

## **Executive Member Decision Part A – For Officer Completion**

**Date: 19/12/2022**

### **Part i**

## **Purpose of Decision**

To provide an overview of the process to create the Devon Carbon Plan and to provide a recommendation for its endorsement and implementation.

## **Request Officer**

William Elliott

Climate Change Officer

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## **Executive Member**

Councillor Jackie Hook

## **Progress**

- 1 Consultation – 14/11/2022
- 2 First Draft - 14/11/2022
- 3 Discussion with Executive Member – 14/11/2022
- 4 Initial local member/Chair(s) O&S consulted - 20/11/2022
- 5 MO-S151 Consulted – 19/12/2022
- 6 Check - any objections from 4 & 5 – 19/12/2022
- 7 Executive Member approve for Consultation – 19/12/2022
- 8

## **Democratic Services**

- 9 All Councillors consulted - Date 20/12/2022
- 10 Call in completed - Date 04/01/2023
- 11 Originating Officer advised 04/01/2023
- 12 Placed on Web 04/01/2023
- 13 Signed copy filed

## **1. Proposed Decision**

- 1.1 The Executive member for Climate Change, Coastal Protection, and Flooding is recommended to:
  - Endorse the Devon Carbon Plan.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 On the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the Council Declared a Climate Emergency and committed to collaborating with Devon County Council, all the Devon District Councils, Devon Unitary Authorities and other agencies to address the Climate Emergency.
- 2.2 The Devon Climate Declaration was signed by the Leader of the Council and Managing Director, and prepared by a consortium of public, private, and voluntary organisations collaborating through the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It set out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in, and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
- 2.3 The Devon Carbon Plan forms a principal document working towards the objectives of the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration and provides a framework working towards a net zero Devon by 2050 at the very latest. It is based on the Committee on Climate Change Net Zero Report Further Ambition Scenario (which aligns with carbon budgets consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C with a greater than 50% likelihood) and sets out the actions we must all take to achieve this budget.
- 2.4 Since signing the Devon Climate Declaration, the Authority has contributed towards the preparation of the Devon Carbon Plan through participating in the Devon Climate Emergency Response and Tactical groups, amongst other partnership working groups.
- 2.5 The Authority has commented on elements of the Devon Carbon Plan and encouraged Members and the public to engage with and shape the Plan. The Authority has actively promoted the Devon Carbon Plan during public consultations on the interim draft Devon Carbon Plan and the Net Zero Task Force' interpretation of the Citizen's Assembly results.
- 2.6 The Devon Carbon Plan encourages authorities and organisations to work towards achieving net zero emissions in advance of the national 2050 timetable and calls on Government to bring the timetable forwards to align with local aspirations.
- 2.7 Work is under way to develop a district carbon plan for Teignbridge, which will take the 149 actions of the Devon Carbon Plan, as well as other sources of evidence including the Sixth Carbon Budget to create a specific carbon plan for Teignbridge covering all emissions influenced within our territorial boundary, including homes, businesses, transport and land use.
- 2.8 The Authority would like to recognise the significant amount of work carried out by the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, the Net Zero Taskforce, and members of the community who have contributed towards making the Devon Carbon Plan a success.

## **3. Devon Carbon Plan development Process**

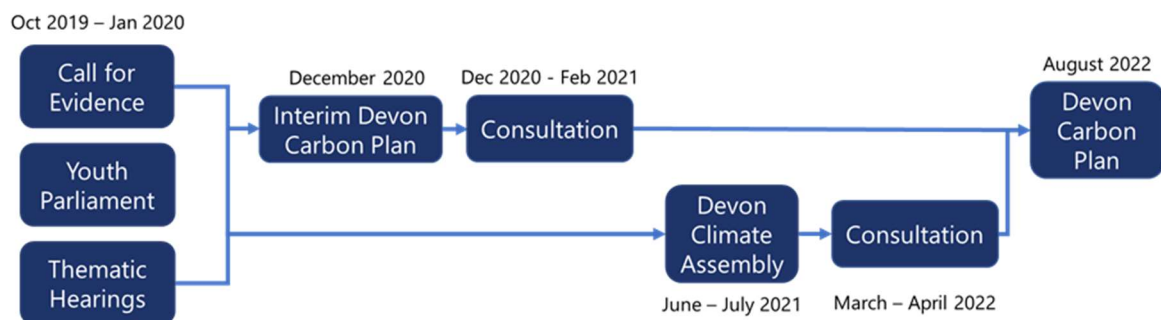
- 3.1 The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (at the latest). It has been built on a detailed, ongoing assessments of Devon's greenhouse gas emissions.

3.2 It divides action to reduce Devon’s emissions into five sectors: economy and resources; energy supply; food, land and sea; transport; and the built environment.

3.3 Creating the Devon Carbon Plan involved five main phases;

- During the first phase, the Net Zero Task Force took a robust, evidence-led approach, with an open call for evidence from the public and organisations wishing to contribute which received 893 submissions from the public
- Six Thematic Hearings (meetings) gathered expert input about barriers to reaching net-zero, and a Youth Parliament Climate Summit with 75 students from 15 primary and secondary schools across Devon was convened
- Next, the Interim Devon Carbon Plan was developed. The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership asked for public feedback during a consultation which received 1,322 responses.
- The more controversial climate topics and action areas were set aside to be deliberated through a representative Citizens Assembly which was organised and chaired by a third party in the summer of 2021.
- Following the successful completion of the Citizens’ Assembly, a further public consultation took place on the actions developed in response to the assembly’s recommendations in spring 2022.
- The final Devon Carbon Plan was published for Endorsement by partners in Autumn 2022.

3.4 A visual representation of the process is shown below:



#### 4. Endorsement of the Devon Carbon Plan

4.1 The Devon Carbon Plan has followed a robust science led process involving thematic experts as well as including public consultation and a representative Citizens Assembly.

- 4.2 The Devon Carbon Plan indicates who an action is most relevant to. Very rarely is an action relevant to a single organisation. The Devon Carbon Plan is a County carbon plan for all, where collaboration and working together is at the core of the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.
- 4.3 The Devon Carbon Plan doesn't propose to supersede existing democratic scrutiny processes, it instead is an evidence led plan which forms a roadmap for how Devon can achieve net-zero carbon by 2050 at the latest, with an interim target of 50% reduction by 2030 below 2010 levels, and how each partner organisation can help to achieve this.
- 4.4 The Plan outlines how everyone in Devon can work together to reduce our emissions to net-zero. It highlights the barriers that need to be overcome, the resources required (whether they are existing or required) and where collaboration with national government is needed to do so.
- 4.5 It is recommended that the Council endorses the Devon Carbon Plan and continues to progress the development of the district carbon action plan for Teignbridge in alignment with the Devon Carbon Plan.

## **5. Main Implications**

- 5.1 Financial/Legal - Endorsement of the Devon Carbon Plan doesn't immediately present financial or legal obligations to the Authority, however, committee consent will be sought for projects delivering on actions contained within the Devon carbon Plan when required. An associated business case will be required to ensure that any scheme meets our minimum return.

## **6. Alternative Options**

- 6.1 The alternative option of not endorsing the Devon Carbon Plan would undermine significant evidence gathering and consultation work to date, and the collaborative and cross-boundary partnerships that are vital to addressing the Climate Emergency.

## **7. Justification**

- 7.1 Endorsement of the Devon Carbon Plan fulfils a principal objective of the Devon Climate Declaration, which was signed by the Leader of the Council and the Managing Director. It also works towards the objective of a carbon neutral district as set out in the Council Strategy under Action on Climate.

## **Democratic Services**

### **Decision No 2022/04**

### **Date of Implementation**

**Call in n/a**

## **Member Completion**

I confirm the decision above

I agree with the justification above

I have no conflict of interest in making this decision having considered the provisions of the Teignbridge Code of Conduct

Signed

Date