

REPORT OF Public Health and Housing Manager

To: Full Council

Subject: Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge - 2022 Update

Date: 13th June 2022

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1. To put forward for approval by Full Council the 2022 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge

1. Introduction

In July 2019 Torridge District Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'. This was in recognition of the science and evidence of the impacts that climate change is having on our environment, population and communities. This declaration committed Torridge District Council to reach net carbon neutrality by 2030.

In 2021 members approved our first Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan and we are committed to reviewing, updating and presenting this to members on an annual basis.

2. The 2022 Plan

The updated plan is attached to this report. It has been developed with input from the Member Climate Working Group who endorse and put forward the plan for approval by Full Council.

The changes/ updates to this year's plan are as follows:

- Added the revised PID process to the governance section
- Added 2021's carbon footprint results (reported to C&R December 2021)
- Added the Coastal Change Management Area Technical Evidence Maps for Torridge
- Updated Devon County Council's carbon plan programme/ progress
- Updated the LEP section to include the Blueprint for Clean Growth
- Provided an outline of the People and Place review
- Provided details of the Nature Recovery Plan (reported to C&R September 2021) and Community Renewal Fund projects added to the biosphere section
- 2021 staff survey results
- New section on risk management which will be further developed through the Member Climate Group
- Updated action plan with additional details provided.

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

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

Human Resources Implications

NA

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

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

Equality/Diversity

N/A

Risk Management

Climate change and our net-zero carbon commitment are included on our Corporate Risk Register.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

NA

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

NA

Climate Change

As above

Lead Member Views – Cllr Hames

I thank Janet Williams for a typically thorough appraisal and review of the Carbon Plan and I commend the proposed revisions to Members. It is my hope that by approving the revised Plan and in the context of the Climate Emergency Members will more fully commit to supporting its provisions. I also strongly suggest that an appropriate budget should be put in place to ensure that the actions detailed in the report are implemented.

8. CONCLUSIONS

We are now in a programme of annual review, update and approval of TDC's Plan and hopefully members will appreciate the ongoing efforts and progress that is being made in this programme. We have laid the foundations for taking forward this Corporate Priority and will continue to refine this Plan to highlight progress, issues and opportunities. This is broad and ever-changing agenda touching most aspects of Council operations but the annual reporting of the Plan allows us to take stock of our progress and focus going forward. We will continue to refine this report in annual iterations, setting targets and developing a 'roadmap' to meet our stated net-neutrality declaration. Meeting our targets will be an ongoing challenge to this Authority given the pressure on resources and competing priorities both locally and nationally.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note and approve the 2022 update of 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