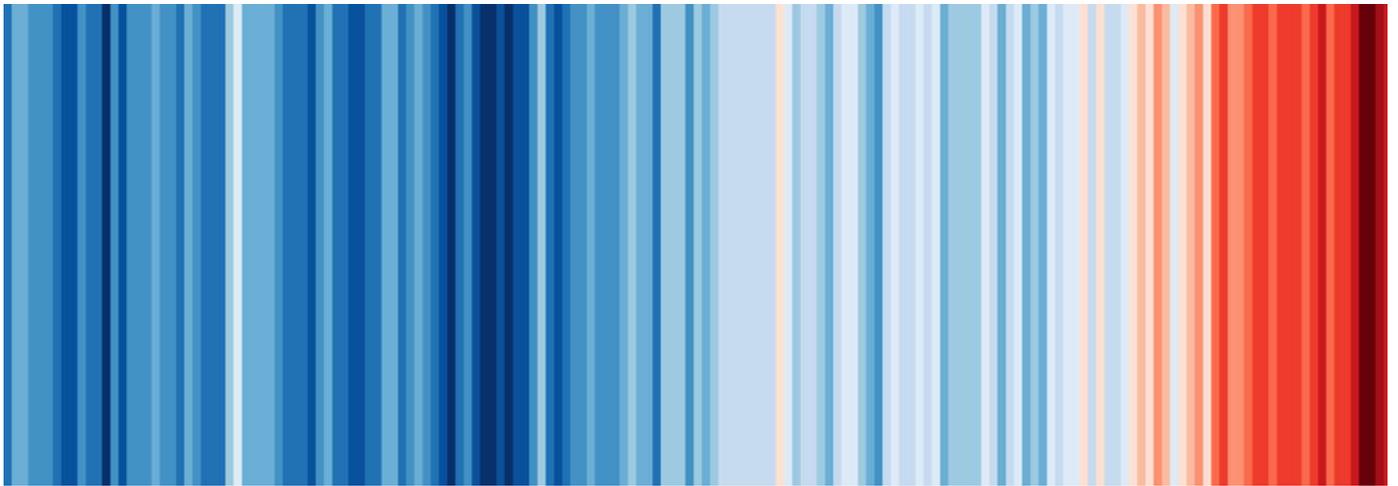
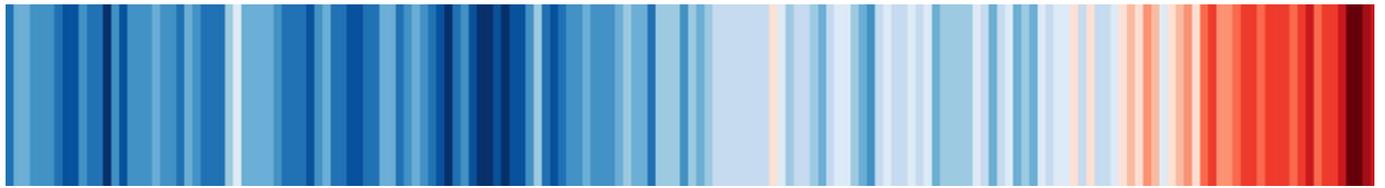


South Hams District Council Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy





(‘Warming Stripes – Global’ Ed Hawkins, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Reading)

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Executive Summary

We are facing an unprecedented challenge in dealing with Climate Change, anthropogenic emissions has resulted in runaway heating of our atmosphere, illustrated by the ‘warming stripes’. These emissions, coupled with rapid biodiversity and ecosystem loss, is combining to create a mass extinction event that threatens all life on our planet. In South Hams, people will likely experience rising sea levels, more frequent flooding, stronger storms and more frequent heat waves as a direct result of Climate Change. In response to this South Hams District Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency on 25th July 2019, and have been working with partners to develop a set of aims and an action plan.

This strategy was developed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic where it demonstrated just how quickly we can all adapt to new ways of working, living and thinking. During this time we saw how unmanaged verges and natural space can burst with life, providing a much needed boost to local wildlife, we saw the biggest work from home experiment the nation has ever seen and we saw what a world would look like with less traffic and more people taking up cycling as well as spending time walking in their local areas for exercise, to list just a few examples. This didn’t come without its challenges and we will emerge into a very different economic landscape that will have direct impacts on the community that we serve. However, and we must now take some of these lessons to drive a more environmentally friendly recovery and renewal, this strategy will sit alongside the emerging Recovery and Renewal Plan where the environmental impact of recovery/renewal is assessed and managed with resulting actions taken in line with delivery of the actions within this Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy.

This strategy contains a series of actions will set the main priorities for the Council related to Climate Change and Biodiversity

The Council has committed to the following aims;

1. That the Council aim to reduce its organisational carbon emissions (Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions) to net-zero by 2030;

2. That the Council commit to working with partners through the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group to aim to reduce the District of South Hams' carbon emissions to net zero by 2050 at the latest;
3. That the Council aim for a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain in the habitat value of its green and wooded public open space by 2025;

Forward by Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader of South Hams District Council:

Evidence shows that humans have already caused climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by one degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

Atmospheric Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

"We, and the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group, recognise that much of what needs to be done is beyond the ability of any one authority, but we remain committed to working together, with partners, stakeholders, the private and public sectors to do what we can."

"As an organisation, through workshops with councillors and staff, we have brought together a list of ideas that will form the basis of our plans for reducing our own organisational footprint, and ideas that are outside of our control which we would need to work with partners and communities on."

PART ONE

1. Introduction

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius was published in October 2018 and describes the enormous harm that a 2 degrees Celsius is likely to cause compared to a rise of 1.5 degrees. The report went on to say that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) stated that around 25% of the world's species are now at threat of extinction due to habitat loss and the effects of climate change. The Committee on Climate Change recently reported that for the UK to reach 'carbon net zero' by 2050, there will have to be a quadrupling of low carbon electricity, major scale carbon capture and storage.

It is estimated that, globally, humans need to reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from the current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible. This will need ambitious action from national and sub national authorities, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities. Current local and global plans and policies are not going to meet this target.

Organisations and local Councils around the world are responding to this by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing to address this emergency.

After Devon County Council declared a Climate Emergency on 21 February 2019, the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG) was formed, which will facilitate effective action across a broad partnership. South Hams District Council declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency in 2019 and signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration, alongside a wide range of partners, on 6 June 2019

During the opening statement at the UN Climate Change Conference 25th Conference of the Parties (COP25), the Secretary-General António Guterres had a stark warning: "The point of no return is no longer over the horizon. It is in sight and is hurtling towards us."

We recognise the brevity of this this challenge and whilst this all may seem daunting we still have time to limit catastrophe and even at a local level we can do our bit to help meet this aim. It cannot be underestimated what the scale of the challenge means, it is not clear if the goal is achievable, however the Council is committed to pursuing this.

The Council does not have all the answers or have the means to provide all the solutions, the response to climate change demands a linked up approach across sectors, agencies, government, business and local residents. The Council does recognise however that our position in leadership can prove invaluable in galvanising a collective approach and facilitating effective partnership working across Devon.

Ultimately, we will be guided by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals' which focuses not only on addressing climate change but also driving increases in social justice locally and globally through a fair and just transition to a sustainable future.

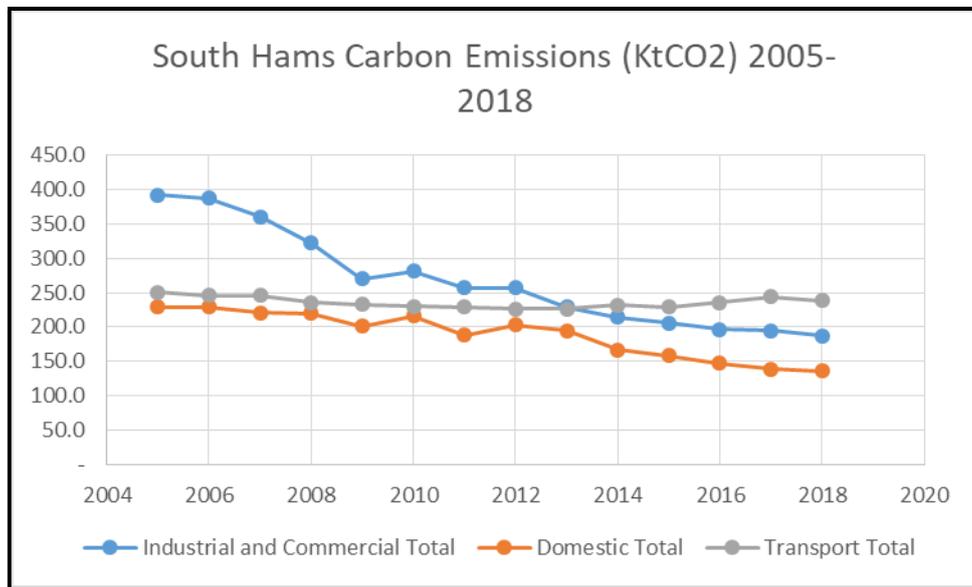
2. Understanding South Hams Carbon Emissions

In developing a strategy for how we can help the district become net zero by 2050, we must first understand broadly what the various sector emissions are in order to direct plan actions more efficiently

The Joint Local Plan Councils produces an annual monitoring report (AMR) as part of our obligations to review the effectiveness of our planning policies, whilst this is heavily directed towards housing and employment figures, the Plymouth and South West Joint Local Plan set a policy objective to half 2005 carbon emissions levels by 2034 (this is the life of the development plan). The 2018-2019 AMR contains the following breakdown of the carbon emissions levels for South Hams which is derived from data from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, new data was published in June 2020 to contain 2018 estimates, table 1 and graph 1 below illustrates this data

Year	A. Industry and Commercial Electricity	B. Industry and Commercial Gas	C. Large Industrial Installations	D. Industrial and Commercial Other Fuels	E. Agriculture	Industry and Commercial Total	F. Domestic Electricity	G. Domestic Gas	H. Domestic Other Fuels	Domestic Total	I. Road Transport (A roads)	J. Road Transport (Motorways)	K. Road Transport (Minor roads)	L. Diesel Railways	M. Transport Other	Transport Total
2005	175.2	84.9	5.6	93.2	33.8	392.7	120.7	70.0	38.6	229.3	192.4	-	53.0	3.5	1.7	250.7
2006	183.7	84.6	5.6	81.9	32.4	388.2	122.4	66.9	39.8	229.1	185.4	-	54.7	3.4	2.7	246.2
2007	187.5	56.0	5.6	81.8	29.9	360.8	121.9	62.1	36.2	220.3	182.1	-	57.6	3.8	2.6	246.1
2008	175.0	50.6	2.8	64.1	29.9	322.3	116.1	64.9	38.5	219.6	171.3	-	58.2	3.8	2.6	235.9
2009	136.9	40.9	-	63.0	29.6	270.4	105.7	59.3	36.4	201.4	170.6	-	55.7	3.7	2.5	232.6
2010	138.4	50.3	0.0	63.4	29.4	281.5	108.8	65.7	41.2	215.6	168.9	-	55.3	3.8	2.6	230.5
2011	127.9	41.0	0.0	58.0	30.3	257.2	102.0	53.0	33.1	188.2	170.9	-	52.5	3.7	2.3	229.4
2012	131.9	45.3	0.0	49.8	30.2	257.2	111.2	58.4	33.3	202.9	170.6	-	50.0	3.8	2.3	226.7
2013	117.0	38.4	0.2	45.4	28.4	229.4	99.7	61.2	33.4	194.3	168.7	-	51.4	3.8	2.2	226.1
2014	99.1	33.1	0.0	51.8	29.8	213.8	85.0	51.4	30.0	166.3	171.8	-	54.3	3.9	2.1	232.1
2015	86.1	36.1	-	53.0	30.4	205.6	73.3	55.1	30.1	158.5	168.9	-	53.9	3.9	2.1	228.8
2016	72.5	36.7	0.0	55.7	31.5	196.4	59.3	57.4	30.1	146.8	172.6	-	56.9	3.8	2.2	235.5
2017	65.5	37.9	0.0	59.0	31.9	194.3	52.0	56.5	29.7	138.2	180.6	-	57.9	3.7	2.2	244.4
2018	59.8	38.4	0.0	56.6	31.8	186.7	47.3	58.5	29.7	135.5	174.3	-	58.3	3.3	2.1	238.0

(Table 1: Breakdown of Carbon Emissions from 2005 to 2018 for South Hams, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2018 estimates, 2020)



(Graph 1: sector emissions for South Hams between 2005 and 2018, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2018 estimates, 2020)

In South Hams whilst the trend has continued to decline there was a rise between 2016 and 2017 resulting from an increase in road transport on both A road and minor roads. The most polluting sectors continue to be in transportation whilst industrial and domestic continue to fall.

Both data sets show that whilst carbon emissions continue to decline, there remains a challenge with tackling emissions across all sectors to bring these down at a much faster rate than has happened to date. Clearly then, the council will need to help facilitate, and create the conditions which will enable business and residents to reduce their carbon emissions, this can be achieved through regulatory systems such as planning, as well as through engagement and collaborative working.

(Officer Note – Seeking some data relating relating to habitat sites in our area to include here)

3. Developing the plan

In declaring a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency, South Hams District Council recognises that urgent action needs to be taken to reduce carbon emissions and protect ecosystems and wildlife. South Hams District Council is committed to developing an action plan outlining how the Council will meet, or exceed, the UN's IPCC carbon reduction recommendations

South Hams covers an area of 886.5 km² sq.km, the area contains a number of market and coastal towns with a wider network of towns, villages and hamlets which provide homes for 86221 people.

Rural South West Devon has a diverse economy. In 2012 the top employment sectors were retailing, public sector services, tourism, construction and manufacturing. A key issue impacting on the economy of South Hams is the relatively low wage rates of those who work within the area, contrasting with higher resident wage rates and high skills levels amongst people who live in the area. Consequently, our area experiences significant levels of out-commuting to work and below national average employment levels. This raises a significant challenge in responding to Climate Change in our administrative area, connectivity and transportation is a leading contributor to carbon emissions.

From a biodiversity perspective, South Hams has a rich natural environment and is characterised by important landscape designations, including the neighbouring Dartmoor National Park, the Tamar Valley and the South Devon and Cornwall Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and heritage coast. Additionally there are number of European protected wildlife sites, designated and protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations for the protection of important species.

South Hams in particular is susceptible to the impacts of climate change, the coastal communities around the southern fringes will be impacted by rising sea levels, its towns such as Totnes, Modbury and Kingsbridge have frequent flooding issues and the area has community resilience issues as a result poor public transport connections between village, hamlets and towns.

The consequences of climate change extend beyond physical impacts to the environment it also has health impacts to the population, poor air quality can lead to numerous cardiovascular diseases, increasing temperatures can lead to heat related mortality, and rising energy prices can result in increased fuel poverty. These health impacts can also become mentally harmful, those directly affected by flooding can have their lives upended, and needing months sometimes years to recover¹ and many people are already feeling anxiety, fear and grief due to the changes that are happening now across the world and psychologists are seeing a rise in 'Eco-anxiety'²

A Local Authority has many opportunities and powers to address Climate Change & Biodiversity Loss but it is important to recognise these powers are not unlimited. We have very few powers to raise finance directly and instead we must capitalise on our ability to develop partnerships, provide leadership and enabling a collective approach through galvanizing our residents and encouraging and supporting flourishing eco businesses and third sector bodies and community groups

The Localism Act 2011 replaced the Well-being Power (Local Government Act 2000) with the General Power of Competence (GPC) which gives LAs much greater freedom to act, subject to a few restrictions, and which provides the main legal basis for how a Local Authority (LA) can contribute to tackling Climate Change and Biodiversity loss.

The Committee on Climate Change recommends that local authority plans should include a high level of ambition for emissions reduction, and focus on emissions drivers and adaptation activity over which local authorities have control or influence

There are distinct areas of action the council can act on, and these are;

- Areas we can directly control/guide
- Areas we can enable through funding
- Areas we can enable through policy and regulatory systems
- Areas we can influence locally
- Areas we can influence nationally through request and lobby

The Committee on Climate Change published a report³ advises how local authorities can most effectively reduce emissions and manage climate risk in their areas. South Hams is a 'district' within the meaning of the report, the districts are responsible for housing, leisure and recreation, environmental health, waste collection and planning services. The image below illustrates what the plan aims to achieve by who and how.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prepare-for-flooding-to-reduce-impacts-on-mental-health>

² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30081-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30081-4/fulltext)

³ CCC 2012, How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate risk

Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency – South Hams Plan



The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) 2019 Progress Report to Parliament⁴ points to several priorities for the Government in stepping up their delivery approach to responding to Climate Change, whilst directed at central Government the same aims can apply to us too, these were;

1. Embed net-zero policy across all levels and departments of government, with strong leadership and coordination at the centre
2. Make policy business-friendly
3. Put people at the heart of policy design
4. Support international increases in ambition and celebrate the UK ambition

South Hams District Council has a commitment to help the area become carbon neutral by 2050, the authority has an opportunity to show leadership and help foster collective action through a new climate aware implementation of policies, investment and engagement and the decisions we make can have long lasting environmental impacts and also shape the way we live. There are some key strategies and programmes being developed or altered which align with this Climate Action Plan and will be critical to ensuring success, such as:

- Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (including plan revisions expected to begin in 2021)
- Devon Carbon Plan
- Plymouth Carbon Plan?
- Recovery and Renewal Plan

This Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy represents the culmination of this work to date, there is no such thing as a 'final' version as this will constantly reviewed as demands change. We expect that this Strategy will be reviewed and refined based on continuous feedback and further engagement

⁴ CCC, 2019, 2019 Progress Report to Parliament

PART TWO

4. South Hams District Council Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan Framework

We began the process soon after the declaration of a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency this started with us beginning to understand our own carbon emissions as an Authority and then what followed was a collective effort from all our services to begin to pull together a list of actions that could ultimately form our Action Plan, this was then consulted on during January 2020

Our work to date and engagement activities began with establishing 13 areas that reflect the priorities of the residents and business within South Hams. These 13 areas form the basis of the approach to the delivery the Carbon Action Plan and can be grouped into four objectives that align strongly with the themes of many other leading cities.

Objective 1 - Energy

Energy Supply
New Developments
Existing Buildings

Objective 2 - Sustainability

Walking Cycling and Public Transport
Strategic Transport Planning
New Developments
Greening the Economy
Waste and Resources

Objective 3 - Land Use and Biodiversity

Agriculture
Land Use Change for Carbon Sequestration
Biodiversity

Objective 4 - Capability & Engagement

Behaviour Change & Communication
Community Engagement
Individual and Collective Action

5. Community Reflections

Engagement with the community is an important step and something that should not end, given that collective effort is needed from all. However, the Action Plan did have an engagement process and here are **some** of the reflections from that process and some insights from our member working groups that have informed the production of this plan.

(INSERT BUBBLE COLLAGE OF COMMENTS GROUPED BY THEME)

'(cycling) can be pretty scary in our narrow twisty rural roads - not just the lanes either - and irritating to drivers having to slow down because they can't overtake. Perhaps some public awareness of this problem, if it is to become the norm in the future.'

'We all know that bus services are slowly and steadily being reduced. If we want people to use public transport we need to have a much improved service'

'I understand the mown verges are for visibility but they don't have to be as drastic as they have in recent years.'
'Let's have a bit more consideration for the effect that these extreme 'neatness' treatments have on the wildlife.'

'Good ideas. Divesting from unethical banks and fossil fuel companies is very important. As is subsidising green transport.'

'Although it is interesting to see what the Council plans to do to reduce its carbon emissions (many would expect you to be doing these things anyway as they save money) these actions are not hugely relevant to the wider community and should be kept within the Operational Carbon Reduction Plan.'

'The wider community do not see Climate Change as something that the Council alone can/should deal with. We are all responsible for using energy and so the plan needs sign up from residents, businesses, the voluntary sector, the smaller Councils, schools and the environmental groups and we perhaps need to have a clearly branded message that acts as an umbrella for all the actions being taken to reduce carbon emissions.'

'About a third of the carbon emissions in the District come from transport and so this is an area we really need to focus on. However, in a rural area such as ours it's hard to reduce person car use due to the lack of good public transport. For those households who cannot afford a private car, it is easy to become isolated due to the lack of public transport.'

The Council should support promotional campaigns aimed at reducing waste of all kinds to the wider community. We want to be able to recycle more of our waste.

The Council should support Buy Local messages via your media channels – to reduce carbon emissions associated with importing goods to us.

Tackling climate change is such a huge issue that everyone needs to be involved in solving it and to do their bit. The Council can quite easily bring organisations together to agree what actions to take and to develop solutions that don't leave anybody out and are acceptable to the majority of people

PART THREE

6. How South Hams District Council will be changing and what we will be doing directly?

South Hams District Council has committed to reducing operational carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2030 and this forms one of the two action plans, The Operational Carbon Reduction Plan – Reducing Our Footprint, the other being The South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Action. The operational emissions are broken down into Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions;

Scope 1 - Direct emissions

Activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. They are direct emissions.

Examples of scope1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles; emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.

Scope 2 - Energy indirect

Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with your consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of your organisation's activities but which occur at sources you do not own or control.

Scope 3 - Other indirect

Emissions that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classed as scope2 emissions. Examples of scope 3 emissions are business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation, waste disposal, or purchased materials or fuels.

In summary we will be; **(to be sense checked with colleagues)**

- Reducing the resources we use such as paper and water and Improvements in the energy efficiency of our buildings, to improve comfort, lower bills and prepare for a switch to low-carbon heating.
- Supporting the public and the council for a move away from natural gas heating.

- Heat pumps to be seen as an established part of the solution, requiring strong progress during the 2020s within our buildings.
- An end to biodegradable waste streams going to landfill after 2025, with supporting actions through the waste chain.
- Preparing for an increase in the market share of electric vehicles (EVs) during the 2020s with an expansion of EV charging
- Increase the tree canopy cover on our owned land, and re-wild, smarter management and maintain trees and woodland; redesign parks to be carbon neutral.
- Supporting improvements in diet and increased walking and cycling among our staff, increasing support for remote working
- Ensuring that our suppliers have the lowest carbon impact possible
- We will promote virtual meetings rather than travelling, where appropriate.
- Fully supporting remote working to reduce staff commuter mileage
- Introduction of carbon/ environmental impact and climate risk assessments procedures to guide Council decision making to be included on the report template

There are more actions and the details of these are found within our 'Operational Carbon Reduction Plan', and in terms of what we have done and what we are seeking to do, the story so far is....

OUR COUNCIL - South Hams

Reducing our Carbon Footprint and increasing Biodiversity

The Councils total carbon footprint is estimated at 8000 metric tonnes of CO2 per year.
The Council has put £400,000 aside to help fund climate change plans




The story so far

What we have already done to reduce our carbon footprint:

At our Offices

- Electric car charging points
- Energy efficient bulbs
- Paperless offices
- Meeting agendas accessed electronically

For our Residents

- Promote Eco grants for homes

In our Policies

- Good EP ratings on new developments
- Policy to buy goods and services sustainably
- Joint Local Plan – reduce carbon footprint and encourage walking and cycling friendly developments

Cars and transport

- Electric pool car
- Reduced business miles
- Skype meetings instead of travel
- Saved a million miles in officer travel

What Next

Some of our ideas to help us reach carbon neutral:

At our Offices

- Webinar training to reduce travel
- More sophisticated thermostats
- Water saving taps and wc's

In our Leased Assets

- Improve the energy efficiency
- Secure more renewable energy

For our Residents

- New waste service – more recycling
- Stream council meetings – reduce travel
- More information on how to reduce carbon footprint
- Litter, packaging and waste are key messages

Fuel consumption and energy generation

- Create a Green Energy Company
- Alternative heat system for Follaton House
- Buy truly renewable fuel

For our Biodiversity

- Signpost, collaborate and enable more

Moving forward, the next part of the strategy, Part 4, is the action plan, containing a series of actions and performance indicators under the 4 objectives which will provide a basis for how the council will assist the area in becoming net zero by 2050.

PART FOUR – The Action Plan

7. Energy

Energy is essential, it supports our society, keeping heat in our homes, powering our hospitals and schools and fuels transportation. We know our natural resources are finite, and it's because of this we need to transition to using much less, or none at all and a significant challenge arises in meeting this need whilst also meeting current demand.

Fuel Poverty is also a related issue, inefficient homes can lead to excess energy bills for some of the poorest in our community and the health impacts of living in a cold or damp home can lead to cardiovascular and respiratory ill health as well as poor mental health⁵, this illustrates how dealing with climate change represents a scientific challenge as well as a social and ethical one and that a response to climate change must be fair and just.

The UK continues to move towards the legally binding commitment of reducing our national carbon emissions to "net zero" greenhouse gases by 2050 (Climate Change Act 2008, 2019 Amendment) and South Hams and West Devon Borough Council has a commitment to reduce its own emissions to net zero by 2030. We have an important role through seeking developments that are well designed and which support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy, helping people make more conscious energy choices, supporting the transition to renewable energy across the district, improving the energy efficiency of existing development.

What have we already done?

(to be completed following circulation and sessions with colleagues)

What we propose to do

(these actions will be refined following officer working groups to be re-established)

Id	Objective / Target	Activities	KPIs	Timescales	Priority
	Investigate alternative heating systems - Biomass boilers, Air/ Ground source heat pumps, additional PV at relevant buildings	Council to produce a report on its buildings with a cost analysis for installing PV and heat pumps			
	Investigate procuring truly renewable energy.	Council to discuss with community energy providers and aid and support them in developing their renewable sites		2021	
	Explore forming a non-profit green energy company	The Council to discuss with Western Power Distribution to determine the actions required to increase local network resilience to increase renewable energy capacity in the South Hams and West Devon as a basis of forming a green energy company			
	Identify areas suitable for renewable energy in the local plan	Allocate X amount of land for renewable energy production within the Plan Area. This work will require a call for sites which could take place alongside the plan review in 2021	Land allocated for renewable energy in the Joint Local Plan revision	2022	

⁵ https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/fuel_poverty_social_impact_bonds.pdf

	Identify options for how smart renewable heat, power generation and storage could be considered when the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan are reviewed				
	Aim for a Higher result in the energy performance certificates	Joint Local Plan review for policy DEV32 and/or supplementary planning document for energy?	1) Policies amended within the Joint Local Plan and/or SPD issued for energy and efficiency? 2) X amount of new development is rated A		
	Explore installing electric car charging points in car parks	Whilst an operational objective, the benefits will extend outside of the council to the public.	EV charging installed in council car parks (need something measurable and achievable, maybe limit this to larger car parks, unrealistic to achieve ALL)	2022	
	Promote ECO grants for home insulation, efficient heating systems and sustainable energy sources for owner occupied and tenanted properties	Raise awareness for ECO grant scheme as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	

8. Sustainability

In 1987, the United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as **“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”** Today, there are almost 140 developing countries in the world seeking ways of meeting their development needs, but with the increasing threat of climate change, concrete efforts must be made to ensure development today does not negatively affect future generations.⁶

Three common challenges were highlighted then, Population and Human Resources, Food Security: Sustaining the Potential, Species and Ecosystems: Resources for Development, Energy: Choices for Environment and Development, Industry: Producing More With Less, The Urban Challenge

In essence, sustainability is about living within our means, doing the same or more with less and ensuring that needs of the present can be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

We aspire to create these conditions the best we can by encouraging residents and business to make more sustainable choices in their day to day lives, using our legislative system to create more sustainable development and working collaboratively with external bodies to aid with these aims

What have we already done?

(to be completed following circulation and sessions with colleagues)

What we propose to do

(these actions will be refined following officer working groups to be re-established)

⁶ <https://academicimpact.un.org/content/sustainability>

Id	Objective / Target	Activity	KPIs	Timescales	Priority
	Introduce differential changes to parking permits e.g Higher carbon emission vehicles pay more.				
	Ensure new housing developments are much more walking and cycling friendly.	major development sites to include off road cycle routes to link between other cycle routes where connections exist https://www.traveldevon.info/cycle/cycle-routes/cycle-maps/			
	Promote/ Require buses to be Electric	Lobby action to bus companies		By December 2020	
	Investigate electric bike hire in towns & maybe tourist areas in summer start to change culture. Great idea for council workers to use them				
	Influence and Support County Council to provide cycle networks around the District and Borough	Whilst District and Borough Councils are not responsible for highways, a strategic cycle network strategy could be developed and major development site should include off road cycle routes to link between other cycle routes			
	Lobby Government for Electrification of the main train lines	Lobby action			
	SH moving to the Devon Aligned Service 2020				
	Rationalise bottle banks in South Hams				
	Promote zero to incineration by improved communications	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Create a new EP policy to ensure correct use of litter bins potentially reducing collection need				
	The Council will support the principles proposed through the English Waste Strategy regarding the Extended Producer Responsibility. The principles support a circular economy approach which will be funded by	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	

	producers and will lead to better packaging design, improved recycling and better consumer awareness of what can be recycled.				
	Achieve better EPC ratings on new Developments.	Joint Local Plan Policy/Supplementary Planning Guidance?	1) Joint Local Plan Review 2) X amount of new development is rated A	2022	
	Promote the use of recycled and Sustainable construction materials through input at planning stage for new developments	Joint Local Plan Policy/Supplementary Planning Guidance?	Joint Local Plan Review	2022	
	JLP policies to reduce the carbon footprint of new development DEV32, DEV33, DEV34	Strengthen Joint Local Plan Policy/Supplementary Planning Guidance?	Joint Local Plan Review	2022	
	Change how we invest developer contributions for carbon reduction, for example, invested directly into energy saving measures to help improve the efficiency of our existing housing stock through EH networks				
	Review internal processes to create a flow of investment from developer contributions to energy saving projects. It is unclear how much will be available as this depends on to what extent developers contribute onsite renewables as part of future development proposals – but a mechanism could be established internally that is ready to invest funds when available.				
	As part of JLP review consider an Article 4 Direction that removes		Delivery of a an Article 4 Direction that removes permitted	2022	high

	permitted development rights on class Q barn conversions.		development rights on class Q barn		
	Allocate sites for renewable energy, in particular strategic scale solar and wind for both commercial and community energy development	Joint Local Plan Policy/Supplementary Planning Guidance?	Joint Local Plan Review	2022	
	Location for good transport infrastructure				
	Encourage occupiers to factor in sustainability in work processes	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	JLP adopted a carbon reduction target and aims to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2034 (monitored against the 2005 baseline)	Continue to support and apply more weight at Planning Stage	Receipt of EPC certificates on new development	ongoing	
	The LPAs could look to invest more directly in community energy projects through community energy groups.	Could this be done with a new crowd funder match fund initiative	Fuel Poverty is reduced or eliminated – measure through census		
	Change building regulations, reducing energy demand in new homes towards net zero carbon. This would require the change to the Deregulation Act 2015 as its currently outside the control of local government	Lobby action			
	Look to install rainwater harvesting on new developments where possible - will need changes to building regs/JLP	Joint Local Plan Policy/Supplementary Planning Guidance?			
	Work with top 10 suppliers to explore their approach to carbon reduction				
	Draw together external organisations, who have active projects				

in the pipeline.				
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9. Land Use and Biodiversity

The UN defines Biodiversity as “the variety of life forms in any given habitat, from large animals to plants to fungi to the smallest of organisms”. The international Convention on Biological Diversity notes that “The Earth's biological resources are vital to humanity's economic and social development. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a valuable asset to present and future generations. Equally, the threat to species and ecosystems has never been as great as it is today and is threatened like never before. We are on the verge of a mass extinction: within the next 10 years, around 1 million species may be wiped off the surface of the planet. That’s one out of every four known species⁷. A functioning eco-system is critical to supporting humanity's needs, which rely on a relatively stable climate, flows of fresh water, agricultural pest and disease-vector control, pollination for crops, interrelated facets of a functioning eco-system⁸ The continued decline of mammal, reptile, avian, vertebrate and amphibian species loss over time will lead to a continued defaunation, being primary driver in global ecological change⁹

Appropriate land use and protecting biodiversity, also has significant social, health and wellbeing value. We recognise the value in being able to see, smell and touch a rich tapestry of natural spaces both in private and publically owned land through reduced intervention from a land management perspective and reduce usage of herbicides and pesticides for example. Increased access to nature, and thriving natural spaces within our towns and villages can help foster empathy for the environment which can lead to people making more environmentally conscious choices¹⁰.

The Council can lead by example through reduced cutting of our greenspaces, there is often a pressure for spaces to ‘look tidy’ but this often comes at a cost, with frequent grass cutting, wildflower have little chance to bloom which then impacts on insect population which then has knock on effect on flora and fauna. Here is what we will aim to do;

What have we already done?

(to be completed following circulation and sessions with colleagues)

What we propose to do

(these actions will be refined following officer working groups to be re-established)

Id	Objective / Target	Activity	KPIs	Timescales	Priority
	Plant new trees on open space				
	Securing tree planting through development proposals				
	Support more/all approaches by communities for tree planting on our land where they source free trees (and is consistent with land use and not likely to lead to conflict with neighbours) – but maintenance costs				
	Fix more carbon in vegetation				

⁷ <https://p.widencdn.net/bedxcl/WED-2020-Working-Brief>

⁸ Ceballos G, Ehrlich P, Raven P (2020) Vertebrates on the brink as indicators of biological annihilation and the sixth mass extinction. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Jun 2020, 201922686; DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1922686117

⁹ R. Dirzo et al (2014), Defaunation in the Anthropocene. Science 345, 401–406

¹⁰ Lumber R, Richardson M, Sheffield D (2017) Beyond knowing nature: Contact, emotion, compassion, meaning, and beauty are pathways to nature connection. PLoS ONE 12(5): e0177186. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0177186>

	cover (relaxing cutting regime)				
	Look at alternative grass/plant mixes in any new sowing, using varieties to increase soil carbon sequestration.				
	Potential use of biodiversity net gain funds to contribute to community planting schemes				
	Pushing tree planting agenda within Neighbourhood Plans (allocating spaces for woodland creation and sustainable management)				
	Tree planting, supporting resident interest in planting on Council land where they can obtain free trees				
	EOI to Urban Tree Challenge Fund for Ph2 with bids in 2020/21				
	Policy of replanting X number of trees for each tree felled dependant on trunk diameter at 1.5m height (using table included in JLP SPD)	Supplementary Planning Document		2020	
	Ringfencing and promoting a % of Members grant schemes (SCLF/Localities Fund) towards tree planting schemes for community groups, Town and Parish Councils, or money towards a 'Tree Planting grant scheme' (we did this in 2010 for the International Year of Biodiversity)				
	Urban Tree Challenge Fund (Phase 2 – 2020/21)				
	Natural Environment Design Guide to support Development Management proposals – establishing importance of street trees in urban/built environment proposals, trees in new hedgelines, and tree/woodland planting as part of onsite public open space provision				
	Biodiversity Net Gain likely to be mandated – generating £s for planting	Joint Local Plan/SPD/CIL/S106			
	Natural coastal and flood management approaches to increase carbon sequestration, reduce erosion, deliver improved catchment management				
	Targeting biodiversity net gain (and offsite compensation) at tree planting where appropriate, increasing and connecting woodland SNAs				
	Applying JLP policies (as well				

as other related policy and legislation) relating to development and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity				
Relax cutting regimes – i.e. cut less often/vary leaving uncut majority, well cut margins, cut later in the year, lead by example and encourage residents and business to do the same whilst also managing community expectations and a level of complaint about ‘unkempt/untidy’ sites, lazy Councils, etc)				
Produce Natural Environment Design Guide to sit alongside the JLP and SPD as a guide for good design for biodiversity (amongst other ecosystem services) within new development	Joint Local Plan/SPD			
Potential to apply a % management fee to offsite compensation/Biodiversity Net Gain payments (via s106) to part fund a new/existing role (there will be an additional pressure) in terms of findings sites to delivery this offsite habitat creation (which the LA could either buy and manage, or work in partnership with another, e.g. DWT, RSPB).				
Fund forthcoming baseline mapping of the DNRN (critical in guiding future spend of £s generated from development towards offsite compensation and BNG measures)				
Work with Town and Parish Councils over changes to their practices				
Any new development led by SHWD to be exemplar (e.g. Building with Nature, bird and bat boxes, good design with GI, etc).				
Funding the Ancient Woodland Inventory review				
Working with other LPAs across Devon to get ahead of the curve on Biodiversity Net Gain, including pushing the new Defra Biodiversity Metric 2.0 at pre-app for new applications				
Increase in ‘offsite compensation’ and Biodiversity Net Gain measures to restore and create new habitat				
Devon Nature Recovery Network mapping				

	JLP SPD (covering approach to BNG – first in Devon)				
	Supporting mapping of local ecological networks/corridors within Neighbourhood Plans				
	Support & encourage the creation of wildlife corridors across Devon				
	Encourage agroforestry (+regenerate peat bog) to reduce the risk of flooding				
	Support the Forestry Commission in planting 20 Hectares of woodland throughout South Hams				

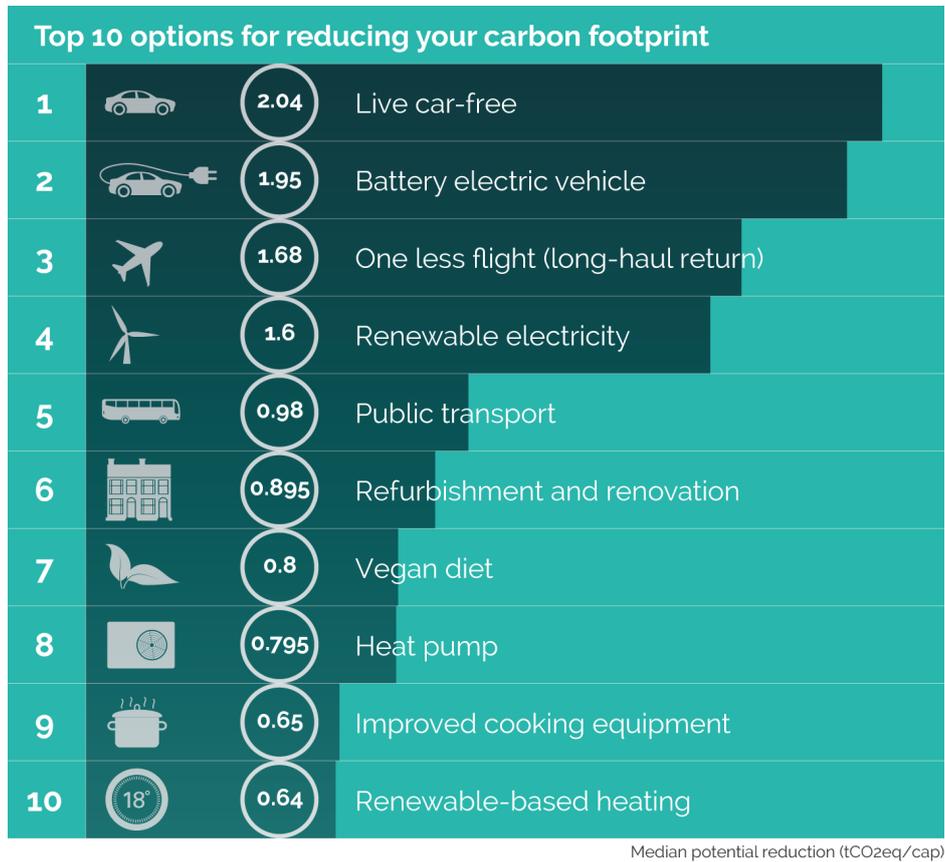
10. Capability and Engagement

If we are going to meet our target to become net zero by 2030, ‘collective action’ is essential. Many people throughout the area are enthusiastic about rising up to the challenge of reducing carbon emissions and reversing the decline in biodiversity, but may not have the tools or knowledge to enable them make lasting change.

By giving the community and business the tools, support and encouragement that they need, only then can collective action be truly unlocked to enable us to rapidly speed up the rate of change needed to address the pressing issues we face.

A recent study by CREDS demonstrated that household activities account for around two-thirds of global greenhouse gases and also identified some key areas where households can contribute most to reducing their carbon footprint¹¹

¹¹ Ivanova, D., Barrett, J., Wiedenhofer, D., Macura, B., Callaghan, M. and Creutzig, F. 2020. <https://www.creds.ac.uk/creds-study-uncovers-best-ways-to-change-consumption-to-cut-carbon-footprint/>



There's no masking the illusion that the emissions cuts to reach net-zero emissions require people to do things differently, residents need to be engaged in the challenge and policy and actions should be designed to reflect this to bring people on the journey through encouragement and collaboration. With a population of 86221¹² and an area containing 5135 businesses¹³, there remains a significant potential to reduce carbon emissions collectively in collaboration with one another. Part of our engagement work will involve the creation of Community Boards to align our plans with the community and have positive engagement

Research produced by the Behavioural Insights Team¹⁴ (TBIT) The Centre for Behaviour & the Environment highlighted an important facet to environmental engagement, that being guilt-based messaging, which is often common in environmental campaigns, causes defensiveness and disengagement. Positive emotions, building rapport and having shared values can be more effective at eliciting engagement. Therefore the approach we will take will be to continually promote sustainable norms in the work we do, in order to more effectively reach as many people to promote a 'new normal', to motivate and ease the change

What have we already done?

(to be completed following circulation and sessions with colleagues)

¹² ONS, population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: mid-2018-april-2019-geography

¹³ ONS, 2019

¹⁴ The Behavioural Insights Team (2019) Behavior Change For Nature: A Behavioral Science Toolkit for Practitioners

What we propose to do

(these actions will be refined following officer working groups to be re-established)

Id	Objective / Target	Activity	KPIs	Timescales	Priority
	We will encourage individuals to plant wildflowers and maintain environments which encourage pollinators, such as bees, to thrive.	1) Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	1) Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	We will encourage individuals to look at the impact of their diet and consider reducing their meat consumption, and increase the proportion of in-season, locally grown food eaten across Devon	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Support individuals to make better transport choices, this will require better infrastructure however	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Publicise/incentivise change of residential energy provider	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Encourage reduced energy consumption at home – install greater insulation, use less hot water, use less heating, turn off electrical appliances when not in use, don't use unnecessary appliances like tumble dryer etc.	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Encourage/incentivise use of electric cars	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Explore other channels for communicating with residents that are not in print	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Volunteer/support collective action via community groups	Have a presence at community events Develop a 'Community Board' of stakeholders in the area to discuss actions and collaborate	Creation of a Community Board	By December 2020	
	Inform residents about how they can recycle – using	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change	1) Climate Change Communication	By December	

	norming messaging. Link in more with recycle Devon and all of the other efforts that people are going around the District and borough	communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media Support and promote upcycling, repair and re-use clubs and schemes	Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity 2) Measure travel to work during next census	2020 View results in 2021/2022	
	Involve residents about what we are doing with climate change	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Encourage residents greater use of reducing, reusing and then recycling	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media Support and promote upcycling, repair and re-use clubs and schemes	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	
	Create an e newsletter and get people who are interested in supporting our emergency to sign up – begin to build an army of interested people	Raise awareness as part of a Climate Change communication strategy involving newsletters, web and social media	Climate Change Communication Strategy developed and frequent newsletters, web and social media activity	By December 2020	

Glossary

Anthropogenic - environmental pollution and pollutants originating in human activity

Annual monitoring report - In the town planning system in England and Wales, the Annual Monitoring Report is one of a number of documents submitted to Government by a local planning authority at the end of December each year to assess the progress and the effectiveness of its development plan policies

Biodiversity Net Gain - Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before

Brundtland Commission - Formerly known as the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), the Brundtland Commission's aim is to unite countries to pursue sustainable development together

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 - an Act of Parliament to set a target for the year 2050 for the reduction of targeted greenhouse gas emissions by 100%

Committee on Climate Change (CCC) - Independent advisory group to government on building a low-carbon economy and preparing for climate change.

Convention on Biological Diversity - The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty. The Convention has three main goals including: the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

Ecosystem - a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations

Indigenous - originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

Joint Local Plan (JLP) – The adopted Planning Development Plan for Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon

The Localism Act 2011 - The Localism Act 2011 (c. 20) is an Act of Parliament that changes the powers of local government in England. The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision-making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.

Appendix A – Council Resolution

E.06/19: Climate Change

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That both a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency be declared;
2. That an Action Plan be developed that outlines how the Council will address the Emergencies and meet or exceed the targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including an assessment of the viability of a 2030 target and respond to the concerns raised by the IPBES report on global species and habitat loss to be brought to Council for approval within 6 months;
3. That the Council commit to collaborating with Devon County Council, all the Devon District Councils, Plymouth City Council and other agencies to address the Emergencies;
4. That the Action Plan identify Key Performance Indicators measured against any relevant national standards;
5. That a politically balanced Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group be established that comprises of 6 Members, with the Group Leaders being given delegated authority to put forward their respective nominations after this meeting, with the Group being chaired by the lead Executive Member for Climate Change;
6. That the Working Group be instructed, at its first meeting, to consider the setting up of a Citizens' Assembly and to submit a recommendation to the next Council meeting to be held on 26 September 2019 and that prior to that it be submitted to the September meetings of the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Panel for comment; and
7. That the Council takes steps to reinforce its Joint Local Plan Policies in respect of wildlife and biodiversity through the Supplementary Planning Document to require developers to demonstrate biodiversity gain as part of any relevant planning application so that there is a robust and consistent basis to assess and secure meaningful biodiversity enhancements having regard to a mitigation hierarchy, namely to avoid impact first, provide mitigation where there is unavoidable harm and, in the event that there is no alternative, provide compensatory measures as a last resort.

Appendix B – Working Group Terms of Reference

- a) To coordinate the Councils response to the motion carried at the Full Council July 2019 declaring that 'South Hams District Council recognises that we have a 'Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency'.
- b) To oversee the development and implementation of an Action Plan in response to a) above that is to be presented to the Council before 25 January 2020.
- c) To oversee the development and implementation of a communications strategy to support the above including considering the best methods for consulting with stakeholders and the wider community on the response and action plan.

- d) To contribute towards and consider any reports to the Executive and/or Council as appropriate, that are deemed to be within the scope of the Working Group.

Appendix C – Consultation Responses (separate attachment)