

# Impact Assessment



Assessment of: A Clean Growth Vision for Development

Service: Economy Enterprise and Skills

Head of Service: Keri Denton

Version / date of sign off by Head of Service: 20/12/21

Assessment carried out by (job title): Melanie Sealey

## 1. Description of project / service / activity / policy under review

This study was carried out to consider the opportunities for clean growth in the West of East Devon to feed in as evidence to the East Devon District Council local plan consultation process. The Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to reach net zero for the Council in 2030 and for the County by 2050. This study helps identify how the Council can support economic growth in future, while meeting its net zero ambitions through sector innovation, natural capital investment, green skills and reducing emissions from transport and energy, focussing on part of East Devon.

## 2. Reason for change / review

Devon has declared a climate emergency. The report has been commissioned as a pilot approach by the Council to support establishing a clear

framework for transitioning to a net zero economy. This approach can be applied to support other local plan development at the appropriate time, and subject to budget, to support the Devon Carbon Plan implementation.

### 3. Aims / objectives, limitations and options going forwards (summary)

If endorsed by the Council the report will become part of the evidence base for the East Devon local plan consultation.

### 4. People affected, diversity profile and analysis of needs

The vision is based on the idea that long-term job growth will be focused on knowledge-based assets and increased innovation. This is linked to Redefining how we work and live well - unrivalled potential for the provision of a world-class lifestyle offer, set within the context of the Clyst Valley Regional Park and offers the potential for new types of workspace, that seize the opportunities for hybrid working. Also for Zero-Carbon Place-making - ensuring that every home is designed to be zero carbon and to create a sustainable, net zero carbon community. So the intention is for the residents of the area to have an improved quality of life across all aspects of diversity.

### 5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

Stakeholders include local residents, businesses and the public sector. The aim of the study is to generate opportunities for growth, innovation, skills and jobs in the area covered without negatively impacting on our net zero targets, in fact by maximising the opportunity from them. The intention is for impacts to be positive for residents, businesses and the environment.

### 6. Additional research used to inform this assessment

This assessment is of a research piece of work, so no additional research has been carried out.

### 7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

If endorsed by the Council, the report will act as evidence and go into the East Devon local plan consultation process. This is online on the East Devon District Council website for all to input to for a defined period.

### 8. Equality analysis

## 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	Potential or actual issues for this group.  [Please refer to the <a href="#">Diversity Guide</a> and <a href="#">See RED</a> ]	How will the project / service / policy / activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary.</li> <li>advance equality (meet needs / ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps').</li> <li>foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant?</li> </ul> <p>In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim?</p> <p>Are you complying with the <a href="#">DCC Equality Policy</a>?</p>
All residents (include generic equality provisions)	All residents have an equal right to input into local planning consultation processes	No impact
Age	Older people need to be considered regarding use of public transport and new technology in any recommendations.	No impact although if recommendations were implemented in future, these factors would need to be considered.
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term ill health) and carers of disabled people	Disabled people need to be considered regarding use of public transport and new technology, such as electric vehicles in any recommendations.	No impact, although if recommendations were implemented in future, these factors would need to be considered.
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, skin colour, religion and belief	None specifically – climate change affects all Devon residents equally.	No impact
Sex, gender and gender identity (including men,	None specifically – climate change affects all Devon residents equally.	No impact

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women, non-binary and transgender people), and pregnancy and maternity (including women's right to breastfeed)		
Sexual orientation and marriage/civil partnership	None specifically – climate change affects all Devon residents equally.	No impact
Other relevant socio-economic factors such as family size/single people/lone parents, income/deprivation, housing, education and skills, literacy, sub-cultures, 'digital exclusion', access to transport options, rural/urban	Rural transport options need to be considered regarding use of public transport and new technology, such as electric vehicles in any recommendations.	No impact, although if recommendations were implemented in future, these factors would need to be considered.



## 9. Human rights considerations:

No negative consequences envisaged.

## 10. 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?

There are no negative impacts on equality considerations from a decision to endorse this report. The report is aiming to improve the life of residents in the area, particularly around aspects of sustainability but also considering improvements to work life balance and reducing the impact on the local environment, making communities more resilient.

In what way can you help people to be safe, protected from harm, and with good health and wellbeing?

Not applicable

In what way can you help people to be connected, and involved in community activities?

Not applicable

## 11. Environmental analysis

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 mark X in the relevant box below and proceed to the 4c, otherwise complete the environmental analysis table):

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

	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).</b>
Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost:	No impact identified.	The report aims to reduce waste and improve recycling and reuse, including composting.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	No impact identified.	The report aims to maximise the biodiversity benefits from clean growth, including in the Clyst valley regional park.
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	The report is feeding into East Devon's local plan with an aim to make growth net zero. However growth could have an impact on Devon's landscape. These would be safeguarded through the planning process.	Clean growth aims to reduce carbon and transport emissions, improving the enjoyment of Devon's landscape.
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	Any impacts would be safeguarded through the planning process.	No impact identified.
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:	No impact identified.	The report shows how greenhouse gas emissions can be minimised while jobs and growth are created in innovative sectors, that help meet net zero targets.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):	Any impacts would be safeguarded through the planning process.	The report shows how emissions can be minimised while jobs and growth are created in innovative sectors, that help meet net zero targets.
Contribute to reducing water consumption:	Any impacts would be safeguarded through the planning process.	The report aims to minimise water consumption from new growth.

Ensure resilience to the future effects of climate change (warmer, wetter winters; drier, hotter summers; more intense storms; and rising sea level):	No impact identified.	The report is aimed towards making growth net zero, so that it does not further impact on climate change and some innovative solutions proposed could have a positive effect on future resilience.
Other (please state below):		

## 12. Economic analysis

	<b>Describe any actual or potential negative consequences. (Consider how to mitigate against these).</b>	<b>Describe any actual or potential neutral or positive outcomes. (Consider how to improve as far as possible).</b>
Impact on knowledge and skills:	No impact identified.	The report shows key sectors for growth in knowledge and skills linked to net zero growth
Impact on employment levels:	No impact identified.	The report shows key sectors for job creation linked to net zero growth
Impact on local business:	No impact identified.	The report shows innovation and business opportunities linked to net zero growth

## 13. Describe and linkages or conflicts between social, environmental and economic impacts (Combined Impacts):

The report identifies the links between social, environmental and economic impacts of clean growth in the area covered. No conflicts identified.

14. 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?

The Clean Growth Vision developed for the west of East Devon supports the development of clean growth sectors, skills and technologies in the area and provides recommendations and catalytic projects for future investment. So this improves the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area, should the recommendations be implemented.

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

No direct impacts, so no monitoring required at this stage.