



Wednesday, 25 September 2019

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK-AND-FINISH GROUP

A meeting of **Overview and Scrutiny Task-and-Finish Group** will be held on

Tuesday, 1 October 2019

commencing at **3.30 pm**

The meeting will be held in the Meadfoot Room - Town Hall

Members of the Board

Councillor Howgate

Councillor Brown
Councillor Bye
Councillor Mandy Darling
Councillor Foster

Councillor Heyse
Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Loxton

A prosperous and healthy Torbay

For information relating to this meeting or to request a copy in another format or language please contact:

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Email: scrutiny@torbay.gov.uk

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TASK-AND-FINISH GROUP AGENDA

1. **Social Media and Stakeholder Feedback** (Pages 3 - 10)
To review the feedback received on social media and from stakeholders following the launch of the call for action.
2. **What are our Neighbours doing?** (Pages 11 - 22)
 - Report from Brixham Town Council
 - Devon Climate Emergency Response Group
3. **Next Steps**
Should we continue to 'go it alone'?
 - Do we have the resources to do so?
 - Would we, our stakeholders and communities gain greater benefits from being part of a larger response?

Should we join forces and align with Devon?

Agenda Item 1

The following comments on Climate Change were made via social media post:

Facebook – post reached over 5,800 accounts, it was shared 31 times and received 70 comments:

I picked up from one of the shares that there is a Climate Action Group who have a Facebook Group (currently 134 members), who meet every Tuesday at 4 pm in Winner Street, Paignton. They have invited Lee to attend one of their meetings.

There is also a Zero Waste Torquay Facebook Group – currently have 76 members

Other, relevant, comments:

Stop single use plastics

Halt the roll out of 5G

Go Vegan x 2

Less Firework displays

Tackle people throwing cigarette butts on the floor/more bins/recycling bins around towns x 2

Limit people fishing and crabbing who leave more plastic and other waste in the water

Responsible Town Planning

Fountains for water where people can refill

Make the town like Modbury with zero plastic waste

Recycling depots to recycle a larger range of refuse like crisp packets, cat food packets, batteries, and black plastic materials/more recycling/introduce return recycling for glass bottles x 2

Invest in a local authority coop renewable energy policy – mentioned a Facebook group called Torbay Forward

Green energy incentives for home owners

Better traffic management

Park & ride stations outside of town

No charges for rubbish at tip

Install solar panels on roofs of council buildings and homes in the Bay x 4

Community involved in veg growing projects

Set up a plastics recycling plant

More local jobs

Shorter trip to get rid of waste plastic

More trees x 2

More rubbish pick ups

Decent walking and cycling routes/plenty of bike parking/rollout of a workplace bike loan scheme

Limit the amount of new builds

Start a community wealth building project and include locally generated power

Invest heavily in environmentally friendly public transport systems and make it all free to use

All new council or council funded building to be a Passivhaus standard – Exeter City Council are managing it.

Boats devastating the sea grass project – needs enforcing

More local litter picks

Support schools to educate themselves (how school dinners/snacks/drinks are presented) and children/no recycling bins in classes

Promote local conservation projects which engage community – The Seal Project

A better reusable nappy incentive.

Encourage the Dartmouth Steam railway to talk to Network Rail to set up Goodrington Station as a park and ride hub. Plenty of parking available which is unused for most of the year!

One lady took the time to write 11 ideas:

1. Leave roadside verges and areas of parkland (where practical) to grow through the spring and summer season. This encourages more wildlife (esp. insects) to thrive, reduces noise from traffic, captures pollutants and makes for a nicer view.

2. When houses are built, ensure that they meet BREEAM standards or are carbon zero (see SOLCER house), not only are the environmental benefits obvious but they also help reduce fuel poverty and makes houses more affordable over their lifetime for people living in them. The houses can cost as little as £120,000 to build. Reducing spending on household bills will give people more expendable money that would hopefully be spent in the bay which in turn helps local economy.

3. Houses built on green land (which is not ideal) should blend in better with the local surroundings, green roofs and living walls could not only help with this but could, potentially, also provide some extra outdoor space for residents (gardens are usually very small in new builds). Green roofs and walls help with insulation, reduce run-off (great for areas with poor drainage or in areas liable to flooding), reduce noise, protect building exteriors from weather and UV, help sequester carbon and other pollutants and increase well-being.

This could all be applied to new commercial buildings too.

4. Working more closely with, and helping to promote, local conservation efforts who are already trying to do their best to encourage local residents to care more for our special areas around the bay. The seagrass in particular would benefit from greater protection from recreational damage (particularly boats anchoring illegally and jet ski use) - seagrass is one of the best habitats for sequestering CO2 and provides important habitat for sea horses.

- %. Protect trees and hedges from removal in development areas - they are an important asset for reducing carbon, reducing flooding and are havens and corridors for our wildlife - you cannot simply replace those habitats by replacing them with new.

5. Encourage all businesses in the bay to go as plastic free as possible. In Torbay (or any coastal town) the prevalence of plastic is a real problem (I hope the issues don't need explaining here) as so much of it ends up in the sea. Polystyrene should have an outright ban as it fragments so easily.

6. Cycle lanes! There are fragments of cycle lanes throughout the bay but not enough to truly encourage more people to cycle. There is a route from Torquay to Paignton (kinda patchy) but nothing that can get you safely to Brixham or Totnes. The bay has promoted getting active through running, cycling and walking, these would be even easier for people if they had safer ways of travelling to work or to visit friends and family.

7. Electric buses

8. Community energy hubs - power supplied locally through local solar power and biodigesters (a good way of using waste food and could even use dog poo as a source of methane gas to power electricity)

9. Promote more environmental awareness in schools - Thanks to Wild Tribe Heroes and an anonymous sponsor, Paignton schools will now be receiving some wonderful books and a fab education program to go with them. These books and activities have already had an overwhelmingly positive impact on Cornish communities trying to tackle environmental issues and it's great that they are now going to be available in Torbay too (as well as the rest of Devon). However, promotion and help from the council would go along way to helping more schools in Torbay benefit from this wonderful (and pretty cheap) resource.

10. Divest from companies that invest in fossil fuels or that have poor environmental standards. This can be difficult when such companies promise jobs and economic boosts but they are detrimental long-term. Promote small business and invest in companies with high environmental standards and community engagement.

11. More green facades, living walls and green roofs. The benefits for these are vast (insulation, sound absorption, reduced run-off, well-being, pollution and CO2 absorption etc, etc) but in Torbay, and especially Paignton, they could be used to create a much more aesthetically pleasing town - the old woolworths building and most of Torbay road could benefit from a radical facade makeover. Green roofs make a really nice extra outdoor recreation area or further seating for cafes, restaurants and bars, with views of the bay, they could be used for community veg growing and/or as wildlife havens. Covering roofs or even just painting them in pale colours helps to absorb or reflect heat - this is becoming far more important for reducing the urban heat island effect and will be increasingly important as the ice caps melt (ice reflecting solar rays is one of the most important cooling jobs performed in our arctic/antarctic regions).

NEW COMMENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE

Have a shop at the Recycling Centre selling items that should not go to refill – 2 examples:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-46368861?fbclid=IwAR1D57gDrf3zg4C2hVZJW7XI_CPfmnPIRf4fJBOKTI_HyzMMRMvsvNZro

https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.mrc.wa.gov.au%2FDisposal%2FREUSE-Shop%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0XAYOFwtq3uB0XH_7W2NsoJ7uSQMWXaSNYm-KXjc2vfEd9R7ntsYu5yb8&h=AT2Lgi55JA8rOB3YbCXNso7RrLW1AEtoMIUNczplkDfOusgF1PJZCQD9gmGSmjifE-1Ea7iN34NIakEoxsA0-sxZmLeWDW-2tU_I8v33ArmW6bboECiOjc6hF08KX7jDeF6wa6WPBVIR9IUQ

Start a community wealth building project and include locally generated power -

https://ldn.coop/co-op-development/6-steps-to-build-community-wealth/?fbclid=IwAR00hSp1iogittKrzZmQMW5oiahyjLgNOGSgJiiwLkbooqBLLBqx_B_0ywBs

TWITTER – 3,206 impressions, 15 retweets, 14 likes

Are we having conversations with Uni of Exeter and Uni of Plymouth? Durham Uni working with their local council on energy generation

Solar panels on car parks

Less traffic in town

Less jet skis in sea

Electric/hybrid public transport

Ensure enough charging points

Reduce power supply carbon footprint and use renewable fuel sources for corporate supplies

Oppose 5G

Refuse to accommodate Cruise ships & Air Shows

Pedestrian town centre

LinkedIn – 871 impressions, no shares, 6 likes and no comments.

Email responses.

Firstly, thank you for being open to ideas and starting this discussion.

Here are a few suggestions:

Better green space/tree protection. Need survey to identify current areas that may be vulnerable, being sold for building etc.

Tree planting initiatives (native trees not Torbay specimen planting). This is particularly important as people can get involved in doing something positive and effective. Get schools to sign up as children need hope at this time.

Less severe cutting of verges and hedgerows.

Rewilding/ wilding of pockets of public green spaces.

Torbay council to divest from fossil fuels and banks that invest in high emission industries.

Set up repair workshops so items are not just thrown away.

Promote flexitarianism: encourage schemes such as meat free days, at work, schools and colleges as well as at home.

We really need a linked up and safe cycle route around Torbay. Currently there is no safe way out of Brixham, if there were, many Churston pupils might cycle to school.

Limit firework displays. Maybe laser/ light shows could replace some of the many shows around Torbay?

Talk to the local Green party and climate emergency groups.

Could I please propose to add a call for a ban on bonfires and burning of general waste and garden waste.

I was delighted to find that you wanted responses to Torbay Council declaring a Climate Emergency.

As a long-term environmentalist, I have been worrying about these issues since the late 1980's. I have split my responses into: What the Council could do, and What the Council could encourage in others.

What the Council Could Do:

1. Conduct a comprehensive energy review of all its buildings. How much could you save by installing e.g. energy-efficient lighting? Where are there unnecessary uses of power, e.g. computers or lights left on? Are you putting

- in place a plan to install solar panels on all your buildings? And how much will that save over the next 4 years?
2. Incorporate a requirement on all new development proposals for the developers to make them carbon-neutral.
 3. Engage with sponsors to install many more electric vehicle charging points around the Bay.
 4. Review the Council's vehicle purchasing policy to ensure that electric vehicles are the first choice, and keep up to date with vehicle manufacturing strategies for larger or more difficult vehicles.
 5. Change the planting strategies for Council-owned flower beds to create more permanent planting, which is useful for pollinators.
 6. Review the management plans for parks and open spaces to create more wild flower planting areas, instead of grass which then needs cutting.
 7. This leads on to declaring an Ecological Emergency as well, which would acknowledge the need to take action to protect our birds, insects & mammals.
 8. Ensure that Council purchasing policy has as its main principle that purchases are made from the most environmentally-responsible businesses and organisations.

What the Council Could Encourage Others to Do:

1. Inform the inhabitants of the Bay about the declaration and its consequent effects on Council policy. There are a number of groups/routes to do this, e.g. the newly-formed Torbay Over 50's Assemblies in Brixham, Paignton & Torquay.
2. Change their travel habits to use public transport instead of their car. This of course may require putting pressure on bus operators to improve their services.
3. Changes to the English Riviera advertising to inform potential visitors to come by train or coach. Perhaps you would then need to review how many car parks & parking spaces you supply.
4. Walk and cycle more, with the added benefit of improving people's health.
5. The biggest challenge seems to me is how to encourage more (lots more!) people to become involved and making changes.

I was pleased to see that Torbay have declared a Climate Emergency, and have asked for input from the community.

Local Spark: Torbay Community Supported Enterprise, works to help build resilience in Torbay by supporting local people who want to set up socially useful businesses. We link them to older people who already have experience, and run workshops and events. We will soon have funding to re-launch the Torbay Social Enterprise Network. We will be meeting Steve Darling and Alan Denby at the end of August, but in the meantime would like to input to this conversation.

We ask that you:

- Also declare an Ecological Emergency, as the two issues are completely interdependent.
 - Work with local organisations and groups to set up a Citizens Assembly. This would help to share ideas and actions. It would also mitigate the a risk of duplication if there is no collaboration across the Bay. There are already good models in existence which could be replicated.
 - Encourage resilience by taking every opportunity to ensure that procurement decisions give priority to local, or at least regional businesses. Ideally Social Enterprises.
 - All areas of the Council should ensure that all policies prioritise both resilience and mitigation.
 - The Oversight & Scrutiny Committee should ensure that all decisions made take into account the need for both resilience and mitigation.
 - There should be a major focus on communicating what actions are taken both by the Council and other organisations – using all types of media to reach all sections of the community.
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In response to your enquiry we can confirm that we have adopted the following regarding climate change at Torquay Girls' Grammar School:

Strategically, we have made **'Caring for the Planet'** the one of our core aims.

We have instigated the following over the past year:

- Creation of an Eco-Committee.
 - Creation of an eco-award leading to an eco-badge.
 - Re-wilding of parts of the site.
 - Meat free Mondays.
 - Creation of extensive vegetable garden and orchard area.
 - Encouraging walking/cycling to school and the sharing of lifts.
 - Running a green Met Gala using up cycled clothes or clothes made from rubbish.
 - Girls arranged a meeting with Kevin Foster MP to challenge him on green policies.
 - Year 7 have created a video pointing out climate issues.
 - We changed caterers to a more eco-friendly company.
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In my opinion carbon emissions and bee population are highest priority as we need to start improving those in order for us to survive.

Key ways to help:

- * Local resident Incentives eg for rewilding, using public transport
- * stop mowing verges and sow native wildflower seeds instead
- * give residents free wildflower seeds, free trees
- * incentives to use recycling centres

- * give residents council tax discounts if they can prove they've eg switched to renewable energy, bought an electric car, reduced their landfill bin content
- * Business rate discounts for businesses reducing fossil fuel usage
- * encourage "reduce, reuse, recycle" through the bay
- * ban use of plastic and styrofoam and non-recyclable takeaway containers

Brixham Town Council

Report No:	34-2019		
Report Type:	Public		
Title:	Climate Emergency		
To:	Evaluation	Date:	25.07.19
Contact Officer:	Town Clerk	Tracy Hallett	
Contact Details:	info@brixhamtowncouncil.gov.uk	01803 859678	

Purpose of Report

At the Full Council meeting on 20th June, Brixham Town Council made the following resolution:

That the Town Council recognises the negative impact of human activity on the planet's climate and biodiversity, and agrees to:

- a) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b) Pledge to ask Torbay to do the same and to work with the Town Council to make Brixham and Torbay carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- c) Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- d) Work with other local authorities (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- e) Work with partners across Torbay, the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- f) With all this in mind, to ask Torbay to develop an action plan within 6 months, outlining how the Council will address this emergency. The Action Plan will detail the leadership role Torbay Council will take in promoting community, public, business and other Council partnerships to achieve this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment. The Action Plan will also outline adequate staff time and resources to undertake the actions to achieve the target. It will also set out how it will work with Brixham Town Council to achieve this commitment in Brixham.

This report is to help the Town Council understand the work that is now required in order to achieve such a comprehensive resolution and consider how the Town Council can take the lead in demonstrating what they are doing towards the goal to become carbon neutral.

Work Carried Out

The following has been carried out since the resolution was made:

- a) A press release has been issued and is also available to view on the Town Council website and social media sites. It will also go in the October Brixham Signal.
- b) A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Torbay Council and copied to the Interim Director of Place and Cabinet Member who are responsible for this subject. They have been advised of the Town Council's resolution and requested that (a) the Town Council is invited to and included in their meetings regarding climate emergency and (b) encourage Torbay Council to join Devon County Council's 'Devon Climate Emergency Response Group'.

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group

The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers of about 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and has been established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the Devon Climate Emergency response.

Extracts from their Terms of Reference:

Vision

A net-zero carbon Devon, with its environment and communities resilient to the effects of inevitable climate change. Net-zero means that the balance of carbon sinks and emissions in any one year will be zero.

Scope

The scope extends across all carbon-emitting activity in Devon (including production and consumption emissions), and climate-related risks to its communities. This includes all those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate in Devon.

Objectives

To coordinate a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to:

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

Deliverables

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

Role

To provide strategic coordination to ensure appropriate processes are collectively planned, resourced and delivered to achieve the project objectives and deliverables.

Membership

Membership will be by invitation to strategic and membership organisations to provide representation across the identified sectors. Organisations currently involved are:

Local Authorities

Dartmoor National Park Authority
Devon Association of Local Councils
Devon County Council
East Devon District Council
Exeter City Council
Exmoor National Park Authority
Mid Devon District Council
North Devon District Council
Plymouth City Council
South Hams District Council
Teignbridge District Council

Torrige District Council
West Devon Borough Council

Environment

Devon Wildlife Trust
Environment Agency
Natural Devon

Research Institutions

Met Office
University of Exeter

Emergency Services and Preparedness

Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum
Devon and Cornwall Police
South West Ambulance Service Trust

Health

Public Health England
Public Health Devon
Devon CCG

Business

Heart of the South West LEP

Utility Operators

South West Water
Western Power Distribution

You will note that Plymouth City Council, which is a unitary authority, is a member of this group. Subsequent to sending the letter, the Town Clerk has had a meeting with the Interim Director of Place who has advised that Torbay Council will contact Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and request a invite to future meetings.

Climate Emergency Declaration

The following Town Councils have declared a Climate Emergency:

Town Councils

Totnes Town Council
Frome Town Council
Ladock Parish Council
Oswestry Town Council
Machynlleth Town Council
Langport Town Council
Stithians Parish Council
Falmouth Town Council
Aberystwyth Town Council
Tywyn Town Council
Glastonbury Town Council
Chard Town Council
Wirksworth Town Council
Saint Just-in-Penwith Town Council

Saint Neots Town Council
Kington Town Council
Welshpool Town Council
Bradford-on-Avon Town Council
Bideford Town Council
Buckfastleigh Town Council
Watlington Parish Council
Ashburton Town Council
Newport Town Council
Dartington Parish Council
Bridgwater Town Council
Helston Town Council
Shrewsbury Town Council
Leominster Town Council
Otley Town Council
Holme Valley Parish Council
Birchwood Town Council
Llanidloes Town Council
Kendal Town Council
Cardigan Town Council
Rattery Parish Council
St Ives Parish Council
Bishopsteignton Parish Council
Belper Town Council
Pennard Community Council
Bridport Town Council
South Brent Parish Council
Lancing Parish Council
Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
Ottery St. Mary Town Council
Macclesfield Town Council
Ross-on-Wye Town Council
Newbury Town Council
Leafield Parish Council
Caia Park Community Council
Ludlow Town Council
Matlock Town Council
Bridgnorth Town Council
Cockermouth Town Council
Brixham Town Council
Haddenham Parish Council
Thatcham Town Council
Lowestoft Town Council
Hythe Town Council
Woodbridge Town Council

Next Steps

There are a number of Town Councils that have created Action Plans. As a guide, the following is a list of what Frome Town Council is trying and some, or all, could be implemented as part of Brixham Town Council's decision-making process:

Solar Streets

In Frome the local installer, Iddea is offering significantly discounted solar installations to local residents if ten or more sign up. Referrers get £100 and £50 goes towards free solar panels for their YMCA's local youth centre.

Commercial Offer

Companies such as Green Nation can install free solar on commercial roofs and offer building users a significant discount.

Community energy

Contact Devon Community Energy Network to find out more about what they are doing and see if they can provide free community owned solar panels on local buildings – this works particularly well on community focused organisations such as Medical Practices and sports clubs.

Cut carbon at local schools

Encourage local schools to sign up to Energy Sparks. It's free to join and provides real time information on energy including out of hours, as well as curriculum led activities to help reduce costs and carbon.

Cut carbon and methane from food

Consider a community fridge. Hubbub run the national community fridge network and offer support for new groups to set up.

Electric charge points

Zero Carbon World can provide free chargers on commercial and community buildings (but don't cover installation or metering). Raw Charging can provide EV charge points for free in areas where usage will be high. Raw Charging cover all costs, users pay via their phone or card and Raw do a profit share once utilisation has reached a certain point.

Car club

Encourage car club providers to hire hybrid vehicles. One car club car displaces around ten privately owned vehicles on average and are often lower emission too.

Developers

Encourage developers to work in partnership with community energy organisations to install solar, batteries and a microgrid to maximise renewable generation on site.

Please note: some of the companies listed above are only available in the Somerset area.

Ideas for Brixham

The Town Council could consider:

Sustainable resources within the Town Hall regeneration project

Aim to become a net zero building ie renewable energy as well as replacing lights for LED and installing motion sensors to ensure lights are not left on.

Replace consumables used within the Town Hall for biodegradable / eco-friendly alternative products

Replace plastic bin bags for biodegradable alternatives, purchase larger bottles of consumables to refill the smaller bottles, reduce paper consumption, introduce an e-newsletter replacing the current paper version.

Encourage Tenants and Hirers to reduce, reuse and recycle

Replace bins around the building for dual bins to encourage recycling, turn off electronics, lighting and heating wherever possible. Within the Council office, the number of bins have been reduced to encourage staff to use one dual purpose bin.

Green travel policy

Encourage car sharing, cycling initiatives ie cycle parks, cycle lanes, encourage residents to walk or replace their vehicles for electric vehicles.

Work with Torbay Council for the installation of:

- car charging points
- bicycle parking
- public shower facilities for those cycling to work

Consider replacing the Town Lengthsman diesel van to an electric one.

Pesticide free town

The Community Services Committee have made a recommendation that will go to the August Full Council meeting encouraging the reduction of pesticides and the use of alternative environmentally friendly products used by the Town Council.

Water refills stations

Encourage businesses (including the Town Council) to sign up to the refill Devon and become a Refill Station. Businesses do not need to go to the expense of installing water coolers or fountains; they just need to offer free tap water refills to customers.

Environment

Create wildlife havens on allotment sites and other areas around the town.

Work with bus companies to consider creating bee stops. In a Dutch city 316 bus stops have been adapted to have grass and wildflower roofs, turning them into a bee haven.

Schools

Work with schools who are introducing climate change to their pupils and help them facilitate their projects. The following is an example of one school in Brixham:

St. Margaret Clitherow now have a recycling hub in Brixham and are working towards their school becoming an Eco-School and ultimately aiming to be a plastic free school. As part of this journey they recycle the following items:

- crisp packets
- bread bags
- pens/felt tips/highlighters/dry white board markers
- baby food pouches and their lids
- biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers

- toothbrushes (not battery operated) and their packaging

This facility is not just for the school, it is open to the whole community.

Waste

Encourage everyone in the town, whether visitors or locals to reduce, reuse and recycle, ie educate.

Work with Torbay Council to provide better waste and recycling facilities throughout the town ie solar powered bins.

Work with Torbay Harbour Authority to discuss ways to reduce waste floating in the harbour. This can be done by working with organisations such as Surfers Against Sewage.

Recommendations

The Town Council has agreed to merge the Plastics Working Group and the Waste Working Group to a new group called the Climate and Environment Working Group. The following still needs to be considered:

1. Membership
2. Terms of Reference including aims and objectives

Devon

In response to the latest report from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, various local authorities and organisations in Devon have declared climate emergencies that aim to decarbonise Devon by 2050 at the latest. All of the following information has been obtained from Devon County Council's website www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange.

Emergency Response

Borrowing procedures from civil emergency preparedness and response protocols, a strategic-level teleconference of the Local Resilience Forum ((LRF) - multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including the blue light emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and other partners) was convened on 9 May 2019. This group of 25 chief executives, directors agreed to form the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) and a supporting Tactical Group.

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG)

The Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) is made up of senior officers of about 25 organisations including councils, emergency services, businesses and voluntary organisations and has been established to provide the strategic coordination of a collaborative response to the [Devon Climate Emergency](#) response.

Vision

A net-zero carbon Devon, with its environment and communities resilient to the effects of inevitable climate change. Net-zero means that the balance of carbon sinks and emissions in any one year will be zero.

Scope

The scope extends across all carbon-emitting activity in Devon (including production and consumption emissions), and climate-related risks to its communities. This includes all those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate in Devon.

Objectives

To coordinate a collaborative Devon-wide response to the climate emergency to:

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

Deliverables

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

Role

To provide strategic coordination to ensure appropriate processes are collectively planned, resourced and delivered to achieve the project objectives and deliverables.

Meetings

Initially the Response Group is meeting on an ad-hoc basis whilst the project start-up phase is underway. Thereafter, the frequency will be every 2 months. Meetings will be dial-in with a physical option where low-carbon transport can be used.

Membership

Membership will be by invitation to strategic and membership organisations to provide officer representation across the identified sectors (to retain political impartiality). Organisations currently involved are:

Local Authorities	Research Institutions
Dartmoor National Park Authority	Met Office
Devon Association of Local Councils	University of Exeter
Devon County Council	
East Devon District Council	Emergency Services and Preparedness
Exeter City Council	Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LRF
Exmoor National Park Authority	Devon and Cornwall Police
Mid Devon District Council	South West Ambulance Service Trust
Plymouth City Council	
South Hams District Council	Health
Teignbridge District Council	Public Health England
Torridge District Council	Public Health Devon
West Devon Borough Council	Devon CCG
Environment	Business
Devon Wildlife Trust	Heart of the South West LEP
Environment Agency	
Natural Devon	Utility Operators
	South West Water
	Western Power Distribution

Sub-Groups and Workstreams

The Response Group can establish sub-groups, both indefinitely and on a task-and-finish basis, to progress specific items and deliverable, or assign these to an existing multi-agency group that is well placed to act.

Resources

Financial and in-kind resources to achieve the deliverables are to be sought from each of the Response Group members to reflect the collaboration. Where relevant, additional resources for specific tasks may be found from other sources. A dedicated Project Manager will be appointed by Devon County Council to support this process, acting in the interest of all members.

Devon Climate Declaration

The DCERG initially set out a shared ambition in the [Devon Climate Declaration](#), which was endorsed by its members on the 22nd May 2019. The main actions the signatories to the Declaration will be committing to are:

1. to review organisational carbon reduction plans within 6 months to meet or exceed the IPCC targets.
2. collaborating on the production and implementation of a Devon Carbon Plan to meet the IPCC recommendations at the latest.
3. a willingness to lobby for required national policy changes and resources to implement the Devon Carbon Plan
4. agreeing to collectively review community-related risks from a 1.5-degree warmer world.

Devon County Council has made £250,000 available for the preparation of the emergency response and has agreed to appoint a multi-agency project manager on behalf of all of the DCERG partners.

The authority also funded a carbon footprinting workshop for DCERG partners and parish/town councils on the 23rd July. The [Centre for Energy and Environment](#) at the University of Exeter shared a standardised approach to preparing an organisational carbon footprint to enable signatories to meet the first commitment of the Declaration described above.

Devon Carbon Plan

At its meeting on the 26th June 2019, the DCERG agreed to appoint a specialist [Net-Zero Task Force](#) to develop the Devon Carbon Plan. This Task Force will consist of 12 people with expertise in areas relevant to carbon reduction and will be drawn from economic, environmental, health and academic organisations, and chaired by a leading climate expert.

A series of thematic hearings will be delivered by the Task Force where experts will be invited to answer questions to determine the barriers and opportunities of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in specific areas such as transport, new development, waste, and agriculture.

The hearings will identify if any additional research is necessary before putting forward potential policy options for inclusion in the Devon Carbon Plan.

Options drawn up by the Task Force will be tested and refined at a series of [citizens' assembly](#) meetings, which will be scheduled to take place next spring in order to help inform the content of the draft plan. A full public consultation will then be held on

the draft plan, with the aim of the DCERG organisations adopting the final plan by the end of 2020.

The Tactical Group will work with the Chair of the Net-Zero Task Force, once appointed, to identify 11 further nominations to recommend to the Response Group at its next meeting on the 30th July.

The Devon Carbon Plan will complement activity that is being planned by individual organisations and geographies. Collating the various layers of activity across the county, and being represented by one unified group, will provide a stronger voice when asking government for the support and resources necessary to achieve a net-zero Devon.

Review of Climate-Related Community Risks

The DCERG has also agreed the formation of the [Climate Impacts Group](#) that is undertaking an initial review of the risks currently identified by the Local Resilience Forum to assess the impact from climate over the coming decades. The Group is chaired by Devon and Cornwall Police. The initial review is expected to be complete by early 2020. Following this initial review, it is likely that community preparedness and risk-mitigation activity will need to be assessed. Further task and finish groups may be established for this purpose.

Stakeholder Map

The stakeholder map (Appendix 1) provides a picture of how the groups fit together and where some of the opportunities are for different types of organisations to be involved in the emergency response.

