

Impact Assessment

Version 2017

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Assessment of:	Devon County Council's Revised Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy
Service:	Planning, Transportation and Environment

Head of Service:	Dave Black
Date of sign off by Head Of Service/version:	18/9/19
Assessment carried out by (incl. job title):	Doug Eltham, Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer

Section 1 - Background

Description:	<p>An update to Devon County Council's Energy and Carbon Strategy that sets carbon reduction targets for Devon County Council's activity.</p> <p>Climate change is bringing warmer, wetter winters; hotter, drier summers; more intense storm events; and rising sea levels. To minimise the impacts, local leadership is necessary to encourage individuals, communities and organisations in Devon to reduce their carbon emissions which in turn can help influence national and international efforts.</p>
Reason for change/review:	Progress is ahead of existing targets and the climate emergency calls for carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

Section 2 - Impacts, options and recommendations

See sections 3, 4 and 5 for background analysis

Options Appraisal and Recommendations:	<p>It is recommended that the revised strategy should be for Devon County Council to become carbon neutral by 2030, including its corporate activity and supply chain.</p> <p>Further options are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue with the current target to reduce the corporate carbon footprint by 50% by 2030 from 2012/13 levels with no specific mandate to engage the supply chain. This would not demonstrate the local leadership required to accelerate the decarbonisation of Devon and support the UK and the international community in doing the same.2. Adopt even more ambitious targets than those recommended, regardless of the current uncertainty relating to their achievability or affordability. This would provide additional local leadership.
Social/equality impacts (summary):	<p>Climate change will affect everybody in the county, and it will affect people less able to adapt the most. These include less affluent people, those living with physical and mental health conditions and those living in coastal communities or other areas prone to flooding and young people who will live with the effects becoming worse over their lifetimes. Implementing the recommendation will help grow efforts to reduce international carbon emissions and minimise these impacts.</p> <p>Furthermore, implementing the recommendation will require fundamental changes to the way services are provided, which will need to consider the energy used in buildings, transport and the supply of goods and services. This has the potential to impact negatively and positively on service users.</p>
Environmental impacts (summary):	<p>The environmental effects of global climate change beyond 2 degrees are profound. Natural processes that provide us with clean air and water, raw materials, food, fuel and pharmaceuticals will be negatively affected by changes to marine and terrestrial biodiversity brought about by the climate changing more rapidly than species can migrate and adapt.</p>

	<p>There are environmental enhancement opportunities for Devon through the implementation of the recommendation which will require opportunities for carbon offsetting to be developed. This offers the potential to plant trees, re-wet peatlands and restore culm grassland, for example.</p>
<p>Economic impacts (summary):</p>	<p>The Stern Review (2006) identified that climate change will reduce the UK's gross domestic product by 5% every year through impacts on the provision of raw resources, supply chains and workforce productivity.</p> <p>There are also economic opportunities in clean growth that can offset the negative effects. Implementing the recommendation in partnership with other leaders in the southwest will begin to build markets for innovative technology and carbon offsetting opportunities.</p>
<p>Other impacts (partner agencies, services, DCC policies, possible 'unintended consequences'):</p>	<p>All partner agencies will be affected by the climate change described above.</p> <p>Implementing the recommendation will demonstrate local leadership and combine efforts with partner agencies taking similar action.</p>
<p>How will impacts and actions be monitored?</p>	<p>Tactical-level changes to services over the next decade will need to undertake their own impact assessment to consider their effect on equality, environment and economy.</p>

Background Analysis

This section describes how relevant questions and issues have been explored during the options appraisal.

Section 3 - Profile and views of stakeholders and people directly affected

People affected:	Climate change will affect everybody and therefore the result of implementing the recommendation will also affect everybody.
Diversity profile and needs assessment of affected people:	<p>Climate change will affect people less able to adapt the most. These include less affluent people, those living with physical and mental health conditions and those living in coastal communities or other areas prone to flooding and young people who will live with the effects becoming worse over their lifetimes.</p> <p>Implementing the recommendation will require fundamental changes to the way services are provided, which will need to consider the energy used in buildings, transport and the supply of goods and services. This has the potential to impact negatively and positively on all service users.</p>
Other stakeholders (agencies etc.):	
Consultation process and results:	The revision to the Corporate Energy and Carbon Strategy has been consulted with Devon County Council's Environmental Performance Management Group, Environmental Performance Board and the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Climate Change Standing Overview Group.
Research and information used:	United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1.5-Degree Special Report, 2018

Section 4a - Social Impacts

Giving Due Regard to Equality and Human Rights

The local authority must consider how people will be affected by the service, policy or practice. In so doing we must give due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity and
- Foster good relations.

Where relevant, we must take into account the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, race, and religion and belief.

This means considering how people with different needs get the different services they require and are not disadvantaged, and facilities are available to them on an equal basis in order to meet their needs; advancing equality of opportunity by recognising the disadvantages to which protected groups are subject and considering how they can be overcome.

We also need to ensure that human rights are protected. In particular, that people have:

- A reasonable level of choice in where and how they live their life and interact with others (this is an aspect of the human right to 'private and family life').
- An appropriate level of care which results in dignity and respect (the protection to a private and family life, protection from torture and the freedom of thought, belief and religion within the Human Rights Act and elimination of discrimination and the promotion of good relations under the Equality Act 2010).
- A right to life (ensuring that nothing we do results in unlawful or unnecessary/avoidable death).

The Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation does not prevent the Council from taking difficult decisions which result in service reductions or closures for example, it does however require the Council to ensure that such decisions are:

- Informed and properly considered with a rigorous, conscious approach and open mind, taking due regard of the effects on the protected characteristics and the general duty to eliminate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations.
- Proportionate (negative impacts are proportionate to the aims of the policy decision)
- Fair

- Necessary
- Reasonable, and
- Those affected have been adequately consulted.

Characteristics	In what way can you eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage? Are there any lawful, reasonable and proportionate, unavoidable negative consequences?	In what way can you advance equality (meet needs, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, ‘close gaps’). In what way can you foster good relations between groups (tackle prejudice and promote understanding), if relevant?
All residents (include generic equality provisions):	<p>Implementing the recommendation will encourage further action locally that in turn can build momentum for national and international action on decarbonisation to reduce the impacts of climate change on all characteristics.</p> <p>Tactical-level changes to DCC’s services over the next decade will need to undertake their own impact assessment to consider their effect on the equality characteristics of service users.</p>	<p>There will be opportunities to advance equality through the tactical-level changes to DCC’s services over the next decade. These opportunities will need to undertake their own impact assessment to consider their effect on the equality characteristics of service users.</p>
Age:	See above	See above
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, ill)	See above	See above

health) and carers of disabled people:		
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, skin colour, religion and belief:	See above	See above
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men, women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed).	See above	See above
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership:	See above	See above
Other socio-economic factors such as families, carers, single people/couples, low income, vulnerability, education, reading/writing skills, 'digital exclusion' and rural isolation.	See above	See above
Human rights considerations:	See above	

Supporting independence, wellbeing and resilience?

Give consideration to the groups listed above and how they may have different needs.

In what way can you support and create opportunities for people and communities (of place and interest) to be independent, empowered and resourceful?	This will need to be considered at the tactical level as the Authority's services implement decarbonisation opportunities over the next decade.
In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?	This will need to be considered at the tactical level as the Authority's services implement decarbonisation opportunities over the next decade.
In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?	This will need to be considered at the tactical level as the Authority's services implement decarbonisation opportunities over the next decade.

Section 4b - Environmental impacts

An impact assessment should give due regard to the following activities in order to ensure we meet a range of environmental legal duties.

The policy or practice does not require the identification of environmental impacts using this Impact Assessment process because it is subject to (please select from the table below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

	Devon County Council's Environmental Review Process
	Planning Permission
	Environmental Impact Assessment

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:		Decarbonising the supply chain is likely to involve using resources more efficiently and thinking about the circular economy.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:		Building a market for carbon offsets in Devon will provide opportunities to restore and extend habitats.
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	Building a market for carbon offsets in Devon will provide opportunities to introduce features into the landscape, such as trees. These will need to be managed appropriately, taking into account existing landscape quality and character.	Building a market for carbon offsets in Devon will provide opportunities to enhance landscape, taking into account existing landscape quality and character.
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	Potential negative effects on the historic built environment from new technology, however planning policies and procedures exist to safeguard these.	
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:		Decarbonising the Authority will minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):		There will be opportunities alongside decarbonisation to improve air quality (e.g. sustainable transport), water

		quality (e.g. re-wetting peatlands) and light pollution (e.g. upgraded street lighting technology).
Contribute to reducing water consumption:		Consuming water emits carbon emissions due to the electricity required to pump and treat the water. Decarbonising the Authority may involve consuming less water.
Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):		Through carbon offsetting projects in Devon, there is an opportunity to use habitat restoration to reduce flood risk and provide summer shading.
Other (please state below):		

Section 4c - Economic impacts

	Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).	Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).
Impact on knowledge and skills:		Committing to decarbonise the Authority alongside other organisations in Devon will give confidence to a growing market for clean technology and carbon offsets. Decarbonising the authority's supply chain will need to be undertaken sensitively not to unfairly affect SMEs.
Impact on employment levels:		
Impact on local business:		

Section 4d -Combined Impacts

Linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts:	The impacts of climate change will affect society, the environment and the economy. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions globally will minimise its effects. Committing to decarbonise Devon County Council alongside other organisations will have local benefits for the environment through offset opportunities and the development of clean technology.
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Section 5 - 'Social Value' of planned commissioned/procured services:

How will the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area be improved through what is being proposed? And how, in conducting the process of procurement, might that improvement be secured?	n/a
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