

**Teignbridge District Council**  
**Full Council**  
**14 January 2025**  
**Part i**

## **One Teignbridge Council Strategy**

### **Purpose of Report**

To adopt the 'One Teignbridge' Council Strategy 2025-2030

### **Recommendation(s)**

#### **The Council RESOLVES**

1. To adopt the 'One Teignbridge' Council Strategy 2025-2030, as the document to be used to guide the strategic priorities of the Council for the next 5 years.

### **Financial Implications**

These are as set out in section 4.1.

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### **Legal Implications**

These are as set out in section 4.2.

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### **Risk Assessment**

These are as set out in section 4.3.

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### **Environmental/ Climate Change Implications**

These are as set out in section 4.4.

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## **Executive Member**

Cllr Richard Keeling - Leader

## **Appendices**

1. One Teignbridge Council Strategy 2025-2030
2. One Teignbridge – Our Story
3. Equality Impact Assessment

## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1.** The purpose of this report is to explain the changes made to the One Teignbridge Council Strategy ('the Strategy') following a period of public consultation and to seek approval to use this to guide the Council's strategic priorities for the next 5 years (2025-2030).

## **2. REPORT DETAIL**

### **2.1. Overview**

- 2.1.1.** The One Teignbridge project was launched to the public on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024, to initiate the start of the new council strategy journey. This was followed by a wide-ranging consultation with residents, community leaders, voluntary groups and societies, businesses, and partners to hear about experiences of living and working in Teignbridge.
- 2.1.2.** Thousands of opinions and lived experiences were recorded and analysed alongside information and data about the district. These highlighted five key priority areas for residents where the Council can have the biggest impact towards a positive future for Teignbridge.
- 2.1.3.** Alongside the five key priority areas are a set of principles that will guide the way the Council will work. These are based on the feedback received around what the community expects from the Council.
- 2.1.4.** The draft Strategy was published for public consultation between the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 and the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. 224 responses were submitted from a range of individuals and organisations, including town and parish councils, and have been considered in the final drafting of the Strategy. Some changes to the strategy have been made as a result of this consultation as set out in Section 3.1.2.
- 2.1.5.** The Strategy will be supported by an Action Plan that will set out the projects and services that the Council will deliver. This Action Plan will be regularly reviewed, and it is intended that this is updated biannually to reflect current projects and progress. The initial Action Plan is being fully developed over the next few months to be brought back to Full Council for approval later in 2025. The format of this Action Plan is 'impact to intent', linking the objectives brought before the Council today with projects and

initiatives being undertaken by the authority and the performance indicators by which the authority will measure our progress.

- 2.1.6. The Action Plan will be developed supported by working groups of Officers, Members, and stakeholders including other public sector bodies, commercial enterprises and community/charitable organisations.

## **2.2. Background and Governance**

- 2.2.1. On 12 September 2023, Full Council agreed to start preparing a new Council Strategy and approved a budget, timetable, and scope for its preparation. This included setting up a Member and Officer Working Group which has overseen preparation of the Strategy.
- 2.2.2. Further details relating to how the draft Strategy was prepared is set out in the [30 July 2024 Draft One Teignbridge Strategy Report to Full Council](#).

## **3. DEVELOPING THE FINAL VERSION OF THE STRATEGY**

### **3.1. Public Consultation**

- 3.1.1. The draft Strategy was made available for public consultation for a 12-week period between 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 and the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024. The following methods of engagement were used:
- Notifications to all those who had been involved in the first stage of developing the Strategy, including schools and organisations in the voluntary sector.
  - Communications to all town and parish councils.
  - An online survey using a digital engagement platform.
  - Social media posts (including paid advertisements)
  - Face to face events – including visiting the Chamber of Commerce business breakfast, coffee mornings and community events to speak to residents, and engagement with other community groups through Teign CVS.
- 3.1.2. 224 responses were received to the consultation. Whilst this is a low response in comparison to other more recent consultations, this is

understandable given the strategic nature of the consultation and the number of responses from organisations. Most responses do, however, validate the priorities set out in the Strategy, and we are confident in recommending these based on the large number of detailed comments received from a diverse range of individuals and organisations during the stage 1 consultation.

### 3.2. Changes to the Strategy

3.2.1. The following changes are proposed to the Strategy (insertions highlighted in bold, removals struck through):

- Under infrastructure, based on a request from Exminster Parish Council: *“Work closely with partners to deliver better **and integrated** public transport, walking and cycling routes and improve road conditions”* reflecting the need for joined up transport solutions linking settlements across the district and large employment centres in neighbouring areas.
- Under homes, based on a request from Exminster Parish Council (among others): *“Deal with planning applications efficiently to ensure that **well-designed** homes supported by the Local Plan are delivered”* reflecting the desire for developments which support local character and placemaking aims.
- Under Environment, based on a request from South Devon College and others: *“~~Deliver our Carbon Action Plan to a~~**Achieve net zero before 2050**”*. This strengthens the language of this objective and is consistent with the rest of the strategy by not naming other specific strategies that the Council prepares.
- Under Infrastructure, based on a suggestion from South Devon College: *“Work with partners to bring forward the schools **education facilities**, healthcare, green spaces, digital infrastructure, utilities and travel networks needed alongside new housing.”*. This reflects the broader requirements of early years, primary, secondary and further education provision across the district.

- Under Community, the objective *“~~Support our communities to develop emergency response and climate resilience plans for their local area.~~”* has been changed to **“Support our communities to prepare for and respond to emergency situations and our changing climate”**. This puts in simple language the intent of the Council in this area.
- Under Community, *“Identify, prevent and resolve issues relating to anti-social behaviour, domestic ~~violence~~ **abuse**, safety and crime”* reflecting widely accepted terminology and broadening this objective to include issues such as coercive control.
- Under Environment, *change “~~Ensure all our beaches have ‘Excellent’ or ‘Good’ quality ratings~~” to “Work with partners to ensure our beaches are clean and well managed”*. This change better aligns this objective with the scope of Council control and the fact that ‘excellent’ or ‘good’ quality ratings refer solely to water quality, whereas residents and visitors have wider desires for the cleanliness and accessibility of the seafront.

## **4. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact**

### **4.1. Financial**

- 4.1.1. The Council’s ability to deliver services is affected by the availability of finance. It is therefore essential that the Council has a positive strategy to manage income and expenditure, making prudent decisions about how services will be run in the future.
- 4.1.2. The draft Strategy has streamlined the Council’s previous ‘Teignbridge Ten’ strategy into a set of five clearly defined priorities and supporting objectives. It is intended that these will be used to focus spending for statutory services, discretionary projects, and voluntary sector funding through the development of a more detailed and dynamic Action Plan that will be developed following consultation on the draft strategy. The Action Plan will be aligned to the Medium-Term Financial Plan to ensure that the Council can be a financially

sustainable Council and will be brought back to Full Council for approval later in 2025.

- 4.1.3. A budget of £80,000 was previously approved for preparation of the Council Strategy. There are sufficient funds remaining within this budget for completion of the Action Plan. There is therefore no request for any further funding associated with this report.

#### 4.2. **Legal**

- 4.2.1. There are no legal requirements to prepare a Council Strategy, but it is a cornerstone of good governance, and its preparation helps to establish the framework for ensuring that the Council can be financially sustainable in delivering its statutory duties alongside any other discretionary services.

#### 4.3. **Risks**

- 4.3.1. The Strategy provides the framework in which Council services and projects are prioritised and delivered. An updated and fit-for-purpose Council Strategy (and supporting performance monitoring framework) enables the Council to be accountable for its decisions around funding, resources, and work programmes, and maximises opportunities to bring the greatest benefits to the communities it serves.
- 4.3.2. Communities were asked about any issues or things that they would like to see changed in the district. The project team has looked at all of these and are recommending the objectives as set out because these are the ones mentioned most frequently and which have the greatest impact on people's quality of life. By its nature this will mean that there are some things people have said that are not reflected within the strategy.

#### 4.4. **Environmental/Climate Change Impact**

- 4.4.1. There are key commitments within the draft Strategy to respond to the challenges of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the district and look after our green spaces, beaches, and coastal areas. As one of the key pillars of the Strategy, this will ensure that environmental and

climate change considerations are front and centre of all Council decisions relating to the services provided and projects delivered by the Council.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

5.1. The alternative options to the proposed recommendation are:

- Amend the proposed priorities and objectives prior to adoption.
- Do not adopt the Strategy and take additional time to make changes. In the meantime, continue to rely on the Teignbridge Ten current Council Strategy.
- Cease production of the Council Strategy.

5.2 Given the lack of up to date, focused Strategy for the Council currently and the need to ensure financial sustainability for the Council, it is recommended that this Strategy is adopted to use as the main document for guiding strategic priorities of the Council for the next 5 years.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1. The One Teignbridge Council Strategy is based on extensive data from wide-ranging public consultation, including focused discussions with around 250 individuals and the organisations they represent. The priorities and objectives reflect the issues raised in these discussions and have been developed in consultation with staff, the Working Group, and wider Members of the Council. On this basis it is recommended that the Strategy is adopted by the Council.