



North Devon Council

Report Date: Monday 4 September 2023

Topic: To agree formation of a Councillor Climate Action Team

Report by: Lead Member for Climate Change

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In July 2019 North Devon Council signed up to the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration. The Council are committed to supporting Devon to reduce carbon emissions by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 at the latest. We are also committed to having a carbon plan and to publicly reporting our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats. The Council has additionally committed to being a net zero carbon organisation by 2030.
- 1.2. Following the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration Councillors formed a Climate Action Team as a working group reporting to Strategy & Resources. The Climate Action Team (CAT) provided direction to officers producing the Council's carbon plan, and identified action to reduce our carbon footprint. The Climate Action Team also provided input to the Devon Carbon Plan, setting out how the County can deliver its commitment to net zero carbon by 2050.
- 1.3. This report seeks approval from the Strategy & Resources Committee to continue with the CAT and formerly appoint Members to the team from the recently formed Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That a Councillor Climate Action Team continues to meet and function under the Terms of Reference attached at Appendix One.
- 2.2. That the Council Members listed at point 4.3 are appointed onto the Climate Action Team

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Continuation of the group and appointment of new members will ensure the good work started by the previous group continues.
- 3.2. Delivery of the Council's carbon plan and our net zero by 2030 target is likely to require a significant investment by the Council over the next 7 years. The Lead Member for Climate Change and the Head of Environmental Enhancement agree a Climate Action Team will focus our effort on delivery and enable Strategy & Resources to make well-informed, timely decisions.
- 3.3. The Lead Member for Climate Change and the Head of Environmental Enhancement agree the Terms of Reference for this working group are fit for purpose (see Appendix One).

4. REPORT

- 4.1. The University of Exeter produced a baseline carbon assessment for the Council for 2018/19 showing our carbon emissions were just under 4000 tonnes Carbon Dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). This baseline is known to be an under-estimate as the Council did not have data for some parts of the calculation.
- 4.2. The Sustainability and Climate Officer has produced a further update of our carbon footprint for 2020/2021 in line with the UN's Greenhouse Gas Protocol showing our carbon emissions were just under 8000 tCO₂e. This increase was due to the inclusion of more data, particularly for procured goods and services.
- 4.3. The following council members have asked to be appointed on to the Climate Action Team:

Councillor R Knight (Chair)

Councillor M Howorth-Booth

Councillor S Wilson

Councillor P Leaver

Councillor J Patrinos

Councillor L Spear

Councillor G Bell

Councillor N Denton

Councillor S Maddocks

Councillor P Maskell

Councillor K Stevenson

Councillor W Topps

Councillor L Bulled

Councillor D Clayton

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Virtual meetings will take place for an hour every second month. A small amount of officer time will be required to timetable and attend meetings, produce Agenda and Minutes, etc.



6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. Climate change is likely to have a greater impact on the poorest and more vulnerable members of our society. Timely action to mitigate and adapt to climate change will reduce these impacts.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Delivery of our net zero targets will have a positive impact on our climate commitments and on our Corporate Environment Policy.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: unknown

8.1.2. Improving customer focus: unknown, and/or

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: unknown

(Note: these will be addressed on a project by project basis)

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Part 3 Annexe 1 paragraph 1

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:
Climate Action Team Terms of Reference

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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