

Impact Assessment



Assessment of: Devon County Council's Low Carbon Supply Chain Strategy

Service: Planning, Transportation and Environment

Head of Service: Meg Booth

Date of sign off by Head of Service: 30/09/2022

Assessment carried out by: Doug Eltham, Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer

1. Description of activity under review

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.

Devon County Council (DCC) has declared a climate emergency and is a founding partner and principal funder of the [Devon Climate Emergency \(DCE\)](#) partnership. In signing the [Devon Climate Declaration](#), DCC has committed to working collaboratively with partners to engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to achieve the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions across the area to net-zero by 2050 at the latest.

As part of this effort, DCC has committed to become a net-zero carbon organisation, including its supply chain, by 2030. The Low Carbon Supply Chain Strategy will guide how DCC engages its suppliers and designs its procurement and commissioning activity to meet this target.

DCC officers on the Low Carbon Supply Chain Steering Group, the Environmental Performance Management Group and the Environmental Performance Board, as well as the elected Members of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee Standing Overview Group, have had the opportunity to influence the Strategy.

Devon County Council's Cabinet is recommended to endorse the Strategy.

2. Reason for change / review

DCC does not have a strategy to accelerate delivery of a net-zero supply chain. This is needed in light of the 2030 target.

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

DCC has two options available:

- a. Endorse the Strategy (the recommendation made to Cabinet). This will set the authority on the right trajectory to meet the 2030 target.
- b. Do not endorse the proposed responses. This is not recommended because it would leave DCC without a strategy to meet the 2030 target and would not demonstrate leadership to local partners and its supply chain.

4. People affected and their diversity profile

Climate change will affect everybody and therefore the result of implementing the recommendation will also affect everybody.

5. Stakeholders, their interest and potential impacts

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.

Implementing the recommendation will require fundamental changes to the way some goods and services are procured and commissioned. This

has the potential to impact negatively and positively on different communities, depending upon circumstance, if not designed carefully. Service-level decisions will be subject to their own impact assessments.

6. Research used to inform this assessment

- United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 1.5-Degree Special Report, 2018.
- Grantham Institute Briefing Paper No.31, Co-benefits of climate change mitigation in the UK, 2019.
- The Devon Carbon Plan.

7. Description of consultation process and outcomes

This assessment has not been the subject of consultation. DCC officers on the Low Carbon Supply Chain Steering Group, the Environmental Performance Management Group and the Environmental Performance Board, as well as the elected Members of the Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee Standing Overview Group, have had the opportunity to influence the Strategy.

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 Diversity Guide and See RED]	In what way will you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> eliminate or reduce the potential for direct or indirect discrimination, harassment or disadvantage, where necessary. advance equality (to meet needs/ensure access, encourage participation, make adjustments for disabled people, 'close gaps'), if possible. foster good relations between groups (tackled prejudice and promoted understanding), if relevant? In what way do you consider any negative consequences to be reasonable and proportionate in order to achieve a legitimate aim? Are you complying with the DCC Equality Policy ?
All residents (include generic equality provisions)	<p>The transition to net-zero will have far reaching and profound implications for how communities function and how behaviours will need to change.</p> <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>	Tactical-level changes to DCC's procurement and commissioning of services over the next decade to deliver the Strategy will need to undertake their own impact assessment to consider their effect on the equality characteristics of service users.
Age	See above	See above
Disability (incl. sensory, mobility, mental health, learning disability, neurodiversity, long term)	See above	See above

ill health) and carers of disabled people		
Culture and ethnicity: nationality/national origin, ethnic origin/race, 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 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	See above	See above

9. Human rights considerations:

The transition to net-zero will have far reaching and profound implications for how communities function and how behaviours will need to change. Implementing the recommendation will help grow efforts to reduce international carbon emissions and minimise these impacts on everyone.

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?

This will need to be considered at the tactical level as the Authority's services implement carbon reduction opportunities through procurement and commissioning.

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 carbon reduction opportunities through procurement and commissioning.

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 carbon reduction opportunities through procurement and commissioning.

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	

	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:		Reducing the carbon emissions from procurement and commissioning will involve using resources more efficiently.
Conserve and enhance wildlife:	There are potential negative effects on wildlife from new sustainable energy and transport infrastructure, which may form part of procurement and commissioning activity, however planning policies and procedures exist to avoid or minimise such impacts.	Reducing the carbon emissions from the Councils and services procurement and commissioning activity will seek carbon offsetting which if delivered appropriately can benefit wildlife.
Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of Devon's landscape:	The need for new sustainable travel and energy infrastructure, as well as retrofitting buildings, which may form part of procurement and commissioning activity, will introduce new features into the landscape. These will need to be managed appropriately, taking into account existing landscape quality and character. Planning policies and procedures exist to avoid or minimise such impacts.	
Conserve and enhance Devon's cultural and historic heritage:	Potential negative effects on the historic built environment from new sustainable travel and energy infrastructure, as well as retrofitting buildings, may occur. However planning policies	

	and procedures exist to safeguard these.	
Minimise greenhouse gas emissions:		Achieving net-zero across Devon will minimise greenhouse gas emissions.
Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise):		Minimising fossil fuel consumption will improve air quality and reduce land and water pollution. Achieving less car use would reduce plastic pollution from tyres and brake pads.
Contribute to reducing water consumption:		Retrofitting buildings 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):		The Council's services' procurement and commissioning decisions designed to reduce carbon emissions will need their own impact assessment to check for mal-adaptation.
Other (please state below):		

12. Economic analysis

	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:	None	There is considerable potential for the transition to clean transport, energy and retrofitting technologies to create new skills requirements.
Impact on employment levels:	Employment levels in carbon intensive and unsustainable sectors will decline, but these are expected to be outweighed by increased opportunities for employment in other sectors.	There is considerable potential for the transition to clean transport, energy and retrofitting technologies to create new jobs.
Impact on local business:	None	There is considerable potential for the transition to clean transport, energy and retrofitting technologies to increase local economic prosperity. All business sectors that adopt clean vehicles and retrofit their business premises will have a competitive advantage.

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

The impacts of climate change will affect society, the environment and the economy. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions locally to demonstrate leadership globally, will minimise its effects.

DCC's leadership on net-zero procurement and commissioning activity throughout the Council will help create a fairer, healthier, more resilient and more prosperous society, particularly in combination with the same behaviour from the Devon Climate Emergency partnership.

There is considerable potential for the transition to clean technologies to create new jobs and skills requirements, improve energy security and increase economic prosperity in Devon.

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?

See 13.

15. How will impacts and actions be monitored?

The Strategy explains how contract monitoring will be undertaken. This will involve suppliers receiving assistance to upskill their carbon literacy so that they can report carbon emissions data to the authority.