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Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

Date: 12 July 2024
Quorum: 7

MEETING OF COMMUNITY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

On:	Monday 22 July 2024	At:	10.00 am
Venue:	Town Hall - Bridge Street, Bideford, EX39 2HS		

NOTICE OF MEETING

The meeting will be able to watch through the Councils YouTube Channel
<https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

To:	Councillor R Hicks (Chair) Councillor A Dart (Vice-Chair) Councillors: D Brenton, L Bright, P Hames, C Hodson, K James, C Leather, R Lock, T Tinsley, L Piper and J Whittaker
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Members are requested to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting

AGENDA

PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

1.	Apologies for Absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
2.	Minutes of the Community & Resources Committee meeting held on 3 June 2024 (Pages 3 - 7)
3.	Public Contributions Public contributions in accordance with the current scheme. (The deadline for registering to speak is by 2pm Thursday 18 July 2024. To register please email dem.services@torridge.gov.uk).
4.	Forward Plan (Page 8)

5.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Members with interests to declare should refer to the Agenda item and describe the nature of their interest when the item is being considered.</p>
6.	<p>Agreement of Agenda between Parts I and II</p>
7.	<p>Urgent Matters of information to be brought forward with the permission of the Chair and the Committee</p>
8.	<p>Cashless Parking proposal for some Torridge Car Parks (Pages 9 - 11)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Head of Communities & Place</p>
9.	<p>2024 Update to Torridge District Council's Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan (Pages 12 - 32)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Head of Communities and Place.</p>
10.	<p>Torridge Estuary Strategy and Bideford Port and Harbour Business Plan (Pages 33 - 37)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Head of Communities and Place</p>
11.	<p>Rent Concession - Men's Shed (Pages 38 - 39)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Head of Communities and Place</p>
12.	<p>Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance (Pages 40 - 42)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Head of Communities and Place</p>
13.	<p>Exclusion of the Public</p> <p>The Chair to move:</p> <p>That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of paragraph XXXXXX of Part I and paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.</p>
14.	<p>PART II (CLOSED SESSION)</p>
<p>Meeting Organiser: Sandra Cawsey</p>	

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & RESOURCES MEETING

Town Hall - Bridge Street, Bideford, EX39 2HS

Monday, 3 June 2024 - 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor R Hicks (Chair)
Councillor A Dart (Vice-Chair)

Councillors D Brenton, L Bright, P Hames, C Hodson, K James,
C Leather, R Lock, T Tinsley, L Piper and J Whittaker

ALSO PRESENT

S Hearse - Chief Executive
S Kearney - Head of Communities & Place
G Bryant - Finance Manager (S151 Officer)
A Redwood - Major Projects Manager
P Gilbert - Public Health & Community Safety
Manager
S Cawsey - Democratic Services Officer

Councillors C Hawkins, W Lo-Vel and P Pennington

430. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair welcomed Councillor Tinsley to the Committee.

An apology for absence was received from Staci Dorey, Head of Legal & Governance (& Monitoring Officer).

Councillor Hames stated that in order to be transparent and democratic this Committee should include all Group Leaders and hoped this would be resolved at the next Full Council meeting.

Councillor Brenton advised that following the last Full Council meeting, an agreement had been reached for the Independents to lose one of their Members temporarily to ensure all Groups are represented on this Committee. He expressed his disapproval at an email sent following that meeting, which stated that three of the Groups would stick to the status quo. Following further comments made, the Chief Executive advised it is a Full Council matter and not a matter to be discussed at this Committee.

431. MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2024 be signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 10, Abstentions 2)

432. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

433. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was noted.

434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when the specific agenda items to which they related were under discussion.

435. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

The Chair informed Members that Agenda items 9 and 14 had been deferred.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Piper and –

Resolved:

That the Agenda as circulated, subject to the above amendments, be agreed.

(For – Unanimous)

436. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND THE COMMITTEE

There were no urgent matters brought forward.

437. THE DEVON, CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY ADAPTATION STRATEGY - RECOMMENDATION FROM INTERNAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the report, presented by the Head of Communities & Place, was for Members to receive a recommendation from Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy.

During the discussion comments/concerns raised included:

- Councillor Pennington disputed the agricultural figures for Devon and Cornwall set out in the Strategy and questioned how the writers of the report had arrived at those figures. Councillor James reported that when the Strategy had been considered at the previous Community & Resources Committee, concerns had been raised in relation to the disclaimer suggesting that RSK writers of the report, would not stand by the information in the report. This he said was not acceptable.
- Councillor James was concerned to note that within the report there was no reference or information in relation to Torridge. In terms of flood risk and coastal erosion these are big issues for the area, as is the rise in sea levels at Westward Ho!

The Chief Executive explained that Members should be considering the report to either go with the previous decision by this Committee to note the document or to endorse the document as recommended by Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee. If the vote to endorse fails and the decision is to note, it will go to Full Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hames and -

Resolved:

That the recommendation of Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee to endorse the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy be approved.

(Vote: For 7, Against 5)

438. URGENCY PROCEDURE REPORT

This item had been deferred.

439. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hicks, seconded by Councillor Leather and –

Resolved:

That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 and paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

440. PART II (CLOSED SESSION)

441. ADDITIONAL 'EXCEPTIONAL' FUNDING TO DELIVER DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT ADAPTATION

The public Health and Community Safety Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval for up to £10,000 additional 'exceptional' funding in order to deliver a Disabled adaptation – as set out in section 10 of Torridge District Council's Housing Assistance Policy for the Better Care Fund (BCF).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Whittaker and -

Resolved:

That additional exceptional grant funding to meet the shortfall of funding for this case be approved.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

442. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

The Major Projects Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to obtain Member support for the purchase of an additional residential property.

Prior to the presentation of the report, the Major Projects Manager informed the Committee of the following update:

“Following publication of the report, further renovation works have been identified. The further works will involve an increase in renovation costs of £20-£25k. This to be reflected in the purchase price”.

During the debate and following an enquiry raised, the Major Projects Manager explained where on the site the additional works are required and confirmed the remainder of the property/site was not in any way affected. Clarification was given on the reasons why the Authority would want to acquire this property and the history to the whole site.

Given that the figures stated in the report had changed, the Committee requested an amendment to the recommendation.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Leather and -

Resolved:

That Officers be authorised to acquire the property at a cost not exceeding £320k.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

443. TORRIDGE LEVELLING UP PROJECTS

The item had been deferred.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Whittaker and –

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 18.00 and closed at 18.52.

Chair:

Date:

Leadership 2pm	21 May 2024	9 July 2024	10 Sept 2023	10 Oct 2024	19 Nov 2024	7 Jan 2025	25 Feb 2025	25 March 2025	
Community & Resources (Mondays)	3 June 2024 6pm	22 July 2024 10am	16 Sept 2024 6pm	21 Oct 2024 10am	25 Nov 24 6pm	20 Jan 2025 10am	Budget Special 27 Jan 10am 25	10 March 2025 6pm	7 April 2025 10am
Finance									
Performance									
Other	Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy – Call-in Internal (SK/DS?) Urgency decision procedure (HSF) (SD) PT II Additional DFG funding (PG) PT II Acquisition of Property (AR) PT II Levelling Up Project	Cash Free Parking Machines (5 in no.) GB Estuary Strategy rec from Int O&S (SK) Decarbonisation Funding (SK) Reduction of rent for Men Sheds Lease Hols. (SD) Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance	FOI Policy (TV) Draft Housing Strategy document (HS) Surplus report (GB) Town Hall – change of use (SK) Rural Prosperity Fund Reallocation (SK) Playzones (AA) Note or adopt the Bideford Cultural Investment Plan (CF)		Biodiversity Management Plan (DS)				

FORWARD PLAN FOR 2024 – ADD – TO REVIEW A GREENER/RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY WHEN CONTRACT RUNS OUT 2024 – rec from Climate Change Delegated Market Approval December 2025 – 5th Dec 2022 meeting decided for 3 years.

Tolerated Trespass Site – travellers and impact on Local Plan (from meeting 11.9.23)

REPORT OF Head of Communities and Place
To: Community and Resources Committee
Subject: Cashless Parking proposal for some Torridge Car Parks
Date: 22/07/24 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider the suitability of converting 5 Pay and Display car parks to cashless payment only to reduce cash handling costs and extend the longevity of cash taking pay and display machines in other locations.

1. INTRODUCTION

As an early part of the budgeting process officers were tasked with suggesting proposals that either help the council to generate more income or save the Council expenditure. One such suggestion, presented to the Member Budget Working group was to reduce the costs of cash handling by making 5 car parks across the district cashless.

2. REPORT

The 5 car parks identified are:

The Cattle Market Car Park, Bideford
Springfield Car Park, Bideford
Odun Road Car Park, Appledore
West Appledore Car Park, Appledore
Well Park Car Park, Holsworthy

If approved payment for parking would be available by car payment at the machine or by the use of Ringo (app or telephone line).

Each of the car parks selected has a single pay and display machine.

The table below shows a breakdown of takings at the suggested locations in 23/24. It also shows the cost to the authority of cash collections at the car park locations.

The total income across the 5 car parks in 23/24 was £138,623

22% of transactions were made with cash.

30% of transactions were made with a credit or debit card at the machine.

48% of transactions were made by using Ringo (App or telephone)

The total cash collection cost associated with these car parks was £8,621 which represents 28% of the cash takings on those sites. Cash collection rates are due to rise by 9% later this year.



Site	Cash 23/24	Cards	RingGo
Cattle Market	£13,126.15	£10,720.00	£27,143.10
Spring Field	£2,526.30	£1,316.00	£4,618.20
Odun Road	£3,545.60	£14,858.70	£15,143.30
West Appledore	£3,214.50	£11,579.60	£11,991.40
Well Park	£8,219.85	£3,172.00	£7,449.08
Sub Totals	£30,632.40	£41,646.30	£66,345.08
Cash collection cost	£8,621.76		

Notes:

Impending increase of 9%
Fuel Surcharge not included

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

N/A.

Financial Implications

The proposal will save the council circa £10K per annum in cash collection fees.

If successful the proposal will mean that the cash collection mechanisms from the cashless machines will be available for reuse in other machines , thus saving on maintenance cost and extending the lifespan of those machines.

Human Resources Implications

Within existing resources

Sustainability Implications

N/A.

Equality/Diversity

None directly related to the decision to be taken at this meeting

Risk Management

Risks are not considered to be high with the proposal



Compliance with Policies and Strategies

In compliance with the Off street Parking Places Order

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Climate Change

While only a small impact the proposal will reduce vehicle movements to the selected car parks by cash collectors and maintenance staff thus reducing the carbon footprint of the authority.

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

This matter was referred to Community and Resources Committee by the member Budget Working Group as any decision has implications beyond the finances of the proposal.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The potential financial savings of the proposal are clear and, given the trends in preferred payment method it is unlikely that going cashless in the suggested car parks will have an adverse effect on pay and display taking at any location. The proposal will save circa £10K per annum.

Transaction fees are applicable to electronic payment also but these are around 15% per transaction and stays within the car park are longer when purchases are made by those means.

Consideration should be given to the equalities aspects of the proposal. While the proposal will undoubtedly disadvantage some from using their preferred payment it is unlikely that all of those will be unable to pay by other means. If so, there are another parking places in the vicinity that are either free on street or where cash payment can be made.

Cashless Parking is commonplace in many locations and becoming more and more popular as time passes.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That member consider whether the 5 car parks identified within the report should become cashless parking sites.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, Finance Manager and S151 Officer, Head of Operational Services, Economic Development Manager

Contact Officer: Sean Kearney

Background

Papers:



Agenda Item 9

REPORT OF Head of Communities and Place

To: Community & Resources Committee

Subject: 2024 Update to Torrridge District Council's Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan

Date: 22nd July 2024

Reference: N/A

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To put forward for approval by Committee the 2024 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torrridge District Council.

1. CONTEXT

In July 2019 Torrridge District Council signed up to the Devon Climate Emergency Declaration. The Council are committed to having a carbon plan and to review this plan annually.

Our first Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan was published in June 2021. This is the third Annual Review.

2. REPORT

This update has been discussed by the Councillor Climate Change Working Group who put forward the plan for approval by Community & Resources.

Members will recall that the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan is a lengthy document and not easy to read. The Councillor Climate Change Working Group recommended that this Annual Review focus on: i) one page on our carbon footprint (reported to C&R 22nd Jan 2024) ii) updated action plan and iii) one page key successes.

The updated action plan is attached to this report, see Appendix One.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

None identified.

Financial Implications

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



Human Resources Implications

It is anticipated that delivery of this plan will be through usual Council functions and services and no additional resource is required at present.

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

Delivery of this Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan will enable us to meet our statutory Biodiversity Duty.

Equality/Diversity

No impacts on protected characteristics identified.

Risk Management

None identified at this stage.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Consistent with the Council's strategic objective and other references within this report.

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None identified at this stage.

Climate Change

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

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

I welcome the updated Carbon Plan and once again thank officers for their hard work in preparing it. We look to urgent implementation of the actions in the Plan, including carbon reduction measures for Council buildings, the purchase of electric vehicles and machinery, adoption of stronger environmental policies in the revised Local Plan, increased biodiversity in the Council's open spaces and more responsible use of resources by encouraging reduction, repair and re-use in the community, all of this backed, I hope, by the unwavering commitment of every Councillor and officer.

Date of Consultation – 5th July 2024

4. CONCLUSIONS

Publication of this Annual Review will fulfil our Devon Climate Emergency commitment.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Community and Resources Committee note and approve for publication the 2024 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge District Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations:	Date of Consultation – 4 th July 2024
Contact Officer:	Officers Consulted – Head of Communities and Place Sustainability & Climate Officer
Background Papers:	



Torrige District Council Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity Plan

Third Annual Review, July 2024

Issue	Page
Energy	2
Transport	4
Planning	6
Biodiversity	9
Waste & Recycling	10
The Council	11
Our Communities	16

Progress with delivery of the Council’s actions to meet its net zero by 2030 target have been assessed as green, amber or red. This is indicated by the coloured stripe at the right hand side of the table.

Progress with delivery of the Council’s action to meet the UK and Devon’s net zero by 2050 target can be found at the [Devon Climate Emergency](#) website.

Energy			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
<p>1.0 We will carry out a review of our energy consumption across our estate, develop an options appraisal plan for our sites, and where necessary put in place carbon targets and seek funding to implement improvements. This will include options for retrofit, smart energy controls and energy generation and storage opportunities. We will assess whether the council could generate all its energy needs from its own resources.</p> <p><i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: B7, B16, E1.2</i></p>	<p>Improvements to our estate will be carried out in line with our Asset Management Strategy 2023-2028. Condition surveys for our estate have been completed and along with other work eg energy efficiency surveys these will form a costed plan for planned preventative maintenance (PPM).</p> <p>We have heat decarbonisation plans for 10 of our biggest energy users. We have submitted a bid for Low Carbon Skills Funding to develop detailed designs for 3 of these, with a view to bidding for Public Sector Decarbonisation Funding in 2025.</p>	<p>Costed PPM by 25/26.</p> <p>Progress of additional actions dependent on subsequent funding.</p>	
<p>1.1 We will review our energy tariff and investigate the feasibility of moving to a renewable energy supplier for all our energy needs, once energy efficiency and renewable energy measures are complete.</p>	<p>TDC procures its energy supplier in conjunction with the other Devon Districts/ County to secure collective value for money. The current contract expires September 2024. Councillors agreed on 19/6/23 to renew this contract with our current supplier. The renewable energy tariff offered is provided by Npower, a subsidiary of E.ON. E.ON currently own two RE generation sites in the UK and the rest of their green tariff is made up of REGOs purchased separately to RE generation. Investment in this tariff does not result in additional RE generation and so will not reduce carbon emissions. We will re-consider investing in RE if a true green tariff becomes available.</p> <p>Note: TDC reports its carbon footprint in line with the UN Greenhouse Gas Protocol and aligns with the Science-based targets initiative. As such the purchase of renewable electricity may not reduce our Scope 2 emissions to zero.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>	
<p><i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E5</i></p>			

Energy			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
1.2 Replaced with action 1.3 below			
1.3 We will work with tenants to deliver measures that improve energy efficiency or increase renewable energy generation, where funding allows.	We have a heat decarbonisation plan for our three leisure sites. We have secured £61k through the Swimming Pool Support Fund to install solar panels at Holsworthy, and we have bid for an additional £1.17M through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for further decarbonisation works at this site.	Solar panels installed 2025. Progress of additional actions dependent on subsequent funding.	
<i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E1.2</i>			
1.4 Develop a Local Area Energy Plan for Devon.	The transition to net zero will use significant amounts of renewable electricity in Devon. A Local Area Energy Plan will set out how this can be delivered. A planning group was established in June 2023 and agreed a methodology (the Energy Systems Catapult guide). We have collected data to model the existing energy system in Devon and are working with the South West Net Zero Hub to address any gaps.	Dates TBC	
<i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E1</i>			

Transport

Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
<p>2.0 We will continually improve the efficiency of our vehicles across our fleet ensuring that our vehicle purchases meet the highest EURO engine emissions standards, and that these are maintained to a high standard. We will regularly review refuse fleet routes to maximise efficiency. At the purchase of any council vehicle we will review options for electric, ultra-low emission or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.</p>	<p>This area continues to be a focus given the potential carbon savings involved. Viable options remain limited. Current electric HGVs are not able to service the needs of our Waste & Recycling fleet. The use of light fleet EV's for our Grounds Maintenance service remains out of reach at the current time, primarily due to cost and technical constraints. However technology and costs are improving all the time and we will keep this under review. Current plans around the new Operational Services centre include significant EV charging provision in preparation.</p> <p>We were unable to find a suitable electric compact tractor to manage our Estate for biodiversity and so have purchased a diesel vehicle.</p> <p>We are working with partners to develop a green hydrogen economy in the district, centred around Appledore. Hydrogen-powered HGVs may be a more viable alternative to replace our Waste & Recycling fleet, as is the industry expectation. It is important to note that the Centre for Future Clean Mobility, our partners within the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre, are engaged in the study of the use of green hydrogen for W&R and North Devon Council are also keen, creating future potential shared gains.</p> <p>Harbour vessels yet to be reviewed. The Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre will support our ambition for clean maritime vessels.</p>	<p>Target date to be determined but likely to be a long-term aspiration</p>

This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C1, R1.4, R1.6, R5, R11, T35

Transport		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
<p>2.1 We will explore, implement and promote electric vehicle charging infrastructure, particularly utilising partnership working and external funding to develop schemes across North Devon for the benefit of our residents and businesses and supporting our sustainable tourism ambitions. This will include exploring energy generation and storage opportunities in our car parking facilities.</p>	<p>Use of public EV charging points in our car parks is still at a low level and we have no plans to expand provision for those sites where we currently have EV charging.</p> <p>Devon County Council has secured £7M Local EV Charging Infrastructure (LEVI) funding and we have submitted a number of sites for new EV provision.</p>	<p>LEVI Tender published Summer 24, delivery 25/26.</p>
<p>2.2 We will identify and develop active travel options across North Devon to create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. This includes identifying rural cycle routes and electric cycle charge points in line with central Government recommendations. This will be progressed in partnership with a range of stakeholders including Devon County Council through the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.</p>	<p>Torrige Active Travel Group continue to meet regularly.</p> <p>Devon County Council have developed a Local Cycle & Walking Infrastructure Plan with partners including TDC which will help us provide better routes.</p> <p>Funding for improvements will be on a project by project basis.</p>	<p>No date specified at present.</p>
<p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T6, T7</p>		
<p>2.3 We will carry out a review of our Taxi Licensing Policy and will use this as a basis to encourage our taxi operators to move to electric and ultra-low vehicles, including exploring the provision of dedicated taxi charging point(s) to support the trade.</p>	<p>A revised taxi policy was formally adopted in May 22. A number of amendments/ incentives for electric and low emission vehicles have been included (details here).</p> <p>Our taxi policy will be reviewed next year.</p>	<p>Policy will be reviewed again in 2025</p>
<p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T36</p>		

Transport		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
2.4 We will investigate the use of alternative, low carbon fuels for our vehicles.	We have discounted the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) to fuel our vehicles due to significant concerns about its sustainability, cost and supply issues. A sustainability assessment of HVO is being carried out by the Environment Agency and we will review our decision once the findings are published.	Target date to be determined but likely to be a medium-term aspiration
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T42		

Planning		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
3.0 We will use the review of the local plan to embrace opportunities to deliver carbon reductions and improvements in sustainability and biodiversity making use of guidance, expert evidence and best practice to best deliver on a range of environmental matters. We will use best endeavours to maximise the potential of new developments to be highly efficient and incorporate low carbon heating and cooling solutions and support sustainable travel for future residents, customers and visitors. Through the plan review we will revisit and consider the opportunities to support on and offshore wind energy development.	Members have agreed to prepare a new joint Local Plan, in collaboration with North Devon Council. Members have agreed to set up Thematic Working Groups to support this review, including a Climate and Environmental Emergency group, which will provide a forum for exploring opportunities to be incorporated within the plan.	Ambition for formal plan making process to begin Nov 24, subject to Government planning reforms coming into force, with new Plan submitted by Oct 26.
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C6, C7, E1.1, E1.2, E1.3, E4, B12, T12		

Planning			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
3.1 We will seek to take forward the relevant principles and actions of the Devon County Council's Carbon Plan through the review of the local plan to ensure joined up direction of travel to meet our mutual carbon, environmental and biodiversity aims and targets.	Devon's Carbon Plan published September 2022. The provisions of the Carbon Plan will be considered as part of the preparation of a new local plan as per 3.0 above, with actions incorporated as appropriate through that process. Local Plan Thematic Working Groups provide opportunity to explore the principles and actions in detail.	As 3.0	
3.2 We will seek to take forward and build upon our pioneering work that seeks biodiversity net gain from development through the local plan review.	Developers have a statutory requirement to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on the majority of development proposals. The potential to require additional BNG above the mandatory level in northern Devon will be considered through the preparation of a new Local Plan (see 3.0 above).	As 3.0	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F14			
3.3 We will seek to engage with wider partners to develop local biodiversity off setting schemes to provide choice and assurance to developers obligated through the planning process within North Devon.	The Council has agreed a process for considering formal habitat bank proposals. It is working with providers to consider their proposals and to legally secure them as appropriate. The Council is engaged with the North Devon Biosphere to support the development and roll-out of their Natural Capital Marketplace through our UK Shared Prosperity Funding.	As 3.0	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F17, F18			
3.4 We will lobby Government for improved building regulations for energy efficiency and making renewable energy sources compulsory for new builds.	The Government launched a consultation on review of the National Planning Policy Framework and its role/ contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in December 2022. The Council responded to that consultation, providing, amongst other things, in principle support for onshore wind development. The Council will respond to any future consultation opportunities.	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E6			

Planning			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
<p>3.5 We will lobby Government and local providers for improved digital connectivity to order to promote further flexible and remote working patterns, enhancing access to services, supporting our isolated communities and reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T1</p>	<p>The government intends to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as possible, and aims for the majority of the population to have 5G coverage by 2027. As progress in this area becomes clearer this will be kept under review.</p> <p>Our emerging Economic Strategy recognises the need for universal and reliable access to full fibre broadband.</p>	Ongoing	

Biodiversity			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
<p>4.0 We recognise the benefits of carbon sequestration and the value of tree planting to future offsetting needs, and so we will continue to develop our tree planting programme on land owned by the Council and will look to take full advantage of funding and schemes available to support this plan.</p>	<p>We are developing a biodiversity management plan for the Council, including tree planting. This will be reviewed on a regular basis.</p>	Date TBC	
<p>4.1 We will develop a Tree Strategy which will acknowledge the value of our Green Infrastructure including our approach to the management and protection of trees across North Devon, promote sustainability through the 'right tree right place' ethos, promote partnership working and lead by example with our communities.</p>	<p>Devon Tree Strategy published 2024. We will undertake a mapping exercise of our current landholdings and identify opportunities for further planting.</p>	Mapping completed Q4 24.	

Biodiversity		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
4.2 We will integrate our climate and biodiversity ambitions with our ground's maintenance operations, developing sustainable options that can be implemented and maintained as part of this programme including developing 'rewilded' areas across our North Devon estate.	<p>This forms part of our biodiversity plan (see 4.0 above).</p> <p>Our verges and meadows are now under better management for wildlife by cutting outside of the spring and summer seasons and removing cuttings. Areas have also been oversown with yellow rattle to weaken grasses and create better conditions for wildflowers.</p> <p>We are working with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to ensure that the bedding plants selected for our parks are good for supporting pollinators. We plan to implement wildlife friendly measure where possible within our formal gardens.</p> <p>We do not use pesticides in our Grounds Maintenance operations.</p>	2025
Action 4.3 no longer forms part of the Council's action plan. This is a Biosphere project in partnership with Siemens.		
Action 4.4 above will no longer form part of the Council's action plan. This is a Biosphere project. A new action has been added, 7.7		
4.5 We will work with the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve to support delivery of their Nature Recovery Plan.	The Marine and Landscape pioneers feed into the Biosphere's Nature Recovery Plan; NDC are working with the Biosphere and other partners to deliver this plan.	2030
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F14, F18, F23.2		

Waste & Recycling

Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
<p>5.0 We will seek to 'build green' in our developments such as the Burrows Centre, and look to maximise sustainability and energy generation opportunities in the development of TDC's new Operational Services Centre, including future proofing the site for an expanding electric vehicle fleet.</p>	<p>We continue to push for high environmental standards whilst balancing the need for other considerations such as insurance.</p> <p>We carried out a public consultation of our proposed Operational Services Centre in Bideford in April 23. This will be more energy efficient than our current depot and will also improve biodiversity on site.</p> <p>The Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre has been awarded £15.6m of funding from the Levelling Up Fund issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The centre will contain a host of sustainability measures and will be incorporate significant renewable electricity generation.</p> <p>Our Homeless and Temporary Accommodation projects are using retrofit technology where practicable and where possible we have used the latest off-site manufacture for optimum energy efficiency.</p>	<p>Operational Services Centre handover for use 2025.</p> <p>ACMIC handover for use 2026</p>
<p>5.1 We will fully participate in the review of the Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay, and actively promote its aims to minimise the waste we create, to reduce the impact of resource and waste management on climate change by tailoring operations to reduce the waste carbon footprint, and to seek to preserve natural capital and practice resource efficiency.</p>	<p>Strategy published 2020, key initiatives such as introduction of a deposit return scheme and extended producer responsibility have been delayed.</p> <p>Torrige has a good recycling rate of 52.6%. We are working with Waste & Recycling Advisors to improve the quantity and quality of recyclates collected.</p>	<p>Target date to be determined but likely to be a medium-term aspiration</p>

This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R2, R6, R13, R15

Waste & Recycling			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
<p>5.2 We will promote and support the development of the circular economy and waste hierarchy and will review and be open to all options available to reduce the carbon footprint of our waste collection activities which may include, but is not limited to, maximising recycling and developing new waste recycling opportunities, promoting the waste hierarchy through review of the residual waste collection programme and exploring options to reduce, reuse and repair.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R1, R7, F23.5</p>	<p>The Environment Act will help the transition to a more circular economy, incentivising people to recycle more, encouraging businesses to create sustainable packaging, making household recycling easier and stopping the export of polluting plastic waste to developing countries.</p> <p>A ban on single-use plastic cutlery and plates was introduced in England in October 2023.</p>	Ongoing	

The Council			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
<p>6.0 We will carry out an annual review of our carbon plan and will be transparent about our direction of travel, achievements and challenges in meeting our stated ambitions. This will be reported on annually to Full Council and is part of our wider commitment to making our climate and biodiversity ambitions central to the governance and operations of the Council.</p>	<p>This is the third annual review of our carbon plan.</p>	Annually	

The Council		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
<p>6.1 We will develop and approve a sustainable procurement policy to incorporate sustainability, the environment and corporate social responsibility into our financial procedures. We will guide and support smaller businesses who work with us to meet these ambitions. We will regularly review our sustainable procurement policy application and weighting to further develop this approach to maintain continual improvement and encouragement of the most sustainable suppliers to the Council.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R19</p>	<p>TDC approved their Social Value Policy in January 24, as well as a new Procurement Strategy with a greater emphasis on sustainability.</p> <p>We are using the Social Value Engine to capture the social value of our procurement.</p> <p>Our Major Projects team are working with contractors to ensure decreased carbon emissions are delivered in our large construction projects (see 5.0 above)</p>	By 2027
<p>6.2 We will integrate carbon, environmental and biodiversity ambitions into all our capital projects and ensure that stated standards and targets in these areas are included into those projects.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R19</p>	<p>Revised PID process approved September 2021 incorporating these factors.</p>	Completed
<p>6.3 We will support sustainable travel by staff and customers at our main Council sites through the provision of bike racks and facilities for staff as well as the promotion of the Government's Cycle to Work Scheme.</p> <p><i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T26</i></p>	<p>A bike rack was be installed at Riverbank in 2023.</p> <p>We are working towards 'Cycle Friendly Employer' accreditation.</p>	Ongoing

The Council			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
6.4 We will carry out a full audit of the Council's carbon footprint to current Government guidance, ensuring parity of scope with North Devon Council to provide future opportunities for comparing performance and best practice, in order to drive change and improvements across both Authorities.	The 2023/2024 update will be available autumn 2024.	Annually	
6.5 We will review consumables purchased and used by the Authority and will seek to move to environmentally positive options. This will include areas such as cleaning materials, stationary usage, tools and machinery.	<p>Consumables will be reviewed as contracts are renewed.</p> <p>We have carried out a Print/scan review to establish how best to meet Council needs whilst minimising printing where possible, being energy efficient etc. We began a phased programme to introduce new, more energy efficient multifunction devices in April 24 and hope to reduce energy consumption by 40%.</p> <p>TDC has agreed a new desktop strategy and will be introducing new Wyse PCs containing up to 60% recycled material and that are more energy efficient (EPEAT Gold and ENERGY STAR qualified).</p>	Target date to be determined but likely to be a medium-term aspiration	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R11			
6.6 We will support staff and members to reduce their carbon footprints by facilitating hybrid working models that support elements of home working and mobile working practices and promoting sustainable transport options such as mileage reduction methods, developing or promoting the use of electric and ultra-low emission vehicles for business purposes and encouraging cycling, walking, car sharing and public transport.	TDC has a home working policy for staff, which has been implemented where possible.	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T4, T7, T26			

The Council		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
6.7 We will review our treasury management policy and resources to determine feasibility of divestment and NDC including and developing ethical investment vehicles within its portfolio.	<p>The use of ethical investments in our own portfolio have been reviewed (here) and the matter taken forward into our latest Treasury Management Strategy.</p> <p>Pensions fall to DCC, and their commitment to a net zero portfolio is given here.</p>	Treasury Management Strategy reviewed on an annual basis.
<p>6.8 We will develop and maintain a communications plan integrated with all departments across the Council to showcase the work of the Authority in leading the response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies. This will include a community facing webpage of information, support and resources, as well as a staff and Member facing information source to internally promote our plans and achievements</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C4</p>	<p>Climate communications plan agreed Nov 2022 and being delivered.</p> <p>Our website has community facing webpages.</p> <p>We are part-funding a Comms post at the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.</p>	Ongoing
6.9 We will encourage staff participation in our carbon ambitions by including 'green' idea generation through training and the corporate appraisal process.	<p>'Green' questions now a standing part of our annual staff survey – reporting to our Member Climate Working Group.</p> <p>We have an online climate change training module available and are hoping to secure Carbon Literacy training through the South West Net Zero Hub.</p> <p>We have no plans to incorporate climate considerations into our corporate appraisal process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Training reviewed Q2 2024</p>
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R19		

The Council		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
6.10 We will integrate consideration of the impacts of climate change into our committee decision making process and ensure that reviews of internal policies will align with our climate emergency and biodiversity priorities.	Revised committee paper format agreed 2021.	Completed
6.11 We will support members on their role in championing, influencing and implementing positive climate change and biodiversity measures within NDC and the wider communities they represent.	<p>The Member Climate Change Working Group is now a constituted group providing strategic input and oversight into a range of areas and reporting their recommendations to C&R Committee.</p> <p>Expert speakers on a range of environmental matters report to various committees.</p> <p>An online climate change training module for members is available and will be reviewed in Q2 2024.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Training reviewed Q2 2024</p>
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C4		
6.11 We will seek to improve the quality and extent of the data in our carbon footprint, particularly for Scope 3 emissions.	Ongoing improvement in data quality and inputs.	Ongoing
6.12 We will develop an offsetting strategy.	Work on an offsetting strategy has begun, however a lack of credible local offsetting schemes mean we are unable to progress this.	By 2030
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F18		

Our Communities			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
7.0 We will support communities in adapting to climate change, sustainability and carbon reduction in community and emergency plans.	The Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly was published in Autumn 2023 and has been endorsed by TDC. We will work with the Devon Community Resilience Forum and the Devon Climate Impacts Group to deliver relevant actions.	Ongoing	
7.1 We will support our towns, parishes and communities with information and support on carbon cutting and biodiversity enhancing projects, funding and opportunities. We will promote the development of local schemes around tree planting, allotments, community gardens and orchard provision.	<p>Wilder Communities event held at Northam in March 2024. We run a series of volunteer events and schools education days at Northam Burrows and Kenwith Nature Reserve.</p> <p>We are working with Appledore School to bring sustainability into all aspects of their curriculum. We are hoping to run tailored education sessions for pupils linked to a bid to the Royal Society's 'Tomorrow's Climate Scientists' fund.</p> <p>Sustainability & Climate Officer attends talks, community events, energy fairs etc as required.</p>	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C2, C3, R1			
7.2 We will support households experiencing fuel poverty by working with partners to promote and implement energy efficiency measures through the adoption of a fuel poverty strategy. This will develop a multi-agency approach to tackling fuel poverty in the district from maximising leverage of existing options to creating enhanced services to residents on energy efficiency/ money management advice and retrofit options.	<p>Fuel Poverty group for Northern Devon under review to ensure it's still fit for purpose.</p> <p>We have a Statement of Intent for Ecoflex and the Great British Insulation Scheme.</p> <p>We have adjusted our housing assistance policy to top up these funds or deal with Category I hazards in owner properties.</p> <p>We provided a letter of support for the Devon consortium LArea retrofit accelerator.</p>	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: B2, B6			

Our Communities		
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion
<p>7.3 We will publicise statutory Minimum Energy Efficiency (MEES) requirements to Landlords, support them in meeting their obligations and align our Housing Enforcement Policy to ensure targeted and effective enforcement of these standards in our private rented sector.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C2</p>	<p>No progress due to pressures on housing team to act on the housing crisis. This action will be reviewed once our new Housing Renewal Team is in place and gained more experience.</p>	<p>No date set</p>
<p>7.4 We will develop guidance for supporting and promoting sustainable events through licensing function and North Devon's Safety Advisory Group.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C2</p>	<p>Guidance published 2022.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>7.5 We will seek opportunities for developing a low carbon economy, promotion of green entrepreneurship and investment through our new Economic Strategy. We will provide businesses with information and support on energy generation, improving energy efficiency and reducing their own carbon footprint. We will support North Devon employers, communities and organisations in declaring their own Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies and developing action plans. We will work with Petroc and support local schools to maximise opportunities for the next generation in our new green future.</p> <p>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R3, R22</p>	<p>The forthcoming Economic Strategy for Northern Devon emphasises the need to develop our green economy.</p> <p>Development of Floating Offshore Wind projects in the Celtic Sea offer a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop a green, high tech economy in northern Devon. We have recruited a Clean Maritime Officer for northern Devon to enhance capacity in this area. We have also received £100k from the South West Net Zero Hub to develop a green hydrogen roadmap for northern Devon.</p> <p>We are partners in a Green Economy Group for northern Devon which will provide advice and support for businesses interested in sustainability and regeneration.</p> <p>Four businesses have been supported by the first round of our Rural England Prosperity Fund for England Net Zero funding. Further funding can be found at North Devon Plus.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Our Communities			
Commitment	2024 Update	Due for Completion	
7.6 We will promote shopping local, promoting farmers markets, direct fish sales and local green start-ups and develop the local green economy and economic generation by pursuing opportunities, funding and seeking cooperation to take full advantage of opportunities.	Support has been provided through the Shared Prosperity Fund for the eat:Bideford market to support local food producers. This event takes place in October, most suppliers are based within 30 miles of the town.	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: <i>F1, F1.1, F1.2</i>			
7.7 We will support our farmers and the agricultural industry to produce more sustainable food.	North Devon+ are supporting the agricultural sector to understand the changing funding landscape and biodiversity requirements. We recently held a special public meeting to address issues facing the agricultural industry.	Ongoing	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: <i>F9, F19</i>			
7.8 We will work with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to deliver actions enabling Devon to become net zero carbon by 2050.	Northern Devon Futures are intending to focus on this as one of the key aims of their strategy. A climate action group has been set up to facilitate this. Climate change will be one focus of the new potentially devolved administration for Devon.	Ongoing	
7.9 We will work with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to deliver actions enabling Devon to adapt to climate change.	We have identified a number of actions within the Adaptation Strategy for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that can be delivered by TDC. This includes provision of information to Town and Parish Councils on the impact of climate change in their area.	Ongoing	

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Head of Communities and Place
To: Community and Resources Committee
Subject: Estuary Strategy – Recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 22/07/24 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal) that “The Council urgently needs an updated Estuary Strategy and that this work should be added to the relevant work schedule or Business Plan” and to provide options

1. INTRODUCTION

On April the 24th 2024 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal) received a progress report from Officers on the preparation of a new Estuary strategy. Disappointed that work had not progressed as they wished the committee resolved to refer the matter to Community and Resources Committee for direction.

2. REPORT

Background

In October 2012 Bideford Harbour Board requested the preparation of an Estuary Strategy and Port and Harbour Business Plan in order that they can better manage the Estuary and Port in synchronicity with, and for the overall benefit of, the council and users. This request was endorsed at C&R committee in Feb 2013 and permission to proceed was received.

The work required to prepare the current Estuary strategy, detailed below, needed input from multiple professional disciplines and specialist external expertise was sought.

UK Port Advisers were commissioned to produce the strategy in March 2013. The commission value was £32,000 at that time.

UK Port Advisers work, which has integrated all relevant disciplines, covers the creation of a high-level strategy for the (relevant parts of the) Taw/Torridge estuary. The strategy that they produced incorporates a high level port and harbour business plan for Bideford. It also includes a review of the existing local legislation under which TDC acts as statutory and competent harbour authority and the extent that changes were or may be needed in order to facilitate TDC's future management of the port and estuary.

1. The content of the high level strategy addresses:
 - land allocation and use;
 - any needs identified in the port and harbour business plan;
 - the Taw and Torridge estuary and coastal management strategy;
 - key stakeholder views;
 - environmental stewardship and duties;



- relevant economic considerations; and
- applicable policy, law and regulation.

Similarly, the content of the high-level port and harbour business plan deals with:

- the future viability of the port;
- its current organisation and management;
- a brief overview of the market;
- an overview of the port's operational capability and needs;
- a review of optimal future geographic locations and land use;
- financial performance to date;
- the port's brand and market position;
- relevant business risks; and
- the governance and management framework.

The main body of the strategy is set at a high level and the general thrust of the document, including the legislative environment that it describes, remain relevant, although many of the specific actions identified within the Port and Harbour Business Plan section are now outdated.

The second list above was relevant in 2014 at point of strategy adoption but is now somewhat out of date and its presence within the strategy document dates the document considerably.

In 2022/23 Internal O&S conducted a review of the 2014 strategy and recommended a number of sections of the document should be updated or strengthened and that this should become a subsequent business plan action for the economic development team.

Progress on delivering the recommendation above has been slow for a number of reasons but most relevant is the fact the team has been fully engaged in delivering projects and initiatives that contribute to the delivery of the Council Strategic plan and the absence of an updated strategy has not hindered this activity.

At Internal O&S on the 24th April Officers presented an update on this item..

A slide presentation was delivered which highlighted the following:

- Initial review by Internal Overview & Scrutiny and context
- Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre
- Celtic Sea FLOW and Harland & Wolff
- Initial review challenges and progress
- Next steps

A lengthy discussion took place and it became clear that while the original recommendation of the Internal O&S working group in 2022 remained relevant there were further actions that the committee now wished to introduce for inclusion within an updated strategy and a much greater piece of work would be required to address what was emerging in discussion.

Detail was provided to the committee about the North Devon & Torridge Maritime Network that had recently been created, organisations involved, the aims and objectives of the group and how it fits in with the Levelling Up Partnership.

Following a query regarding sufficient staff resources, the Head of Communities & Place advised, that jointly with North Devon District Council and through North Devon Plus, a



specialist had been recruited for a 12-month period to assist the Council and provide some extra capacity.

The Chair emphasised the need for an updated document, which encapsulates all the new ideas and opportunities, that can then be fully scrutinised by the Committee and requested a timeline to see greater evidence of a new strategy.

It was proposed by Councillor S Newton, seconded by Councillor C Cottle-Hunkin and resolved:

That the Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to Community & Resources Committee that the Council urgently needs an updated Estuary Strategy and that this work should be added to the relevant work schedule or “Business Plan”.
(Vote: For – unanimous)

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

The legislative context of the council’s responsibility in its relationship with the Estuary is described in the current strategy and this should be updated in either a refresh of the existing strategy or the preparation of a new one.

Financial Implications

A refresh of the existing strategy would be delivered within existing staff resources during 24/25. The appointment of external advice to prepare a new strategy would cost in the region of £50K and there is currently no budget to support this activity

Human Resources Implications

Within existing resources

Sustainability Implications

These will be a key consideration in any new strategy.

Equality/Diversity

None directly related to the decision to be taken at this meeting

Risk Management

These would be key considerations in the preparation of a new strategy. The risks associated with not having a new strategy at this point in time are considered to be low. The greater risk would be in preparing a document in the absence of vital information that is due to emerge during the year as the result could be a strategic document that stifles the Council’s ability to exploit opportunity deliver its approved strategic plan.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

To be considered.



Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Climate Change

To be considered and referenced in any new document

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

This is a recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny committee (Internal). Consultation on the issue has been with that committee.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The current Estuary Strategy is now 10 years old and some aspects of it are undeniably out of date. Equally it makes no reference to the emerging opportunities and much work is currently underway to define those opportunities and subsequently the intelligence that this work will provide will inform the development of a more detailed future strategy.

Officers consider that when the time is right and there is sufficient clarity on what role the authority might want/ need to play in the regulation and management of the Estuary, a future strategy will be helpful in directing actions towards achieving the best outcomes for the council, commerce, community and the environment. In the meantime, the direction provided within the realms of the existing strategy, regulations and powers associated with management of the port of Bideford, estate management controls and the strategic intent set out in both the emerging North Devon and Torridge Economic Strategy and the Maritime Growth Vision provide a good basis for Officer activity and strategic plan delivery. On this basis, a new strategy is not considered necessary at this point in time and a refresh of the existing document would suffice.

Torridge DC and North Devon Council have recently provided funding for a joint Officer (employed by North Devon +) and the assist in the development of policies and projects that strengthen the position of Torridge and North Devon in the maritime environment.

Although this report is in response to a recommendation from Internal O&S it should be noted that the Harbour Board Working Group have an important role to play in the preparation of any revised or new Estuary Strategy.

Officers consider that at this point in time there are realistically two matters for consideration by this committee, those being:

1. Whether to support the recommendation from Internal O&S, that the Council urgently needs an updated Estuary Strategy and that this work should be added to the relevant work schedule "Business Plan".

And if so,

2. Whether this work should be a refresh of the existing strategy to provide a document that can provide high level strategic guidance within the scope of the existing document and that it will not include a full list of actions to support it at this time, or, a new strategy document is commissioned, funding is sought for this and external expertise is procured to produce it at an estimated cost of circa £50K.



5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members consider if they support the recommendation from Internal O&S that the Council urgently needs an updated Estuary Strategy and that this work should be added to the relevant work schedule or “Business Plan”.

And if so, Officers are either tasked with

1. Refreshing the existing strategy in consultation with Harbour Board Working Group and Internal O&S
or
2. Funding is sought for the preparation of a new strategy and a further report is presented to the committee when sufficient funding has been identified and the body of work has been fully scoped.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, Finance Manager and S151 Officer, Head of Operational Services, Economic Development Manager
Contact Officer: Sean Kearney
Background Papers:



has a 3-year lease with TDC. If members approve a rent-free period/reduction in rent, then the Lease can be amended to reflect this position.

Financial Implications

If members agree to a rent free/rent reduction, then this will be a loss of income to the Council

Human Resources Implications

none.

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

none

Equality/Diversity

The aim of this report is to provide support to people that may be classed as vulnerable

Risk Management

n/a

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Complies with the Council's committee resolution.

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Cllr Bob Hicks:-

4. CONCLUSIONS

Members need to decide whether or not charge rent to the Men's Shed or a reduction in the current rent that is being charged. If a rent reduction is recommended what is a suitable reduction.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members have three options:-

- a) To keep the rent at the current ask of £4570;
- b) To agree a reduction in rent;
- c) To charge no rent



Agenda Item 12

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Head of Communities and Place
To: Community and Resources Committee
Subject: Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance
Date: 22/07/24 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider whether Torridge District Council should formally join the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance

1. INTRODUCTION

At Full Council on the 8th April 2024 Cllr Hames proposed the following Written Notice of Motion:

Given this Council's support for a revival of the Bideford to Barnstaple railway link it is proposed that, in common with other local councils, we now help to further that aim by joining the North Devon Railway Development Alliance.

The minutes of the meeting record:

Given this Council's support for a revival of the Bideford to Barnstaple railway link it is proposed that, in common with other local councils, we now help to further that aim by joining the North Devon Railway Development Alliance.

Councillor P Hames presented his Notice of Motion stating that it should read Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance not North Devon Railway Development Alliance.

It was confirmed that a report would be presented to the Community & Resources Committee to establish any implications for TDC to join the alliance.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hames, seconded by Councillor D Brenton and –

Resolved:

That the Notice of Motion be approved.

(Vote: For – 19, Against – 4, Abstention – 5)

The Motion was carried.

2. REPORT

The stated aim of the Alliance is to secure a new rail link between Bideford and Barnstaple and upgrade of the North Devon (Tarka) Line between Exeter and Barnstaple, championing their



transformational benefit for communities and businesses and advocating to decision-makers the economic, social and environmental case for developing and investing in the project.

Torrige District Council has been invited to join the alliance and it has been proposed by Cllr Hames that it does.

The alliance are also supporting proposed improvements to the line and service between Barnstaple and Exeter and have stated that this is the initial priority for Northern Devon. In addition a concurrent work stream is to oversee the delivery of a feasibility study, assessing the viability, benefits and implications of reopening the railway line between Barnstaple and Bideford. Some progress has been made on the latter point although funding from the other partners within the alliance is still being sought.

To date, there has been one meeting of the Alliance at which the Leader, Chairman of the Council, Chief Executive and Head of Communities and Place were invited and attended.

The Torrige Logo is already used in communications issued by the Alliance and other partners already believe that Torrige is an active member. Torrige Officers have been invited to a workshop to develop the business case for proposals on that basis.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

None beyond the initial funding identified for the feasibility study (£10,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 24/25, funds to be spent by 31/03/25)

Human Resources Implications

No additional resource implications

Sustainability Implications

To be assessed in the production of any feasibility study on the reopening of the railway line in conjunction with the impact on other forms of public transport and active travel options.

Equality/Diversity

None

Risk Management

None

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Aligns with the strategic plan objective to investigate, with the relevant partner organisations (North Devon Council, DCC, ACE Rail and Network Rail), the appetite to jointly commission and fund a study to evaluate the economic and environmental benefits and impacts of re-establishing the rail link.

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Climate Change



Joining the alliance would have no impact.

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

This is a cross cutting proposal that does not sit within one ward or one lead member area.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The aims of the Alliance are aligned with the Council's own strategic plan objective and joining does not commit the Council in decision making, policy making, estate management, financial or physical delivery terms.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members consider whether Torridge District Council should become a member of the Northern Devon Railway Development Alliance.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Head of Legal and Governance, Finance
Manager and S151 Officer
Contact Sean Kearney
Officer:
Background
Papers:

