



- b. It highlights the range of projects we have already undertaken to reduce our carbon footprint, acknowledging the progress and achievements we have already made (p.6 – 7)
- c. It sets out our vision, not only in meeting our stated climate ambitions by 2030 but also acknowledging the wider role we have in directing, enabling, encouraging and supporting a move towards a more sustainable future for all. It also acknowledges the economic opportunities available to us in this new world, especially with our rich biodiversity and natural environment (p.8)
- d. It outlines the positioning we have undertaken to take these measures forward: from our environmental commitments given in our new Strategic Plan 2020-2023, to the revised Governance arrangements including the constitution of our Member Climate Emergency Working Group. (p.9 – 10)
- e. There is an outline of the carbon footprinting process, more about which is given later in this report (p.10 – 11)
- f. The plan specifically notes opportunities for Torridge in taking this journey to carbon neutrality (p. 12)
- g. Details of Devon County Council's structure in taking their own climate ambitions and our integration with their process (p. 13 – 14)
- h. Details of the South West's Local Enterprise Partnership's own ambitions, through programmes such as the Build Back Better programme and their Roadmap to Recovery, along with their Local Industrial Strategy – all of which seeks to take advantage of the burgeoning green economy (p.14 – 15)
- i. The role of Development Control is discussed (p. 15 – 16)
- j. Specific consideration is given to biodiversity and the natural environment including our ongoing work with the North Devon Biosphere Reserve (p. 17 – 18)
- k. The role of effective communications of this agenda going forward are discussed (p. 19 – 20)
- l. The final part of the report, from page 21 onwards cover our priorities and plans, broken down in the headings of Energy, Transport, Planning, Biodiversity, Waste and Recycling, The Council and Our Communities. This is covered in more detail below.

## **The Carbon Footprint for TDC**

It is clear that in order to meet our stated target of carbon neutrality we must measure our carbon impacts and usage accurately and regularly and use this as a basis for determining our actions and priorities over the coming years. This process had begun in 2019 however the final determination and reporting was delayed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We did however put in place a number of processes that would allow for the more accurate gathering and reporting of this data in the future, especially around our property energy use and grey fleet. It is necessary to gather and report this data to current national methodology, and work has already commenced on this. We make the commitment to review and update this on an annual basis in order to gauge and inform our progress towards carbon neutrality. In the next iteration of the plan, the information around our carbon usage will be greatly expanded and evidenced.

This will form the basis of priority planning of projects and potentially financial bids going forward.

## **Priorities and Plans section of the Plan**

The Plan seeks to draw together not only our ambitions and opportunities over a range of areas, but also includes workstreams that are already underway or about to be undertaken. These projects touch every department at TDC and there is no single officer or department who is taking this forward – it has to be a corporate wide commitment. However, a process will be developed to monitor, manage and report on all of these threads in order to give an overview of progress against the plan. The key thing to recognise is that these projects are fluid, and priorities and plans will change over the coming years in response to wider influences such as legislative changes and



funding and collaborative opportunities. Again, this will be captured in future plans. At the current time, endorsement of this plan will give approval to explore all of these areas.

Additional items to note.

### **Joint climate post with North Devon Council**

As part of the commitment to delivering on our climate ambitions we have employed a Climate and Sustainability Officer jointly with North Devon Council. Donna Sibley started with us on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021, and her post is hosted by TDC. While this brings another element to the opportunities available to us, it also means that we need to look at the potential for alignment of our priorities and sharing projects across Northern Devon. Donna will be leading on determining our carbon footprint as a priority, and discussions are currently taking place as to how best to make use of this resource effectively across both authorities.

### **Funding our climate ambitions**

It is recognised that this will be a significant interest to members and there may be concerns that approval of this plan will financially commit the authority to unquantified expenditure. At this point we are unable to provide details of the funding that will be needed in the future. This will come out in individual project business plans, capital bids and through existing financial procedures. Going forward, it is envisaged that there will be opportunities for external funding for a number of these workstreams and where this is available, approval of this plan will provide the endorsement to pursue these opportunities. It should also be noted that the national context appears to be shifting towards the green agenda, and it is likely that some areas may be subject to legislation and formal requirement. Costs of this may be recognised and compensated for through central allocation. All in all, this is a fast paced and ever-changing agenda and it is difficult to predict these elements.

## **3. IMPLICATIONS**

### Legal Implications

None

### Financial Implications

None at present.

### Human Resources Implications

NA

### Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

Sustainability and biodiversity are at the heart of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge.

### Equality/Diversity

NA

### Risk Management

NA



Compliance with Policies and Strategies

NA

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

NA

Climate Change

As above

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

I congratulate Janet Williams for producing a well written carbon plan which gives clear direction to the Council and I look forward to continuing to work with her, with the Climate Emergency Working Group and with Councillors to achieve TDC net carbon zero emissions by 2030

**4. CONCLUSIONS**

Approval of this Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge is significant step between recognising and declaring a climate emergency and setting out on our net zero journey. While significant work has already been undertaken, we need to quantify our carbon impacts and set the foundations going forward in order that we meet our stated climate commitment.

**5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Full Council consider and approve the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge.

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Consultations:	Lead Member for Climate – Cllr Hames
Contact Officer:	Jan Williams Public Health and Housing Manager
Background Papers:	None

