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North Devon Council
Brynsworthy Environment Centre
Barnstaple
North Devon EX31 3NP

K. Miles
Chief Executive.

STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee will be held in the Barum Room - Brynsworthy on **MONDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2021 at 10.00 am.**

(NOTE: A location plan for the Brynsworthy Environment Centre is attached to the agenda front pages. From the 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The council is also ensuring that all venues used are Covid secure and that all appropriate measures are put in place. There are a limited number of spaces available for members of the public to attend. Please check the Council's website for the latest information regarding the arrangements that are in place and the requirement to book a place 2 working days prior to the meeting [Taking part in meetings \(northdevon.gov.uk\)](http://northdevon.gov.uk))

Members of the Strategy and Resources Councillor Worden (Chair)
Committee

Councillors Crabb, Knight, Lane, Lofthouse, Patrinos, Pearson, Prowse, L. Spear, Wilkinson and Yabsley

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2021 (attached). (Pages 7 - 14)
3. Items brought forward which in the opinion of the Chair should be considered by the meeting as a matter of urgency.
4. Declarations of Interests.
(Please telephone the Corporate and Community Services team to prepare a form for your signature before the meeting. Interests must be re-declared when the item is called, and Councillors must leave the room if necessary).
5. To agree the agenda between Part 'A' and Part 'B' (Confidential Restricted Information).

PART 'A'

6. **Review of Oversized Vehicle Parking** (Pages 15 - 18)
Report by Parking Manager (attached).

7. **Environmental Policy** (Pages 19 - 26)

Report by Sustainability and Climate Officer (attached).

8. **Consultation on the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

To consider formulating a response to the consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PART 'B' (CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED INFORMATION)

Nil.

If you have any enquiries about this agenda, please contact Corporate and Community Services, telephone 01271 388253

24.09.21



North Devon Council protocol on recording/filming at Council meetings

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The rules that the Council will apply are:

1. The recording must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. The Council will put signs up at any meeting where we know recording is taking place.
2. The Chairman of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of these rules.
3. We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into 'part B' where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.
4. Any member of the public has the right not to be recorded. We ensure that agendas for, and signage at, Council meetings make it clear that recording can take place – anyone not wishing to be recorded must advise the Chairman at the earliest opportunity.
5. The recording should not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or in a way that ridicules or shows a lack of respect for those in the recording. The Council would expect any recording in breach of these rules to be removed from public view.

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North Devon Council offices at Brynsworthy, the full address is:
Brynsworthy Environment Centre (BEC), Roundswell,
Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 3NP.

Sat Nav postcode is EX31 3NS.

At the Roundswell roundabout take the exit onto the B3232, after about ½ mile take the first right, BEC is about ½ a mile on the right.

Drive into the site, visitors parking is in front of the main building on the left hand side.

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NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee held at Barum Room - Brynsworthy on Monday, 6th September, 2021 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Worden (Chair)

Councillors Knight, Lane, Lofthouse, Patrinos, Pearson, Prowse, L. Spear, Wilkinson and Yabsley

Officers:

Chief Executive, Service Lead Housing Advice and Homelessness, Solicitor and Data Protection Officer, Head of Environmental Enhancement, Head of Planning, Housing and Health and Accountancy Services Manager

Also Present:

Councillors D. Spear and Mack

56. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

57. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021 (ATTACHED).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2021 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE MEETING AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

(a) Consultation on the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Chief Executive reported the receipt of a letter on 2 September 2021 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding consultation of the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Consultation was being undertaken on two options:

- (1) Police and Crime Commissioner to have a wider functional power of competence
- (2) Police and Crime Commissioner to have a general power of competence, as held by Local Authorities

He advised the Committee that the consultation closed on 27 October 2021. He had sought agreement from Group Leaders for the consultation response to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 4 October 2021. A copy of the email would be forwarded to Members.

(b) Informal Briefing

The Chair advised Members that an informal briefing would be held immediately following the conclusion of the formal Committee meeting.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS.

The following declarations of interest were announced:

Councillor Lofthouse – Item 9 personal interest as a trustee of the Bridge Trust

Councillor Lane – Item 9 personal interest as a private landlord

Councillor L. Spear - Item 9 personal interest as a private landlord

Councillor Prowse - Item 9 personal interest as a private landlord

Councillor Yabsley - Item 9 personal interest as a private landlord

60. PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT QUARTER 1 2021/22

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive (circulated previously) regarding the Performance and Financial Management for Quarter 1 of 2021/22.

The Accountancy Services Manager highlighted the following:

- The revenue budget for 2021/22 was approved at Council on 24th February 2021 at £13,639,000.
- As at 30 June 2021, the latest forecast net budget was £13,630,000, which produced a forecast budget surplus of £9,000. Details were shown in “Appendix A – Variations in the Revenue Budget”
- There was still pressure on the 2021/22 budget due to the Covid-19 pandemic with continued additional costs being incurred and forecast decline in core income sources.
- Included within the approved budget a government grant had been factored in relation to Covid-19 pressures of £536,710 and also budgeted for £375,000 of additional costs and reduced income, these had already been incorporated into Appendix A along with the latest forecast for each service area.
- The grant of £536,710 had been approved and received and it was also anticipated that £80,000 re-imbursment would be received for Quarter 1 loss of Sales, Fees and charges, from the continued Government 75% income reimbursement scheme. This was an estimate as the scheme was extended to include the period April to June 2021 only.

- At the end of 2020/21 NDC placed £375,000 into a Covid Budget management reserve to help mitigate any further adverse variances due to the pandemic in 2021/22, this future protection was still available if required.
- As at 31 March 2021 the Collection Fund reserve balance was £9,810,252.
- “Appendix B – Movement in reserves and Balances” detailed the movements to and from earmarked reserves in 2021/22.
- Full details of the Strategic Contingency Reserve movements and commitments were detailed in “Appendix C – Strategic Contingency Reserve”.
- The 2021/22 Capital Programme was detailed in “Appendix D – Capital Programme 2021/22”.
- The Budget and Financial Framework report to Full Council on 24 February 2021 outlined the Capital Programme for the 2021/22 financial year of £22,419,916. Project underspend of £917,121 were bought forward from 2020/21 year and further variations of £1,379,087 were approved as part of the performance and financial management report to Strategy and Resources Committee, to produce a revised 2021/22 Capital Programme of £24,716,124.
- Overall variations of £99,978 proposed to the 2021/22 Capital Programme were detailed in paragraph 4.4.3 of the report.
- The overall Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 was £37,135,687 and detailed in paragraph 4.4.6 of the report.
- The Programme of £37,135,687 was funded by Capital Receipts/Borrowing (£18,866,483), External Grants and Contributions (£16,042,616) and Reserves (£2,226,588).
- Release of Funds for 2021/22 Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 4.4.10 of the report.
- Treasury Management as detailed in paragraph 4.5 of the report.
- Debt Management as detailed in paragraph 4.6 of the report.
- General Debtors as detailed in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

In response to questions, the Accountancy Services Manager advised the following:

- The figures in red in Appendix A were better than forecast and the figures in black were worse than forecast. The Car Parks Pay and Display income forecast was down by £225,000.
- A breakdown of the figures in Appendix A would be circulated to the Committee.
- The total surplus of £9,000 in Appendix A was the forecast for the whole of the financial year and took into account the additional Government grant which would be received for loss of sales, fees and charges.
- The Accountant for the CCTV service was in the process of discussing the arrangements for the recovery of CCTV income with the Town Centre, Pannier Market and CCTV Manager.
- Acquisition of corporate property £250,000 as detailed in Appendix D was for the acquisition of the property at Boutport Street as part of the High Street fund.
- There was a slight reduction in the levels of collections of Business Rates and Council Tax, which was due to Covid 19. Following consultation with the Revenues and Benefits Manager he would provide Members with an update

on the potential financial impact of Covid 19 on the collection of Business Rates and Council Tax on this year and future financial years.

- Clarification would be sought from the Revenues and Benefits Manager regarding no write off for Quarter 1. It was understood that there had been no write offs as there had been a change in the way that debts were being collected as a result of Covid 19.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive advised the following:

- The vehicle contract would commence on 1 October 2021.
- In relation to the reduction in car park income, the Government 75% income reimbursement scheme ended in June 2021.

The Committee thanked Officers for their hard work in achieving the current financial position.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the actions being taken to ensure that performance was at the desired level be noted;
- (b) That the contributions to/from earmarked reserves be approved as detailed in section 4.2 of the report;
- (c) That the movement on the Strategic Contingency Reserve as detailed in section 4.3 of the report be noted.
- (d) That funds be released for the capital schemes listed in section 4.4.10 of the report;
- (e) That the sections dealing with Treasury Management (section 4.5 of the report), and Debt Management (sections 4.6 and 4.7 of the report) be noted.

RECOMMENDED:

- (f) That Council approve the variations to the Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2024/25 as detailed in section 4.4.3 of the report.

61. TARKA LEISURE CENTRE UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Head of Environmental Enhancement regarding the Tarka Leisure Centre project. He highlighted the following:

- Since the last update to the Committee in July 2021, the project was still just 1 week behind schedule for completion in April 2022.
- Monthly project team meetings were held, where target dates were reviewed and challenged. Assurances had been given by the contractor that the works would be completed by April 2022.
- If there was a delay in completion, this would be an issue for Parkwood.
- The project was now entering a phase of large pay outs being made to the contractor and costs would now start to increase to around £1m per month as move towards the end of the project.
- Both swimming pool tanks had been filled and water tested. There had been minor leaks in the learner pool, but these had now been fixed.

- Works were now commencing on back filling around the tank.
- Stud work was now being constructed internally showing the layout of the building.
- A meeting would be taking place with the Showmen on site this week to discuss the arrangements for the fair which was taking place next week. The fair would be held on a smaller area around the new leisure centre due to the Covid testing centre remaining.

In response to questions, the Head of Environmental Enhancement advised the following:

- Whilst the fair was being held the majority of external work would cease and internal works would be carried out.
- The contractor had levelled the site to enable the heavy vehicles for the fair to get to the area.
- The scope of the project did not include improvements to highways apart from the reprioritisation of the car park.
- Parkwood had not made any further requests for financial assistance from the Council. Parts of the leisure contract were up and running and performing well such as Tarka Tennis and the all weather pitch.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive advised the following:

- That discussions would be held with the Head of Place, Property and Regeneration regarding the areas of highway which had not been adopted at Seven Brethren.

The Committee thanked the Head of Environmental Enhancement and the project team for their work to date on the project.

62. SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN - UPDATE

The Committee received an update by the Service Lead for Housing Advice and Homeless regarding the situation in Afghanistan.

The Service Lead for Housing Advice and Homeless highlighted the following:

- A report had been presented to the Committee in July 2021 regarding the relocation of up to 2 households as part of the Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme. This scheme was for interpreters or those who had worked with the Ministry of Defence.
- 1 property had been secured to date. A new private landlord had contacted the Council and offered a 3 bedroom property at affordable rent. This property had now been put forward to Devon County Council who will forward onto South West Councils and the Home Office for approval. Devon County Council (DCC) would check the property and the Home Office would match individuals to the property. North Devon Council and Teignbridge Council were the only Councils to put forward properties to the Home Office.
- The Council's role was to secure the properties and DCC would provide the families with the appropriate level of support. DCC was working with

Hipmack, who had a hub located in Barnstaple and history of working with refugees in the country, to put support arrangements in place for families to integrate within the community. It would be easier to integrate families into the community as the main family member would be able to speak English.

- The private landlord was looking to purchase another 3 bedroomed property which could also be used for this scheme. The Council would be working closely with the new landlord.
- This would mean that properties would not be taken out of the private rented sector pool.
- There had been a lot of positive feedback from the local communities and offers of rooms in shared houses. South West Councils had now confirmed that 1 bedroom properties could be used for couples. The Council had also been approached by other potential landlords who were currently using their properties for Air BnB and wished to help the Council with other schemes.
- It was hoped that the first family would be located within the next month and the second family would be located in the next couple of months.

In response to questions, the Service Lead for Housing Advice and Homeless advised the following:

- The Government had advised that if the rent was higher than affordable, that they would fund the difference for a period of 12 months. However this would be difficult for the families after the first 12 months to fund the difference, therefore it was important to secure affordable rent for properties.
- The Government's current priority was to accommodate those who had previously worked for the Ministry of Defence and it would then consider widening the scheme to include other refugees. The Government was also considering combining the Syrian and Afghan schemes into a single scheme.
- The Council had not yet advertised for potential landlords to come forward. The Council now had an opportunity to work with the landlords that had come forward for this scheme and other types of accommodation.
- The Royal Marine Base based at Chivenor were not currently engaging with the scheme.
- At this time, the Government had only requested Local Authorities for assistance.

The Committee requested that the Service Lead for Housing Advice and Homeless provide an update on the Afghan scheme to all Members.

63. HOUSING ISSUES WITHIN NORTH DEVON

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive (circulated previously) regarding housing issues within North Devon.

The Committee had a brief discussion regarding the difficulties currently being faced by individuals and families seeking accommodation, issues around the current housing crisis and potential actions that the Council could take as a Local Authority. The housing crisis also had an impact on the tourism and hospitality sector as staff had nowhere to live.

The Chief Executive advised that the Devon District Forum was in the process of formulating a paper to be sent to all Devon MP's next week. This paper would include the impact on the local economy. Some businesses had indicated that they would be seeking to relocate as they could not provide accommodation for staff.

In response to questions, the Chief Executive advised:

- The Council did not have a housing revenue account as it did not have a housing stock. The maximum number of properties that the Council could own was 200.
- An informal meeting of the Policy Development was in the process of being arranged on a date in October 2021. It was suggested that the Panel consist of members of the Policy Development Committee, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Housing. Other Members could also attend. A report would then be presented to either the Policy Development Committee or Strategy and Resources Committee and then on to full Council.

RESOLVED that the Council hold an informal Panel meeting by the end of October 2021, inviting relevant organisations and individuals to make representations, with a view to preparing a set of actions and recommendations.

64. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO LINK SERVICES IN NORTH DEVON

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that Devon County Council was currently undertaking consultation on the proposed changes to the North Devon Link Services and that the consultation was due to close shortly. He advised the Committee of the following:

- Devon County Council provided North Devon Link Service centres in Bideford, Holsworthy, Ilfracombe and Barnstaple. Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, these centres had been closed.
- The consultation proposed that the service was redesigned from a buildings based service to one that works with people in their community to address their needs and enable them to live as independently as possible.
- The consultation was primarily targeted at individuals who used the service.
- The consultation had gained a lot publicity.
- It was suggested that Members may wish to submit their own response as part of the consultation.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to Devon County Council:

- (a) objecting to the changes proposed to the North Devon Link Service highlighting that the physical centres had provided a lifeline during the Coronavirus pandemic and that the closure was counterproductive on the health and Police services; and
- (b) requesting that the matter be referred to the Devon County Council Health and Wellbeing Committee for consideration.

65. DOG STRATEGY AND LITTER STRATEGY

The Committee considered recommendation 5 from the Policy Development Committee on 27 May 2021 regarding the Dog Strategy and Litter Strategy.

The Committee noted that an item had been included on the agenda for the Policy Development Committee meeting on 9 September 2021 and it had been recommended that a Task Team be appointed to undertake a strategic review of the litter bin and dog bin strategy.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the Litter Working Group had already been set up and would be undertaking a strategic review of the litter bin and dog bin strategy and therefore there was no requirement to establish a separate task team.

RESOLVED that recommendation 5 from the Policy Development Committee on 27 May 2021 regarding the Dog Strategy and Litter Strategy be referred to the Litter Working Group for consideration.

66. URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Committee noted the urgent decisions that had been made by the Chief Executive in accordance with paragraph 3.48, Annex 2, part 3 of the Constitution (circulated previously) regarding the provision of managing agents required for the running of a strategic asset being purchase in North Devon.

Chair

The meeting ended at 11.52 am

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.



North Devon Council

Report Date: 4th October 2021

Topic: Review Of Oversized Vehicle Parking

Report by: Parking Manager

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Councillor Tucker presented a notice of motion to Council on 26th September 2018 requesting that the issue of enforcing larger vehicles overhanging bays be looked at by the Executive to consider increasing the number of oversized bays or relining all the existing car parks to accommodate.
- 1.2. Parking data from 1st January 2018 – 31st August 2021 has been analysed by the Parking Manager.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That members note the contents of the report.
- 2.2. That a further report be brought back to members on the future strategy of car parking in North Devon including asset utilisation, signage, pricing and options for customers to pay for parking usage.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. A motion brought to Council in September 2018 requested officers look at the issue of enforcing larger vehicles overhanging bays and whether there is justification in an increase of the number of oversized bays or the relining of all existing car parks to accommodate. This report looks at the viability of this request.
- 3.2. A further report will come to members on the future strategy for the car parks that aligns with other corporate projects within all of our town centres.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The occupancy of all car parks across Barnstaple, Ilfracombe and South Molton has been and continues to be currently very high especially in light of increased visitor numbers to the area through a much longer seasonal period which this trend is expected to continue.
- 4.2 A schedule of works that requires immediate attention was discussed by the Parking Manager and Property Maintenance Officer in September 2021. This has identified a need for some oversized bay parking in a small number of our car parks but is not considered a high priority at this time. It is not viable to add larger bays in **all** NDC car parks as there is not capacity for this, Tuly Street car park in Barnstaple is one example.



4.3 Analysis was carried out on 26,586 penalty charge notices issued between January 2018 and September 2021. The data showed 1605 (6%) of all penalty charge notices issued were for contravention 86 – ‘not parked correctly within the markings of a bay or space’. The data showed 268 (1%) of all penalty charge notices issued were for contravention 92, ‘parked causing an obstruction’.

4.4 The Civil Enforcement Officers have clear guidance on when to issue a penalty charge notice for each contravention. They are encouraged to use the information boards within the car park as a process of elimination.

4.5 The Civil Enforcement Officers are deemed to be issuing penalty charge notices correctly to vehicles overhanging a parking bay. A change in approach to the issuing of penalty charge notices is ongoing. The Parking Manager wishes to advise car park users of any potential contraventions in the first instance with a ‘warning’ notice, followed by a penalty charge notice if the vehicle is seen in contravention again.

4.6 The current data shows that there is not a significant enough issue to justify the cost of relining all parking bays. Doing so throughout all car parks would result in losing a substantial amount (-40%) of car parking. An example being Ilfracombe where this would exacerbate the issues already present due to demand exceeding supply in these car parks. Any loss of parking bays could have a negative impact on residents, visitors, tourism and town centres.

4.7 There already exists a provision for oversized vehicles in towns within the North Devon District area. Larger bays are currently offered as follows:
Barnstaple – Bear Street, North Walk and Seven Brethren Lorry/Van Park
Ilfracombe – Brookdale and Hillsborough

South Molton – South Molton Central and Lorry Park

4.8 Part of the current Service Plan for Car parking is to review all signage possibly replacing some of the wording with commonly used pictures. It is recognised that pictures are often easier to ‘read’ and understand than parking terminology. A review of signage when driving into our town centres will also take place.

4.9 A number of new projects being delivered involve the provision of car parking. Early involvement with the Parking, Property and Technical teams could provide opportunities to identify potential areas for larger parking bays and need to be considered as part of the wider strategy.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Revenue Budget has an allocation of £50,000 for planned maintenance and repairs on car parks.

5.2 Relining all parking bays to be larger in size would cause significant disruption to car park users whilst works were undertaken. Any planned works in the future can be relayed to the public via social media platforms, the council website and signage within the car parks. Alternative parking would need to be provided for permit holders.



6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment Summary form has been completed.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph:

7.2. Referred or delegated power:

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

Author: Lena Haydon, Parking Manager

Date: 22/09/2021

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North Devon Council

Report Date: 4th October 2021

Topic: Environmental Policy Consultation

Report by: Sustainability and Climate Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In June 2021 the Council were audited on their Climate Change Governance by Devon Audit Partnership.

1.2. The draft report was received on 29th July. The Audit Opinion is that there is limited assurance on our Climate Change Governance. It highlighted several areas requiring improvement, including the Council's Environmental Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. Members are asked to endorse the revised Environmental Policy.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The revised Environmental Policy addresses the auditor's concerns, and his recommendation that "The Environmental Policy be extended to cover key policy elements."

3.2. The vast majority of the Policy has already been agreed by Council, most of the revisions are simplification or clarification. The inclusion of sustainable procurement is based on recommendations arising from an audit of procurement carried out in 2021.

4. REPORT

4.1. The audit report on Climate Change Governance states that "The Environmental Policy includes some elements of strategy but misses many key elements. As a policy it is also incomplete, lacking clear recognition of roles and responsibilities among other things."

4.2. Cllr Lofthouse and the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer have drafted a revision to our Environmental Policy, see Appendix A.

4.3. In drafting the Policy they had regard to British Standard EN ISO 14001's requirements of an Environmental Policy:

"Top Management shall define the organisation's environmental policy and ensure that, within the defined scope of its environmental management system it

a) Is appropriate to the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services

b) Includes a commitment to continual improvement and prevention of pollution



- c) Includes a commitment to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organisation subscribes which relate to its environmental impacts
- d) Provides the framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets
- e) Is documented, implemented and maintained
- f) Is communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the organisation
- g) Is available to the public.”

4.4. In drafting the Policy they tried to address the comments made by the Auditor, whilst trying to keep the document to two pages to maintain clear and quick understanding of the Council’s ambitions.

4.5. The revised policy has been agreed by the Climate Action Team.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1. Following adoption of the revised Environmental Policy, the Sustainability and Climate Officer will work with HR and with the Comms team to ensure new and existing staff are made aware of the changes.

5.2. the Sustainability and Climate Officer will work with the Head of Programme Management and Performance to develop KPIs through the Corporate Risk Register. Data capture and reporting will be delivered through a simple Environmental Management System.

5.3. A revised Action Plan for the Council will be developed, based on that agreed in November 2019 and on the Torridge carbon plan, as well as other strategies and plans that North Devon Council have agreed, eg) Plastic Free North Devon Consortium Strategy, One Northern Devon 10 year Quality of Life Strategy etc.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no additional resource implications arising from the revised Policy.

7. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

7.1. There are not considered to be any negative equality impacts arising from the nature recovery plan.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

8.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 1 (1):

8.2. Delegated power.



9. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

9.1. This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1. The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: North Devon Council Environment Policy, December 2020 (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

11. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

11.1. The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

Executive member: Cllr Graham Lofthouse

Author: Donna Sibley (Environment and Climate Officer) 16th September 2021



North Devon Council Environmental Policy 2021

The purpose of this Policy is to establish North Devon District Council's environmental commitment for the next 10 years. It covers all the Council's activities and estate. North Devon District Council is a large employer and a significant resource user and we recognise that our operations and service delivery have an impact on our environment.

Our flagship commitment is to reduce carbon emissions from our own estate and operations to net zero by 2030 at the latest, and to work with partners to develop and implement a plan to reduce Devon's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. We will aim to reach a negative carbon emissions position for North Devon beyond this date.

This Environmental Policy sets out the Council's commitment to continual environmental improvement. Associated Action Plan(s) will set out the work the Council will undertake to implement this policy.

We will provide appropriate resources to deliver this Policy. Our Climate Action working group will work through our Strategy & Resources Committee to develop suitable plans, projects and initiatives. Our Senior Management Team and Heads of Service will be responsible for ensuring delivery of agreed actions within the Council.

In everything we do, North Devon Council is committed to:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2030

We will adopt technologies and practices which "Avoid Reduce Replace Offset" emissions of greenhouse gases from our estate and operations, including our property and fleet and employee travel.

Adapting to climate change

We will plan and adapt North Devon to build resilience to both the current effects of climate change and predicted future impacts. We will support the most disadvantaged in our community to respond to the challenges of climate change.

Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations

We will save water by reducing demand, harvesting rainwater and improving efficiency in existing and new buildings, and in our operations.



Reducing waste

We will minimise the production of waste from our own activities and end our consumption of single use plastics. We will support our communities to reduce waste.

Preventing pollution

We will improve our performance to prevent pollution, whether in the; air, land or water.

Protecting the natural and built environment

We will protect, conserve and enhance the environmental value of our District's high quality natural environment, biodiversity and heritage.

Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used positively

We will ensure that the environmental impact of the goods and services we purchase is considered within our procurement decisions, including through circular procurement.

Ensuring all staff and contractors implement our Environment Policy

We will communicate this Policy to all employees and contractors working on behalf of the Council. We will raise awareness and train our employees and those working on our behalf to ensure that all staff have the knowledge, skills and understanding to implement our Environmental Policy.

In order to achieve the objectives of this policy, we will:

Set Objectives to improve our environmental performance and regularly reviewing and reporting our progress.

Comply with Legislation, Council policies and other commitments and aim to deliver best practice.

Operate an Environmental Management System that will be integrated into the corporate management framework.

Work in partnership with employees, other organisations, businesses and our communities, where appropriate, to further the aims of this Policy.

Review this Policy every two years (or more often if urgent changes occur) to take account of changes at local, national and international level.

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APPENDIX A

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North Devon Council Environmental Policy 2021

The purpose of this Policy is to establish North Devon District Council's environmental commitment for the next 10 years. It covers all the Council's activities and estate. North Devon District Council is a large employer and a significant resource user and we recognise that our operations and service delivery have an impact on our environment.

Our flagship commitment is to reduce carbon emissions from our own estate and operations to net zero by 2030 at the latest, and to work with partners to develop and implement a plan to reduce Devon's carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. We will aim to reach a negative carbon emissions position for North Devon beyond this date.

This Environmental Policy sets out the Council's commitment to continual environmental improvement. Associated Action Plan(s) will set out the work the Council will undertake to implement this policy.

We will provide appropriate resources to deliver this Policy. Our Climate Action working group will work through our Strategy & Resources Committee to develop suitable plans, projects and initiatives. Our Senior Management Team and Heads of Service will be responsible for ensuring delivery of agreed actions within the Council.

In everything we do, North Devon Council is committed to:

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero carbon by 2030

We will adopt technologies and practices which "Avoid Reduce Replace Offset" emissions of greenhouse gases from our estate and operations, including our property and fleet and employee travel.

Adapting to climate change

We will plan and adapt North Devon to build resilience to both the current effects of climate change and predicted future impacts. We will support the most disadvantaged in our community to respond to the challenges of climate change.

Using water efficiently in the Council's buildings and operations

We will save water by reducing demand, harvesting rainwater and improving efficiency in existing and new buildings, and in our operations.

Reducing waste

We will minimise the production of waste from our own activities and end our consumption of single use plastics. We will support our communities to reduce waste.

Preventing pollution

We will improve our performance to prevent pollution, whether in the; air, land or water.

Protecting the natural and built environment

We will protect, conserve and enhance the environmental value of our District's high quality natural environment, biodiversity and heritage.

Ensuring that the Council's purchasing power is used positively

We will ensure that the environmental impact of the goods and services we purchase is considered within our procurement decisions, including through circular procurement.

Ensuring all staff and contractors implement our Environment Policy

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