



North Devon Council

Report Date: 9th January 2023

Topic: Devon Carbon Plan

Report by: Donna Sibley, Sustainability & Climate Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (at the latest), and was officially launched 27 September 2022. 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That members endorse the Devon Carbon Plan;

2.2. That members resolve to continue to work in collaboration with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership in reducing carbon emissions across the County;

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The Devon Carbon Plan and the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership offer a route to deliver on the Council's ambitions on environment and climate change.

4. REPORT

4.1. The Devon Carbon Plan is a landmark piece of work for the County to help realise and achieve county aims of becoming net-zero by 2050, at the latest. The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership, secretariat role by Devon County Council, has led the collaboration and alignment of almost 30 organisations across the county – a challenging undertaking.

4.2. The Devon Carbon Plan will principally be an online document, which can be viewed on the [Devon Climate Emergency](#) website. There are 3 versions of the Devon Carbon Plan available (link above):

- The full plan – 42,000 words
- A summary version – 20,000 words
- A quick read – 18 pages, Appendix One

4.3. The day to day management of evidence gathering, bringing together interested parties and the writing of the Devon Carbon Plan has been overseen by officers within the Environment team at Devon County Council.

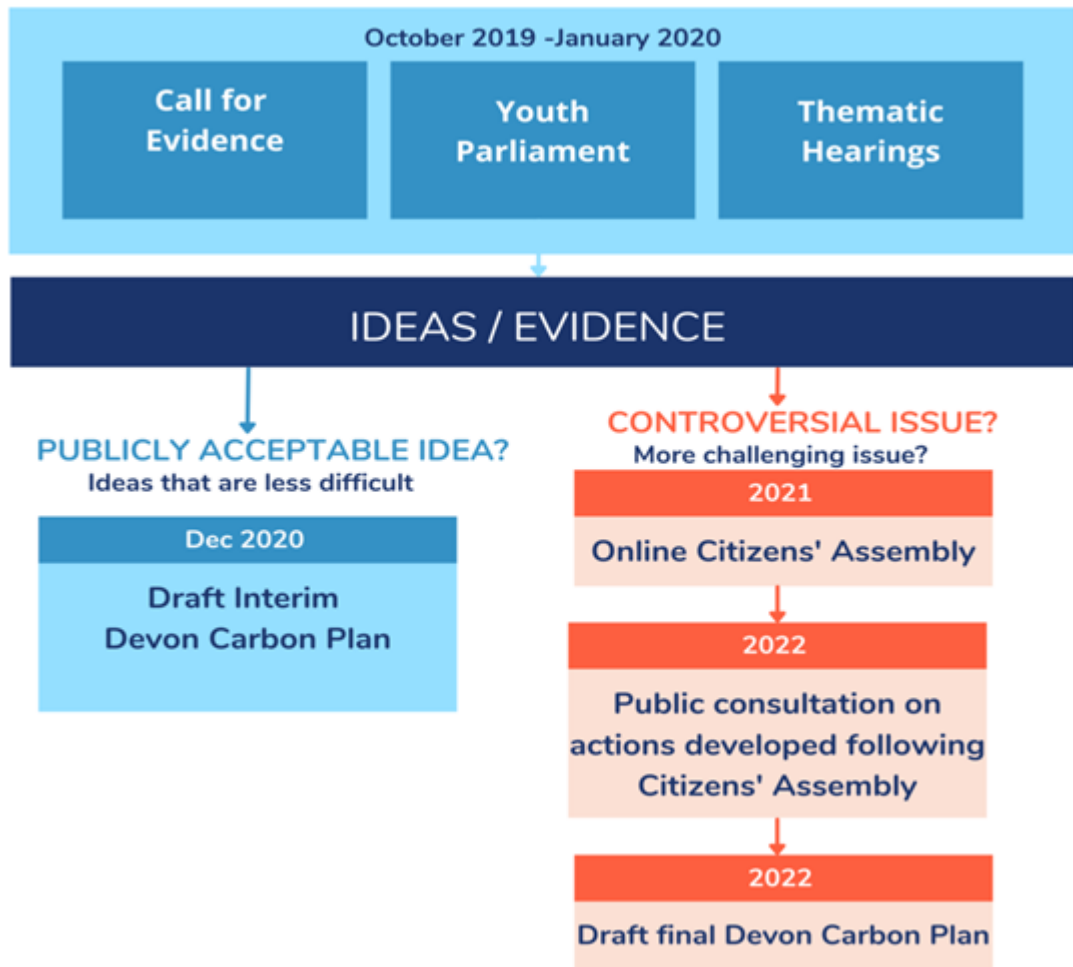


Representatives from North Devon Council have attended meetings on a monthly basis.

4.4. Creating the Devon Carbon Plan involved five main phases, with a visual representation of the process below.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Next, the Interim Devon Carbon Plan was developed. The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership asked for public feedback during a consultation which received 1322 responses.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.

Revised Devon Carbon Plan Process



4.5. The development of 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.

4.6. The Devon Carbon Plan 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.

4.7. The Devon Carbon Plan action-table includes columns which indicate 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.

4.8. Many of the actions have a degree of flexibility in their language, such as 'where possible', 'explore', 'investigate'. This isn't there to downplay the

critical nature of reducing carbon emissions, rather setting out key areas of focus for each type of organisation to contribute to the 2050 net-zero target.

4.9. The Devon Carbon Plan doesn't propose to supersede existing democratic scrutiny processes or partners own governance arrangements. It instead is an evidence-led plan which forms a roadmap which encourages each partner organisation, and organisations and communities beyond the partnership, to help deliver it.

4.10. With the launch of the Devon Carbon Plan, a new governance structure will be established during winter 2022. Reporting on the delivery of the Devon Carbon Plan will be facilitated by the Secretariat, provided by Devon County Council.

4.11. Inclusion in future governance arrangements will be overseen and managed by the Head of Environmental Enhancement, with activity delegated to the Climate and Sustainability Officer.

4.12. There is no financial contribution from North Devon Council to deliver the Devon Carbon Plan. If projects require funding from the Council, a report will be brought to committee.

4.13. For projects listed in the Devon Carbon Plan Action Plan, external funding will be sought to support its delivery, led by the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. An EqIA has been completed for the Devon Carbon Plan.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Delivery of the Devon Carbon Plan will result in sustainability and biodiversity gains for the county.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

- The commercialisation agenda – unknown;
- Improving customer focus – unknown; and/or
- Regeneration or economic development – unknown.



9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annex 1 paragraph: 1(h)

9.2. Delegated power

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
none.

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Donna Sibley, Sustainability and Climate Officer.