



## North Devon Council

Report Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Topic: 2023 Update of North Devon Council's Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan

Report by: Donna Sibley, Sustainability & Climate Officer

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In July 2019 North Devon Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'. This was in recognition of the science and evidence of the impacts that climate change is having on our environment, population and communities. This declaration committed North Devon Council to reach net carbon neutrality by 2030.
- 1.2. In 2022 members approved our first Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan and we are committed to reviewing, updating and presenting this to members on an annual basis.
- 1.3. Publication of the 2023 update of the plan was delayed due to election of a new Council in May 2023.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That members note and approve for publication the 2023 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for North Devon Council.

### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To fulfil our Devon Climate Emergency commitment.

### 4. REPORT

- 4.1. The updated plan is attached to this report. It has been developed with input from the Councillor Climate Action Team who put forward the plan for approval by Strategy & Resources.
- 4.2. The changes/ updates to this year's plan are as follows:

Pg 1 Welcome to North Devon	Revised description of land use to better reflect rural nature of the district. Census para summarises 2021 data on census population.
Pg 3 Case for declaring a climate emergency	Takes account of 6 <sup>th</sup> UN assessment report etc
Pg 6 What we have already achieved	Includes examples from the last 12 months
Pg 7 Opportunities arising from FLOW in the Celtic Sea	New section added and text relating to the LEP and the growth strategy removed
Pg 10 NDCs carbon footprint	Includes most recent calculation (2021/2022) and report is in line with SMT/Leader recommendation to omit procured goods and services

Pg 14 Working with Devon CC	Devon Carbon Plan and Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Plan updates
Pg 16 Planning and place	Reflects current status of local plan review – note may need to be updated if Cllrs agree what the LP review will be
Pg 20 Communications	Includes summary of EE Comms plan
Pg 25+	All actions in action plan updated. New actions at 6.14, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. While the Carbon Plan does not specify any specific investment required from North Devon District Council it does highlight areas where financial impacts may occur in the future as we move towards our stated climate ambitions.

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. None identified.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. Delivery of this Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan will enable us to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## 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, will be identified as projects develop

8.1.2. Improving customer focus: unknown, will be identified as projects develop

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: unknown, will be identified as projects develop

## 9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Article of Part 3 Annexe 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

North Devon Council's Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan 2022.



## 12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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

Cllr Knight, Lead Member for Climate Change

Heads of Environmental Enhancement, Legal and Finance

Donna Sibley, Sustainability & Climate Officer