

Teignbridge District Council
Executive
02 December 2025
Part i

District Carbon Action Plan

Purpose of Report

To provide Executive the opportunity to scrutinise The District Carbon Action Plan and to recommend its adoption for implementation.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Adopt the District Carbon Action Plan contained within Appendix A and endorse its implementation through the One Teignbridge Council Strategy.

Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial implications associated with the adoption and implementation of this plan. Projects named within the District Carbon Action Plan will be subject to future business case work and associated decision making, as discussed in Section 7.1.

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Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the adoption of this plan. Legal obligations on the Government to achieve carbon budgets and net zero, and the role of district councils in contributing to these aims are discussed within Section 7.2.

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Risk Assessment

Risks associated with the District Carbon Action Plan and its implementation are contained within Section 7.3. These relate to the consequences of delayed climate action, impacts on benefits to society, implications of providing advice for homes and

businesses, and capacity to deliver the plan.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Environmental and climate change implications are contained within Section 7.4 of the report. Implementation of the District Carbon Action plan will result in overwhelmingly positive environmental benefits for the district.

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Executive Member

Councillor Jackie Hook

Executive Member for Environment, Climate and Sustainability

Appendices

Appendix A – District Carbon Action Plan

1. Introduction

On 18 April 2019, Teignbridge District Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, and pledged to do what is within its powers to become a carbon neutral district. We have since become a signatory of the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, contributed to developing the Devon Carbon Plan, and have begun to deliver upon its priority actions.

The District Carbon Action Plan forms the second part of our net zero strategy and follows the Part 1 Carbon Action Plan, which was adopted at Full Council in July 2022. The Part 1 Carbon Action Plan sets out the steps we will take to reduce our own carbon footprint through the services that we deliver as a local authority.

Through our Part 1 Carbon Action Plan, we have made significant progress to reduce our carbon footprint following a series of heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects covering our top five most energy intensive buildings, whilst also converting a first phase of our fleet to electric vehicles. Significant activity aligning with net zero over this period also includes the One Teignbridge Council Strategy and the new Local Plan 2020 2040.

The District Carbon Action Plan and subject of this committee report aims to build upon this momentum and establish how the Authority will take the lead working to achieve net zero emissions in Teignbridge by embedding and enhancing climate change within the work that

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we do as a Local Authority. The following report describes how the District Carbon Action Plan was produced and recommends Executive Council to adopt this plan.

2. Our mission Statement

“Through this plan, we will commit to do what is within our powers to limit Teignbridge’s contribution to further climate change by embedding the changes needed to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest. We will prioritise the most impactful actions aligning with our sphere of influence, work to spare every possible tonne of carbon emissions, and aim to achieve the best possible outcomes for our communities.”

This is our mission statement. It reflects the level of ambition that we have committed to through our endorsement of the Devon Carbon Plan and the national timescale for net zero. It recognises the need to prioritise our efforts where we have influence either by delivering actions ourselves or by enabling others to do the same. With the threshold for 1.5°C of global warming fast approaching, it also recognises the need to prevent every tonne of carbon emissions. Our full mission statement is contained within Chapter 6 of Appendix A.

3. How we Made the District Carbon Action Plan

The Devon Carbon Plan, its actions, and its priorities forms the basis of the District Carbon Action Plan, and the two documents can be read in conjunction with one-another. Both documents feature the same six core chapters including crosscutting themes, economy and resources, energy supply, built environment, transport, and food, land, and sea. Each core chapter of the District Carbon Action Plan starts by repeating the key objectives identified within the Devon Carbon Plan.

We have engaged with five groups to establish a series of actions reflecting priorities of the Devon Carbon Plan. These include council officers, town and parish councils, residents, businesses, and Action on Climate in Teignbridge. For details on how we worked with these groups, please refer to Chapter 2 of the District Carbon Action Plan contained within Appendix A. Continued engagement with these groups is vital to the success of the plan.

4. Plan Interpretation

We have used the following categories to convey how we will prioritise actions, when we need them to happen, and what our role is in their implementation.

The action categories align with the One Teignbridge Council Strategy covering three groups:



Business as usual: This means making an impact by embedding and enhancing climate change in established council functions.



Priority action: These are the priority actions that we have established through the Council Strategy and the plan engagement workshops.



Further ambition: These are actions that go beyond current priorities and established functions that remain important to us.

We have applied action timeline indicators to set expectations of when actions will be delivered:



Quick Win: These are actions that we want to prioritise and deliver to a high standard in the run up to 2030.



Steady Gain: These actions will unfold over longer timescales. They typically relate to high cost -projects involving multiple stakeholders.

We have also used the following three indicators to define our role within the delivery of the actions:



Embed: This means raising the profile of climate change within council functions, stakeholder engagement, and communication.



Enable: This means creating the right environment to enable external primary stakeholders to act.



Enact: These are the actions where we are the primary stakeholder and have direct influence to reduce emissions by delivering measures.

5. Plan Priorities

We have established the following priorities:

Core Chapter	Priority Actions
Crosscutting themes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and delivering our district carbon action plan engagement strategy. Embedding climate change within council decision making through staff and members climate engagement.
Economy and resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with residents and businesses to embed circular economy principles in every-day decision making. Working to achieve our district recycling target of 65% by 2035.
Energy Supply and the built environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting energy saving advice and retrofit assistance for homes and businesses.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging more walking, cycling, and shared mobility as primary modes of transport. Delivering our EV charging strategy to support growth in electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
Food, land, and sea:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting local and seasonal foods and supporting local food growers. Working with businesses through our food safety team to share knowledge and increase compliance with legislation.

Further to these priorities, the plan contains several high-impact actions under the category of Business as Usual. Some of the highlights include:

Core Chapter	Business as Usual Actions
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Economy and resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our sustainable procurement procedure to reduce the council's supply chain carbon footprint. Working to reduce embodied carbon in the construction of new homes and buildings.
Energy Supply and the built environment:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing renewable energy and energy storage policies CC5, CC6, and CC7. Exploring opportunities to cut carbon emissions within our own estate.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing transport Policy CC4 to encourage more walking, cycling, and shared transport. Delivering projects identified within our Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
Food land and sea:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with local food growers to increase sustainability in farming practices. Exploring opportunities to increase carbon storage in conjunction with biodiversity net gain objectives.

6. Plan Delivery

Oversight of the District Carbon Action Plan will be delivered through the Environment Working Group of the One Teignbridge Council Strategy and Action on Climate in Teignbridge Strategic meetings.

The Climate Change Officer will work with heads of department and senior officers to cascade this plan through the organisation and establish regular updates for staff, members, and the community to report on progress against this plan.

Chapter 1 has been formatted to a finished standard, whilst the remaining chapters will be formatted to the same standard after Executive Committee and prior to publishing on the Council website.

7. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

7.1 Financial

The Carbon Action Plan doesn't contain immediate financial commitments. The financial implications of projects named within the District Carbon Action Plan will therefore need to be addressed under future business case development and decision making.

7.2 Legal

There is no legal obligation for district and county councils to develop or implement carbon action plans in England. The Government is however obligated to achieve a set of carbon budgets and reach net zero emissions by 2050 as per the amended 2008 Climate Change Act; implementation of this plan will help Teignbridge and Devon make its contribution towards achieving these legally binding targets and reduce further contribution to climate change.

7.3 Risks

Implementing the District Carbon Action Plan will reduce the risk of uncoordinated climate change mitigation delivery, which would likely result in greater emissions contributing to further climate change. Research undertaken by the Committee on Climate Change shows that upfront investment in carbon reduction measures will result in lower cost to society in the long run.

The plan contains objectives to facilitate advice on measures to cut carbon emissions. Care will need to be taken to ensure we work with trusted partners to provide advice representing the specific needs of individuals, homes and businesses, and to ensure that advice does not result in unintended consequences.

The actions contained within the District Carbon Action Plan are extensive and will require careful planning of resources. Though this plan, we will prioritise actions within our sphere of influence and those aligning with council functions where we can make the greatest impact.

7.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

The fundamental objective of the District Carbon Action Plan is to reduce Teignbridge's contribution to climate change and to work with partners to achieve the same across Devon and the South West. Care will need to be taken in the implementation of this plan to minimise environmental trade-offs when making decisions and delivering actions.

8. Alternative Options

Alternatives to adopting the District Carbon Action Plan include defaulting to the Devon Carbon Plan and applying it directly Teignbridge, or relying upon Government policy and market forces to dictate approaches to emissions reductions.

The District Carbon Action Plan reflects the specific actions that need to happen in Teignbridge, and the things that we can influence as a local authority that are not entirely reflected in existing documents in a way that meets our priorities.

Implementation of the District Carbon Action Plan is therefore the favoured approach to maximise emissions reductions in Teignbridge.

9. Conclusion

Responding to our Climate Declaration made in 2019, the District Carbon Action Plan aims to build upon the momentum we have established and set priorities helping the council to coordinate its response to climate change whilst providing benefits for everyone who lives in, works in, and visits the district. Executive are therefore invited to scrutinise the District Carbon Action plan and consider the report recommendation for its adoption and implementation.