease and safety of attendance. Attendees will register for tickets on Eventbrite where they will be able to book onto the sections that are of interest to them or choose to attend the whole day.

There will be four main sections across the day. These are:

- Stockport CAN
- Businesses
- Young People
- Communities

Through the event, we are aiming to share and inform the breadth of climate actions being taken by residents, communities, schools and businesses across the borough. The event will be inclusive of people from all backgrounds and we will strive for the event to reflect the whole borough. The summit is being designed to be appealing and interesting to people who are taking their first steps or who are not yet engaged with climate actions as well as those who are already active.

The event will highlight the many co-benefits of climate action: for economic growth and sustainability; for health and wellbeing including the health benefits of reducing air pollution; of active travel and of cooking seasonal meals; the local benefits to improved access to greenspaces, and more. Through interactive elements during the day and the launching of Climate Networks, the summit will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, experiences and ideas across the borough.

4.2 Stockport CAN

The opening section of the summit will ground the event in local action to reduce and mitigate carbon emissions and the many co-benefits from these actions.

Councillor Sheila Bailey will introduce the session and remind everyone why we are here with a call to action.

Director of Place Management will then set out the CAN strategy and share progress made against the objectives in the strategy. This talk will feature key council partners such as Stockport Homes and Stockport Exchange.

A video of young people across the borough will share why they think it’s important to act on climate change. This video will also feature clips of events that have taken place across Stockport in the months leading up to the summit, including Mount Recyclemore and activities by Eco Schools.

There will be an interactive, engaging carbon literacy element included in the opening section. The aim of this is to open the summit with a shared understanding of what carbon emissions are and how this is causing global overheating. The summit will work to highlight that carbon reduction and mitigation are central to effective climate action.

4.3 Businesses

The business section will be chaired by a prominent member of the Economic Alliance and will feature a showcase video of businesses that are working to reduce their climate impact. This section will feature short presentations and a Q&A session with representatives from various business sectors, such as a Certified B Corporation, a social enterprise and other small and medium Stockport-based businesses. These representatives will share their experiences and advice for businesses wanting to reduce their climate impact.

We will use the Summit as an opportunity to re-launch the Stockport Sustainable Business Network (SSBN), which was popular pre-pandemic.

Further to this, details about this year's Pioneer 10 competition, run by Oxford Innovation at Stockport Business and Innovation Centre, will be announced at the Summit with a low-carbon theme, to be launched in January 2022. Businesses will be invited to pitch a carbon saving solution or tech that diversifies or develops their business.

Prior to the Summit event, the Planet Mark tour will visit Stockport on the 6th October. Planet Mark is a sustainability certification that businesses can apply for. At this event, businesses will be able to network, hear from other businesses and learn about the Planet Mark accreditation. The CAN team are working with Marketing Stockport to connect these two events and offer businesses a route into further engagement with growing the low-carbon economy in Stockport.

The Stockport CAN summit will be promoted across Stockport business networks, including the Low Carbon Network run by the Growth Hub, previous attendees of the SSBN and the business bulletin.

4.4 Young People

This section will be chaired by the Stockport Youth Climate Commission, a group of young people who want to coordinate youth voices across the borough.

Schools will be invited to attend the Young People section of the summit as their afternoon lesson. To begin this section of the day, the Youth Climate Commission will speak about their concerns as young people and their vision for the future. There will be a showcase video celebrating actions being taken by young people and schools across the borough.

Following on from this, the Young People attendees will go into breakout rooms to take part in a climate action workshop. They will take part in a quiz, will learn about carbon footprints and will give their views on climate action. The interactive activity will ask:

- Why do you think it's important to act now?
- What do you want your school to do?
- What can you do personally?
- What would you want from a young people's Climate Network?

This activity aims to scope out the enthusiasm for a young people's climate network, what this might look like, and what support or resources this network might need.

The winner of a Climate Action poetry competition, sponsored by Music Magpie, will be announced by their poem being performed at the summit. The competition will be promoted to schools through a digital activity pack.

4.5 Communities

The Communities section will be chaired by a prominent member of Stockport's VCFSE sector. To open the section, a showcase video will celebrate actions and activities from community groups and residents across the borough.

Through presentations and Q&A's, representatives from community groups will share their knowledge and experiences. The speakers will be chosen to cover key aspects of a carbon footprint: food, transport, energy and goods. Further to this, the projects represented will highlight that many community-rooted activities are already linked to climate actions.

Breakout rooms in this session will create a space for groups to share their experiences, share knowledge and discuss the potential for how a community-based climate network could work. We will be engaging with geographical and thematic groups from across the borough in the run up to the event to ensure areas across the sector are represented in these discussions.

This session will be used to launch the new Stockport CAN funding, a scheme which will fund community micro projects that will act as a catalyst to reduce the borough's carbon footprint.

4.6 Post-event

Following on from the summit there will be a number of opportunities and ongoing support:

- The Stockport CAN Funding for micro projects until December 2022
- The Stockport Sustainable Business Network and ongoing support from the Business Growth Hub's Journey to Net Zero training
- Subject to feedback at the summit, development of Climate Networks for young people, schools and communities
- A post-event survey will give the chance for residents to give feedback, share ideas and local actions, and register to be kept informed about future climate-related works. This will link in with Climate Network development.

4.7 Next steps

The CAN team are in the process of engaging with schools, businesses, residents and community groups to develop the agenda for the day and confirming chairs, speakers and those who will feature in showcase videos.

We are developing a Communications plan for promoting the event, social media on the day and ongoing promotion of the networks and Stockport CAN funding scheme after the event.

4.8 Role of Members

To ensure the event reflects the diversity of Stockport and to encourage broad and representative coverage from across the borough, Members are asked to make suggestions of residents, groups, schools and businesses to invite to attend or to feature in the event.

Suggestions of groups, businesses and organisations can be made to the Stockport CAN team. The council CAN team are available at StockportCAN@stockport.gov.uk

In October, Councillors will be asked to promote the summit in their wards, and to encourage attendance from people of different backgrounds, including those who are not yet committed

to climate action. The CAN team will provide a more detailed breakdown of the day and event flyer to be shared.

5. Area Committees

Area Committees are asked to:

- comment on the report, including feedback on plans for both the Stockport CAN funding and Climate Summit
- submit suggestions for representation and invitation to the climate summit on 9th November

The council CAN team are available at StockportCAN@stockport.gov.uk