

FULL COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Richard Keeling

DATE: 24th September 2019

REPORT OF: David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager and
Cllr Jackie Hook, Portfolio Holder for Climate
Emergency and Housing

SUBJECT: Progressing Carbon Neutral

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolves;

- a) To note the progress made
- b) Approve the appointment of a dedicated officer for this work

1. PURPOSE

To set out the Council's initial response to its declaration of a Climate Change Emergency made on the 18th April 2019 and the proposed framework for moving towards a Carbon Neutral District by 2025.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At Full Council on the 18th April 2019 a Notice of motion was presented and debated calling on the Council to take action to achieve a carbon neutral district by 2025. It was resolved that Teignbridge District Council:-

1. Declare a 'climate emergency'
2. Pledge to do what is within our powers, to make Teignbridge District carbon neutral by 2025, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources necessary for Teignbridge District to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2025, and to implement best practice methods to limit global warming to 1.5C.
4. Report to Full Council within six months with an Action Plan, outlining how

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the Council will address this emergency. The Action Plan will detail the leadership role Teignbridge District will take in promoting community, public, business and other Council partnerships to achieve this Carbon Neutral 2025 Commitment throughout the District. The Action Plan will also outline adequate staff time and resources to undertake the actions to achieve the target.

5. To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment
- 2.2 The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 18th April 2019 can be found on the Councils website at <https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=165&MId=1547&Ver=4>
- 2.3 Given the scale of the challenge to achieve a carbon neutral district by 2025, it is likely that some of the future measures will require national and international level policy changes. However, this should not deter local action to be taken where we have impact and influence. It is not clear whether the target we are working towards is an achievable goal, however, by pursuing this target and delivering actions it will take us further than ignoring the challenge.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 The work to date has focused on three main areas.

Teignbridge District Council operations and assets

- Identifying the staff resources required
- Data collection to compile a draft Carbon Footprint
- Identification of projects and areas of influence
- Meeting key policy officers to identify areas of opportunity
- Developing a draft Framework for Action (Appendix A)
- Lobbying the Prime Minister to provide the powers and resources to allow Teignbridge to deliver its actions (Appendix B and C)

Teignbridge working within partnerships

- Meeting with colleagues from South Hams District Council
- Meeting with local community representatives
- Identifying links to following existing partnerships and strategies;
 - Low Carbon Task Force
 - Greater Exeter Strategic Plan
 - Teignbridge Local Plan Review
 - Local Enterprise Partnership

The District of Teignbridge as part of the County of Devon

- Active participation in the wider Devon Climate Emergency Response
- Working with District Councils to identify collaborative opportunities.

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- 3.2 Devon County Council is leading on the work across Devon that involves all local authorities, environmental groups, research institutions, emergency agencies, health, business and utility operators.

The objective of this partnership is to co-ordinate a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to:

- a) facilitate the reduction of carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest.
- b) prepare Devon for the necessary adaptations to infrastructure and services to respond to a 1.5-degree warmer world.

- 3.3 Teignbridge committed to this Devon wide approach and the Leader and the Managing Director signed the Devon Climate Declaration on the 19th June 2019 (Appendix D)

Three main groups that exist to support the work are;

- Climate Emergency Response Group (CERG) – Strategic level
- Climate Emergency Tactical Group (CETG) – Tactical level
- Climate Risks Impact Group – Adapting to a 1.5-degree warmer world

The interaction between these groups and the wider public, community and businesses can be seen in the partnership map in Appendix E

- 3.4 The deliverables of this work will be;

1. A Devon Carbon Plan
2. A review of Devon's climate-related community risks and opportunities
3. A plan from each signatory to the Devon Climate Declaration, within 6 months of signing, to reduce their organisational carbon emissions

Whilst the importance of this work across Devon is recognised this will not delay the work that Teignbridge can achieve and influence.

- 3.5 Meetings have been held and attended with community representatives to identify how they can engage with the Councils work and also offer advice and assistance. Recently a group of organisations and community groups have collaborated to create Action for Climate in Teignbridge, ACT.

4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 Currently within the Council Strategy 2016 -2025 there is a programme of work that aims to reduce waste and carbon emissions. The Council Strategy is currently undergoing a review to check the main priorities remain the same as identified in 2016.

- 4.2 There is a Portfolio Holder and a programme manager for this area of the Council Strategy who are currently progressing the work on climate emergency.

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- 4.3 The reporting mechanism for members, businesses and the wider local community is proposed to be through quarterly updates to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This will report on progress in meeting the targets and priorities in the Action Plan.
- 4.4 Action for Climate in Teignbridge, ACT are keen to provide the Council with a single conduit for community engagement. The suggested mechanism for community engagement is include in their letter in Appendix F.

5. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This is a new area of work for the Council and to achieve the goal, significant co-ordination and project management will be required to deliver success.
- 5.2 There are existing vacancy management savings that will fund this post in 2019/20. The financial implications will be included in the budget monitoring reports at the next Executive meeting in October.

The ongoing staffing budget for this post of £39,120 per annum including on costs will be part of the initial budget papers for the financial year 2020/21.

- 5.3 A number of actions have already been started. However, some of the actions within the plan will have financial implications for the Council. Before proceeding with those actions, financial evaluation will be undertaken to assess those costs and the relative carbon benefits against available finance.

David Eaton
Environmental Protection Manager

Cllr Jackie Hook
Portfolio Holder for Climate
Emergency and Housing

BELOW TO BE FILLED IN BY THE REPORT AUTHOR:

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager 01626 215064
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	N/A
Key Decision	Y
In Forward Plan	Y
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N
Appendices attached:	A: Framework for Action B: Letter to the Prime Minister from the Leader of the Council dated 1 st July 2019 C: Reply from Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP D: Signed Devon Climate Declaration 19 th June 2019 E: Stakeholder Plan F: Community Support proposal from ACT

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