

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:	

