

# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>UK100 Membership</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of the Council's membership of UK100, and to seek the Committee's support for this to be re-affirmed.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to re-affirm Stroud District Council's membership of UK100.</b>			
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Details of the consultation involved in the Council's membership of the UK 100 are set out in detail in section 2 of this report. The Council is now being asked to sign the UK100 pledge again, to keep records up to date.			
<b>Report Author(s)</b>	Brendan Cleere, Strategic Director of Place Email: <a href="mailto:Brendan.cleere@stroud.gov.uk">Brendan.cleere@stroud.gov.uk</a>			
<b>Options</b>	The Committee may opt not to re-affirm membership of UK100. This is not recommended, as the Council would not realise the benefits that are outlined in this report.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	None			
<b>Appendices</b>	None			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	Yes

### 1. ABOUT UK100

- 1.1 UK100 is a cross-party membership organisation that supports the most ambitious councils to go further and faster on their Net Zero and Clean Air targets. UK100's role is to facilitate knowledge sharing between members, partnership building and outreach mentoring. UK100 brings together influential local leaders from across the country to learn together and agree on priorities for legislative and regulatory change while empowering them to engage with national decision makers.
- 1.2 Over 100 local authorities of all varieties across the country are currently members of UK100. The key benefits of membership include:
- facilitating dialogue with national politicians and senior officials across Whitehall, amplifying the voices of local leaders via collective advocacy to national government
  - enabling knowledge sharing between members including meetings, webinars, roundtables and workshops, and promoting best practice via social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) and newsletters
  - providing tailored insights, evidence and recommendations on the challenges and solutions to local Net Zero, inviting members to inform and participate in research

- connecting local leaders with world-leading business and industry to help local authorities plan and implement the solutions needed to reduce emissions in their local area
- demonstrating the collective ambition, commitment and ability of democratically elected local leaders to deliver Net Zero.
- Local authorities also have access to members-only programmes and services, including briefings on our research and publications.

### 1.3 **Joining UK100 and the Membership Pledge**

The process of joining UK100 involves a conversation between the elected leadership of the interested authority and the UK100 membership team. If the interested authority meets the requirement of UK100's Net Zero Pledge and the interested authority wishes to proceed, they will respond to an invitation to do so and be asked to sign up to the membership pledge below:

***As local leaders across the UK, we recognise our responsibility to tackle the climate emergency and take bold action towards Net Zero.***

***We will continue to lead the UK's response to climate change, acting sooner than the government's goal by making substantial progress within the next decade to deliver Net Zero.***

***We will use our experience and achievements to advocate to the UK government in order to accelerate the delivery of ambitious local climate action. With greater powers and funding, we would go further.***

***We commit to do everything within our power and influence to rapidly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and work with our residents and businesses to bring our wider communities' emissions in line with Net Zero as soon as possible.***

***We pledge to understand our impact on climate change, prioritise where action needs to be taken and monitor progress towards our goals. We will reduce our emissions at source and limit the use of carbon offsets as part of the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.***

***We are closer to the people who live and work in our communities, so we have a better understanding of their needs. This means we can collaborate with them to build consensus for the solutions we need to transition to a Net Zero society that delivers multiple benefits and is fair, just and works for everyone.***

- 1.4 There is no cost involved in being a member of UK100. However, the terms and conditions of membership are reviewed annually and, should a change arise, members would be consulted in advance of any decision that may impact their membership.
- 1.5 Signing up to the pledge is not legally binding. Councils will nevertheless be accountable in the normal way for the delivery of any adopted and aligned strategies and policies that are the basis of their UK100 membership.
- 1.6 Full background and details about UK100 can be found on their website: [www.uk100.org](http://www.uk100.org)

## **2. STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP OF UK100**

- 2.1 Stroud District Council was invited to join UK100 in 2020 and the former Council Leader (Cllr Doina Cornell) signed the Net Zero pledge in December 2020. We are UK100 members because our existing climate commitment is already very closely aligned with the Net Zero pledge - a Climate Emergency was declared by the Council administration on 16 November 2018, including a pledge to 'do everything within the Council's power to make Stroud District carbon neutral by 2030'. This declaration was subsequently endorsed by Full Council on 24th January 2019. Following the above events, Full Council adopted the Stroud District 2030 Strategy in February 2021, which built upon our climate emergency declaration and provided a detailed action plan. Annual progress reports on the 2030 Strategy have been taken to Environment Committee in the spring of 2022 and 2023.
- 2.2 A follow-up annual meeting took place in January 2022 between UK100 and Cllr Cornell and Cllr Catherine Braun (then Deputy Leader), where the UK100 sub-network – Countryside Climate Network – was introduced. As a UK100 member with a large rural area, the Council was automatically eligible to join this network and Cllrs Braun and Cornell confirmed their wish to do so. Further details about the Countryside Climate Network are provided on the UK100 website (link provided in section 1.5 above).
- 2.3 The Leader of the Council has recently been asked to sign the UK100 pledge again. This report therefore seeks the committee's support for the pledge to be signed, re-affirming our UK100 membership.

## **3. UK100: CLIMATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

- 3.1 One of opportunities offered to members of UK100 is the Climate Leadership Academy. This offers elected members (approximately 20 from different authorities) an opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence, to become leading climate pioneers in local government. The programme takes place over 3 residential weekends this Autumn (2023) and is free to attend, except for travel costs which need to be met by the participating councillors' authorities.
- 3.2 Council members are invited by UK100 to apply to participate in the Climate Leadership Academy. The Chair of Environment Committee was invited to participate and she nominated Cllr Gary Luff, whose application has been accepted.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications relating to this report as it is to re-affirm Stroud District Council's membership of UK100. Travel costs can be met within existing budget.

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### **4.2 Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, the Council's commitments are still subject to compliance with the Council's legislative duties, such as procurement legislation and its contract and procurement procedure rules. The Council will need to be mindful of the Duty of Best Value and, if it is intended to deliver any services

differently, its consultation requirements. The terms and conditions referred to in paragraph 1.4 should be referred to One Legal for review whenever they are changed.

One Legal Email: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

#### **4.3 Equality Implications**

There are no equality implications arising from a decision to re-affirm membership of UK100.

#### **4.4 Environmental Implications**

There are numerous benefits associated with membership of UK100 and these are outlined in section 2.1. Membership of UK100 provides a valuable opportunity to support the delivery of our existing climate and ecological commitments, as set out in our 2030 Strategy, Local Plan and other key strategies and policies.