

Appendix 2

Torbay Council Draft Consultation Response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Question	Response
Name of organisation	Torbay Council
Which area of Devon is your organisation based in?	Torbay
Please provide the first part of your home or organisation postcode	TQ1-5
How concerned are you about Climate Change? [select from drop down list]	Extremely concerned
Is climate change more or less important to you than it was two years ago? [select from drop down list]	Much more important
What is your overall view of the Interim Devon Carbon Plan? [select from drop down list]	Broadly support the Plan
The Interim Devon Carbon Plan outlines the challenges of achieving a net-zero carbon Devon before 2050. Based on the linked information, what date do you support for reaching net-zero? [select from drop down list]	<p>2030</p> <p>Torbay Council as part of its Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019 committed to working towards achieving a carbon neutral council and to working with others to create a carbon neutral community by 2030.</p> <p>The Council welcomes the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) Partnership's ambitious plans as laid out in the Interim Devon Carbon Plan (IDCP) and that the Plan is front loaded to support Torbay's 2030 target with accelerated actions over the next 10 years. However, and according to the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), rapid emission reductions should occur between 2025 and 2035. Therefore, and in light of the current climate emergency, DCE are encouraged to go even faster and quicker where locally feasible and viable and to strive to achieve more</p>

	<p>than the proposed interim target of 50% reduction in emissions by 2030.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that the Plan outlines that it will cost more to deliver net-zero earlier than 2050 and that there is a range of actions that require national bodies/government intervention to deliver net-zero by 2050. Going early without government intervention will be extremely difficult and cost more. However, the Council would strongly encourage the DCE partnership to try and focus on a few key priority actions to immediately influence/lobby key national bodies/central government. The aim should be to try to accelerate local actions more rapidly in the 2020s and to keep well within the overall Devon Carbon Budget for the 2020's. Earlier delivery will also have a range of added economic, social and wider environmental co-benefits that are not currently costed in this work but will support a range of county and local ambitions.</p> <p>Furthermore, accelerated, immediate work is also encouraged with local and national partners in key sectors to build the supply chains to ensure accelerated local delivery is possible in the 2020s. For example building a long term energy efficiency retrofit market. Whilst it may not be possible to build the supply chains needed in Devon over the next 10 years without government intervention we should try with greater emphasis placed on this throughout the Plan. This work could also support Devon's economy to recover from the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>Therefore to better reflect local partners net-zero ambitions in 2030, and to accelerate a range of co-benefits occurring across Devon sooner, the Council would recommend that DCE Partnership consider an aspirational target/stretched target beyond a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and bringing forward net-zero sooner than 2050 where feasible and viable to do so.</p>
<p>General comments on the themes and actions within the IDCP [insert per theme]</p>	<p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document is very comprehensive. • It could be clearer on spelling out that net-zero by 2050 is only possible through offsetting 1.8MtCO₂e. • All action tables per theme could be presented more clearly. • More work is needed to understand how all proposed actions will be delivered and with a lead accountable organisation to ensure delivery. • There are too many goals, priorities and outcomes. The Council needs to understand which priorities are

	<p>the most important so it too can consider how to prioritise these actions in its local climate action plans. Further prioritisation and carbon quantification of actions would help make priorities clearer. To allow adequate resource management and programming it will also be necessary to understand priorities that will require short lead in times and those that have longer lead in times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need immediately a lobbying/influencing strategy for central government to accelerate delivery of key priorities in the 2020s and this to be accompanied by a Devon low carbon project pipeline of investment ready opportunities that require future funding (working with the South West Energy Hub). This will help to deliver the DCP in the early years of the plan. • Given the importance of Tourism in Devon, the Plan could focus more explicitly on support to work with this industry. • The Plan could also ensure that the transition to net-zero is just and fair for all. More explicit actions are needed to ensure a just transition throughout the Plan.
	<p>Theme - Economy & Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section. • The Council supports Action R8 (<i>Achieve a 65% municipal waste recycling rate by 2035</i>) However, for Torbay it is unlikely we will be able to fully meet this target. Our Resource and Waste Management Strategy aims to increase the recycling rate and contribute towards the national targets of 55% recycling by 2025 and 60% by 2030. We would need to explore in detail achieving anything beyond our 60% target. • Torbay Council has also already achieved the accolade of 'Zero to Landfill'. • To increase recycling rates, reduce the amount of waste, especially food waste, going to landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Council will trial, in 2021, a three weekly refuse collection in 2700 homes and introduce an opt-in, charged-for garden waste collection service.
	<p>Theme – Energy & Supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposal will be extremely difficult to achieve locally as outlined in the Plan, and especially for Torbay due to its constrained geography. However, the Council is currently exploring the development of two large solar farms in Torbay and the Local Plan actively contains policies to support appropriate renewable energy generation.• The Council supports Action E1 and the development of a new Energy Strategy to guide appropriate renewable energy generation across Devon, whilst protecting and enhancing the special characteristics of Devon. It is vital that the Community and also Western Power Distribution and Wales and West Utilities are actively involved in the development of the Strategy.• The Council would also suggest that marine renewable energy should also be explored as a potential opportunity within the Energy Strategy. Torbay's Marine Economy Action Plan highlighted further work to explore opportunities linked to the Marine Energy Park.
	<p>Theme - Built Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section.• The Council especially welcomes action B6 (<i>Establish a Devon-wide energy advice service that links home-owners, landlords and tenants with independent energy assessors, skilled installers and market offers</i>) and would suggest that it is vitally important that this work be accelerated as soon as possible. Deployment of measures within homes as outlined in the plan will require delivery at a scale currently not achieved anywhere in England. A range of new financial models will be needed to pay for the measures and local colleges, training providers and local companies will need to work together with this new service to develop a skilled workforce capable of delivering measures across Devon. Starting with retrofit housing demonstrators as proposed in the Plan is welcomed and necessary to build the local market, but this should then be ramped up quickly to roll out measures at the scale and pace required in the Plan.• In addition to delivering programmes, more emphasis is also needed in the Plan on post-installation behavioural support for occupants of retrofitted homes.• The Council will continue to work with Cosy Devon to support residents with saving energy in their homes.

	<p>We plan to also develop further support in 2021, including exploring a new energy efficiency portal to support residents to implement energy saving measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As per E1 (<i>Develop an Energy Strategy for Devon</i>) this could also contain plans to decarbonise heating in the domestic and non-domestic sector. This is currently not included but needed as per the plan's ambitious targets to decarbonise heating and install heat pumps and district heat networks.• The Council fully supports Action B14 (<i>that Should the future homes standard consultation decide net-zero homes will not be mandated until 2025, the Devon Climate Emergency Partners will express opposition to this and request it to be brought forward</i>). The more homes that are not built to net-zero standards, the more we may need to retrofit in the future. As outlined above it is also vital that a local skilled workforce is urgently put in place to be able to deliver net-zero homes and developments from 2022 onwards.• Much more focus could be paid to decarbonising the non-domestic sector within the Plan. This section of the Plan could be strengthened to include public sector focused action through a range of current programmes. Such examples to explore replicating in Devon could include REFIT, West Yorkshire Energy Accelerator and support for businesses and SMEs to increase resource efficiency.
	<p>Theme – Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council agrees with the proposed actions in this section.• The Council have a commitment to promoting an active travel culture and improving the walking and cycling routes around the bay area, eventually connecting Torquay to Brixham with a coastal route. A new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will be launched for consultation in 2021 and once finalised will guide future cycling and walking infrastructure plans.• The Council also is working with Devon County Council and South West partners Deletti Partnership to bring Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points to selected car parks in Torbay.• To ensure a coordinated and well distributed electric vehicle charging network across Devon, the Council

	<p>especially supports action T34 (<i>Develop an electric vehicle strategy to increase electric vehicle charging provision across Devon, including in key public spaces and workplaces, on street charging and plans to address the tourism sector</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the proposed Citizen Assembly topic – <i>The role of reducing road capacity to reduce traffic</i> in Torbay there is limited capacity within our road network already and our local priority would be to reduce demand for travel and ensure integrated sustainable travel options are a credible offer for residents and visitors alike before considering reducing road capacity policies.
	<p>Theme – Food, Land and Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council agrees with all the proposed actions in this section • Achieving such ambitious levels of natural carbon storage will be difficult across Devon but is supported. • To ensure greater coordination of regional and local activity to address both the Climate and Ecological Emergencies, the Council especially welcomes actions F1 (<i>Develop a Land Use Framework (LUF) for Devon to establish land use principles that embed carbon sequestration and storage and identifies opportunity areas for specific outcomes to guide land use decisions</i>); F1.1 (<i>Develop a Nature Recovery Network of joined-up places, on land and at sea, created from maps that identify opportunities for the protection, restoration, and creation of habitats that increase carbon sequestration and storage alongside bringing benefits for nature and people</i>); and F1.2 (<i>As part of the Land Use Framework, and underpinned by the Nature Recovery Network, identify opportunities to implement a Trees for Devon initiative</i>). Such actions will also align and bring greater coordination between a range of local policies/interventions including Torbay’s Green Infrastructure Strategy, key policies within the Local Plan, forthcoming Supplementary Planning Document on Biodiversity Net Gain and the i-Tree tree planting and new community Tree Wardens programme. • The Council also welcomes actions to Increase carbon sequestration and storage in coastal and marine habitats, especially action F20.4 (<i>Pilot</i>

	<p><i>specific initiatives which lead to marine carbon sequestration</i>). In Torbay this may present an opportunity for restoring/protecting local sea grass habitats.</p>	
	<p>Cross Cutting Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council agrees with the five main cross cutting themes • The Council agrees with the many cross cutting actions • Behaviour Transformation - the Council suggests that the Plan could be strengthened to include exploring a range of more practical programmes to support communities. Some examples of practical support programmes that could be replicated are below: Switched on Portsmouth, ITravel, CityConnect • Finance, Economy and Resources - The Council especially welcomes R31 and R32 to increase access to finance to accelerate a net-zero Devon, however, much more detailed work is needed to develop a pipeline of investment opportunities which can attract finance in the future. Pipeline development should be added to the Plan to accelerate work further. • Spatial Planning – See above B14. It is also suggested that action C4 (<i>Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans to demonstrate how they will shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions so facilitating achievement of Net-Zero Devon, as a primary planning objective</i>) could be strengthened to encourage where reviews are already underway that all Council’s strengthen their local plans and neighbourhood plans in line with net-zero and this Plan. • Knowledge Sharing, Skills and Learning – In light of Covid-19 the Plan could, as a matter of urgency, be strengthened to look at developing a comprehensive towards net-zero carbon economic recovery plan which will build on current plans but create a regional net-zero jobs and skills partnership to maximise a range of economic opportunities that will arise from delivering the Plan. • Procurement – Fully supportive of actions. 	
<p>The Plan identifies a set of opportunities for potential discussion by a Citizens’ Assembly in 2021 so that</p>	<p>Opportunity:</p>	<p>Select up to 3</p>
	<p>How should Devon’s landscapes evolve in ways that positively support achieving net-zero and are beneficial to their special qualities?</p>	<p>TBC</p>

<p>actions can be developed to overcome these that reflect the views of Devon’s citizens.</p> <p>It’s unlikely that the Citizens’ Assembly will be able to discuss all of opportunities identified due to time constraints. Which three would you prioritise?</p> <p>[select from drop down list]</p>	<p>To what extent would the use of financial mechanisms be acceptable to Devon’s citizens to help discourage activities that generate emissions and to fund emissions reduction?</p>	
	<p>What is the role of onshore wind energy in the Devon Renewable Energy Strategy? How can tensions between the support for onshore wind energy in theory and practice be reduced?</p>	TBC
	<p>To what extent should financial incentives and legislation be used to accelerate the retrofitting of buildings with energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies?</p>	TBC
	<p>What is the role of reducing road capacity in reducing traffic, and is it appropriate for Devon?</p>	TBC
	<p>The Committee on Climate Change scenarios for achieving net-zero require a 20% reduction in beef, lamb and dairy consumption nationally. What does this mean for Devon?</p>	TBC
<p>If you represent a business, are you aware of any strategies within your organisation which link to one of more of the actions highlighted in the plan? Please provide links to websites, social media or contact details where possible</p>	<p>Torbay Council has the following strategies which link to a number of the actions in this Plan.</p> <p>Energy and Climate Change Strategy</p> <p>Local Plan</p> <p>Local Transport Plan and LTP3 Implementation Plan</p> <p>LCWIP (coming in 2021)</p> <p>Waste Management Strategy and Resource and Waste Management Strategy (Draft)</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan</p> <p>Flood Risk Management</p>	
<p>The Interim Devon Carbon Plan proposes a structure for overseeing the delivery of the actions within the plan. Do you think this will work? (Figure 12.1 in Chapter 12: Making the Plan a Reality)</p>	<p>The Council is supportive of the proposed structures, but would suggest additional dedicated resources will be needed to service this structure properly.</p>	

TORBAY COUNCIL

illustrates this structure.)	
If you represent a business or an organisation, would a representative from your organisation or business see value in getting involved?	Yes – Torbay Council already sit on the DCE Response Group and Tactical Group and see value in getting involved.

DRAFT