

North Devon Council's Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan

Fourth Annual Review, July 2026



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Introduction

North Devon Council declared a 'climate emergency' in 2019, in recognition of the science and evidence of the impacts that climate change is having on our environment, population and communities, and to acknowledge that we are committed to assisting in the response to this threat. We have ambitious commitments to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change. In 2022 we published our first Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan, setting out how we will deliver these commitments.

This is the fourth annual review of this plan.

Link to North Devon Council's Corporate Plan

Our Vision is that "North Devon will be a sustainable, inclusive community; fostering prosperity and well-being for all."

Our Corporate Plan has identified five key priorities, including Climate and Environment, that deliver this Vision and will guide our actions and initiatives in the coming years. Under each priority, specific projects with measurable targets will be defined, allowing for a focused and strategic approach to addressing the council's responsibilities.

The objective of the Climate and Environment priority is to protect and enhance our natural environment and to promote sustainable practices, reduce carbon emissions, tackle climate change and protect biodiversity within the council's jurisdiction.

This objective will be delivered in part by the actions in this plan.

How do we report on progress?

The first Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan identified the actions we need to take to deliver our environmental commitments. The update shows what we have achieved in the last 12 months.

Progress with delivery of the Council's actions have been assessed as green, amber or red. This is indicated by the coloured stripe at the right hand side of the table.

Green indicates an action has been completed, or significant progress is being made.	
Amber indicates some progress is being made, but this is not happening quickly enough or at scale.	
Red indicates little or no progress is being made.	
White indicates this action is not due yet.	

Where possible we have included 'Next Steps', specific, actionable, and time-bound tasks required to deliver each action.

Progress with delivery of the Council's action to meet the UK and Devon's net zero by 2050 target can be found at the [Devon Climate Emergency](#) website.

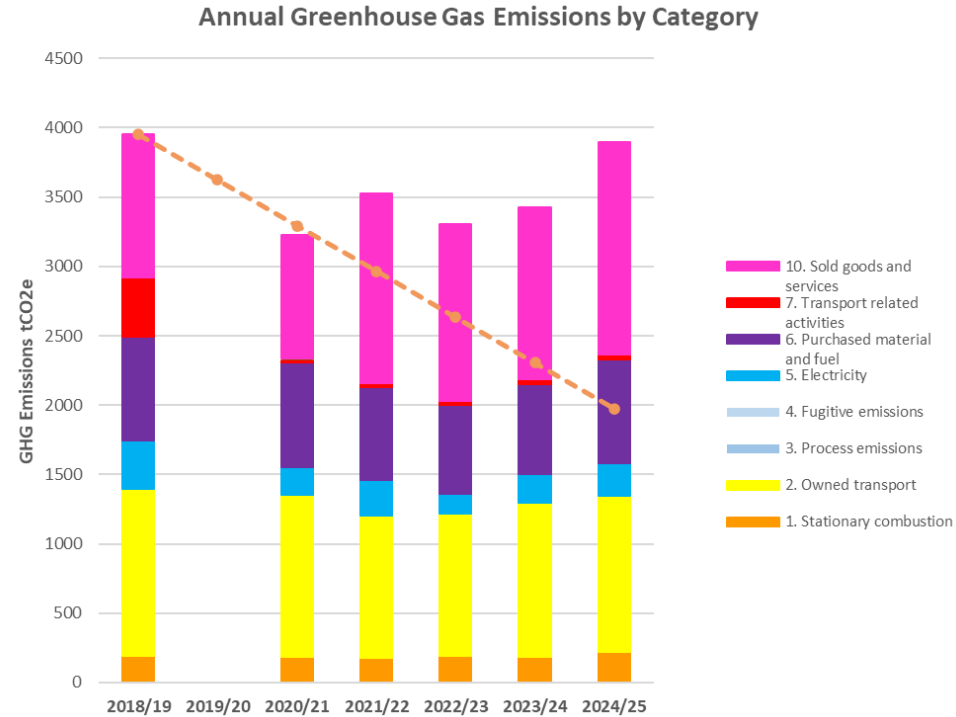
Reducing carbon emissions from Council buildings, vehicles and services

Leading local action on climate change

The Council can play a leadership role on climate issues in North Devon by reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions.

We have set an ambitious target to reduce the Council’s direct emissions from our buildings, our fleet vehicles and services to net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Some parts of the carbon management plan to achieve this are costed and funded, others will need development in the next few years.

Our carbon footprint shows that in 2024/2025 the Council’s operations resulted in 3893 tonnes of greenhouse gases (measured as tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent) being emitted. The graph below shows progress to date in meeting our 2030 carbon neutral target.



Whilst progress has been made towards our Net Zero by 2030 goal, the trajectory shows we will not reach this goal without drastic measures. Councillors have been faced with the reality of the significant expenditure they will need to approve to reduce our carbon footprint.

Notably, our red diesel sales to marine vessels in Ilfracombe Harbour (shown in pink in the graph) contribute significantly to our carbon footprint. Whilst ceasing sales or offloading this service to another provider would reduce our footprint significantly, it would not improve emissions in our local area, negating the principle of the policy. Councillors therefore acted with integrity and accepted this limitation to our Net Zero journey until a sustainable alternative fuel is developed for marine transport.

Actions to reduce Council emissions to net zero by 2030

Buildings	Update	Next steps	Timescale
1.0 Reduce energy consumption in buildings we own and occupy.	We have costed plans for almost all of the buildings we own, which show nearly £1M is needed to reduce energy consumption as far as possible. We have made significant investments over the past few years to improve some properties but more needs to be done. In 2025 the Government closed the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the main source of funding for such works, and given pressures on NDCs budget we will not be able to deliver all the improvements required.	Proposals for decarbonisation of Council buildings to be developed as and when funding is available.	2030
	We secured Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Funding to install heat pumps at our main office, Brynsworthy, to replace an inefficient oil boiler.	Complete Brynsworthy decarbonisation project.	March 2027
	We are progressing proposals for solar power at Brynsworthy.	Install solar pv	March 2027
	We have commissioned a carbon footprint and carbon reduction plan for our harbour at Ilfracombe. We will incorporate actions to reduce carbon into this plan and other Council plans, as appropriate.	Publish carbon footprint and carbon reduction plan for Ilfracombe Harbour	Q3 2026

Buildings	Update	Next steps	Timescale
1.0 Reduce energy consumption in buildings we own and occupy (<i>continued</i>).	Completed actions in the last year We installed solar panels at North Devon Crematorium, which are predicted to reduce electricity usage on site by 36%. We completed a £75k, three-year project to replace all street lighting on our properties and most of our car park lighting with LED units. These works took place in over 150 locations across the district.		
1.1 Reduce energy consumption in tenanted buildings we own.	We secured Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Funding to install heat pumps at the Landmark Theatre Ilfracombe. We are progressing proposals for solar power at Green Lanes Shopping Centre in Barnstaple. We are working with a number of our tenants to obtain funding for measures that improve energy efficiency and/or provide renewable energy. Completed actions in the last year We installed heat pumps and solar panels at our flagship Future High Street Fund development in Boutport Street, Barnstaple. The buildings are all-electric and follow a 'fabric-first' approach that prioritizes maximizing the energy efficiency of a building's physical envelope (walls, floors, roofs, windows, and doors) before adding renewable technologies.	Complete Landmark Theatre decarbonisation projects. Install solar pv. Proposals for decarbonisation of tenanted Council buildings to be developed as and when funding is available.	March 2027 March 2027 2030
1.2 'Build green' in our developments and look to maximise sustainability and energy generation opportunities.	Through our 'Ilfracombe Healthy Homes' project we are renovating and improving a number of properties in the town. Completed actions in the last year Our flagship Future High Street Fund development in Barnstaple incorporates a number of sustainability measures, including bringing a derelict building back into use, active travel links, all-electric buildings and renewable energy.	Complete Oxford Grove renovations. Complete Post Office renovations.	Winter 2026. Autumn 2027

Vehicles	Update	Next steps	Timescale
2.0 Reduce emissions from our vehicles.	Following successful trials we are purchasing another 4 electric vehicles for our Environmental Health, Waste & Recycling and Parking teams. We are installing EV charging at Brynsworthy Environment Centre, and additional charging at Gaydon Street Depot. We have mapped how carbon emissions can be reduced in line with our 2030 target through our vehicle replacement schedule and we have completed an options appraisal. New HGVs in our Waste and Recycling fleet are all EURO6 compliant. We trialled an electric HGV in 2024 which confirmed that current electric HGVs are not yet able to service the needs of our Waste & Recycling fleet. Completed actions in the last year We successfully trialled electric vans for a number of teams.	Purchase 4 EVs. Install EV charging	Q3 2026 Q3 2026
2.1 Investigate the use of alternative, low carbon fuels for our vehicles.	We have currently discounted the use of hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) to fuel our vehicles due to significant concerns about its sustainability. We will review our decision once the findings of the UK Department of Transport review of HVO is published.	Review Council policy when new information on sustainability is published.	March 2027
Parks and land	Update	Next steps	Timescale
3.1 Develop tree planting programme on land owned by the Council.	We recognise the benefits of carbon sequestration and the value of tree planting to future offsetting needs. Our community woodland at Yeo Valley has been awarded a green flag for 2025 and claimed first place in the "Woodland Creation" category at the 2026 Devon County Show. These awards recognize the hard work of North Devon Council, the Friends of Yeo Valley Woodland, and local volunteers who have developed the space.	Opportunities for additional tree planting will be considered through our parks and grounds maintenance programme.	March 2027

Parks and land	Update	Next steps	Timescale
3.1 Develop tree planting programme on land owned by the Council (continued).	Completed action: We have a programme for tree planting on our land and have planted 35 native trees in 25/26. Through Future High Street Funding we have undertaken landscape enhancements, including tree planting, at our new Barnstaple Central car park.		
3.2 Integrate our climate and biodiversity ambitions with our ground's maintenance operations.	This is ongoing work for the Council. In total we now have 17 ha in meadow management and are making good progress towards our target of 20 ha by the end of 2030 (target from Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan). We use external funding to increase our ability to deliver on our climate and biodiversity ambitions: • £18k in total over 5 years at the Cairn and Yeo Valley from Higher Level Stewardship, • £27k since 2022 towards interpretation, support for the Friends of Hillsborough and renovation of the Victorian Shelter on Hillsborough from the North Devon Coast National Landscape; • £195k from the England Woodland Creation Offer. We have trialled machine bulb planting on one site in Barnstaple during 2025, planting 85 m² of pollinator-friendly bulbs with a long flowering period and minimal maintenance. We have a programme to replace equipment with electric versions where practicable. This included purchase of a remote mower to allow us to introduce better conservation management of steeply sloping sites, a CyberTank portable power station that allows us to recharge tools on site throughout the day and a remote mower for our Brynsworthy site.	Deliver target of 20 ha of land in meadow management. Continue programme of bulb planting. Continue programme of equipment replacement with electric.	2030 2030 2030

Parks and land	Update	Next steps	Timescale
3.2 Integrate our climate and biodiversity ambitions with our ground's maintenance operations (<i>continued</i>).	Completed action: We have reviewed our maintenance regime and introduced fewer cuts on sites away from our town centres, which saves fuel, increases biodiversity and aids carbon sequestration. Working with the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere we have 4 birdsong monitors in our parks and open spaces, two in Ilfracombe and two in Barnstaple. Birds are a good indicator of the biodiversity of a site as they rely on a range of insects and plants for food as well as nesting areas. As we improve biodiversity on our land we will monitor the variety of species and hope to see an increase in the range of birds using that area. We use alkylate petrol in the remaining equipment. It contains less harmful hydrocarbons than regular petrol, meaning the exhaust fumes are much cleaner and the health risks are reduced, and our carbon footprint is reduced. Alkylate petrol also emits substantially fewer substances which contribute to acidification, as well as lowering the formation of ground level ozone which is harmful to humans, animals and plants. We have replaced annual bedding plants with pollinator-friendly, herbaceous perennials on our land. This is more sustainable and less demanding on water whilst still providing vibrant flower beds each year. Working with the Rotary Club we have planted 2000 crocus bulbs over the autumns of 2024 and 2025. We have installed bird and bat boxes at a number of sites. These are made using timber from our trees with local voluntary groups. This includes 70 bird boxes at Yeo Valley and the Cairn in the last year as part of our Higher Level Stewardship agreement. Cleave Road open space in Barnstaple has been designated a County Wildlife Site (CWS) for its floristic diversity and ongoing management.	Continue programme of bird and bat box installation.	2030

Parks and land	Update	Next steps	Timescale
3.2 Integrate our climate and biodiversity ambitions with our ground's maintenance operations (<i>continued</i>).	We have secured £7686 funding from the North Devon National Landscape for equipment to support biodiversity maintenance. We share specialist equipment with our local National Trust team, allowing us both to sensitively manage our land for nature.		
3.3 Deliver improvements in biodiversity through all relevant Council services.	We produced an Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report that will help everyone understand how we are collectively meeting shared goals to conserve and enhance biodiversity; showcase the action we're taking to improve biodiversity and show other authorities and the general public what they can do for nature recovery and share good practice. Completed action: We have delivered training to our planning team on implementing BS5837, the British Standard on Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction that provides guidelines for integrating trees into development projects while protecting their health. It outlines the process arboriculturists and developers must follow to evaluate, retain, or remove trees during construction. We proactively control invasive species/injurious weeds on our land to protect the public and grazing animals. We have upgraded all our risk assessments in line with Council policy and added environmental risks, including risks to wildlife and trees, whilst carrying out grounds maintenance. We have a programme of ongoing training for our operatives. We have reviewed how we issue and enforce Tree Preservation Orders and have a robust policy in place. We will be updating the Council's tree management policies to take account of this.	Use our Project Approval process to seek opportunities to deliver improvements in biodiversity for all relevant projects. Review planning conditions for NDC-owned sites and ensure biodiversity improvements delivered appropriately. Publish Tree Management Strategy.	March 2027 March 2027 Dec 2026

How the Council is run	Update	Next steps	Timescale
4.0 Produce annual reviews of our carbon footprint and progress in delivering our Carbon, Environment & Biodiversity plan.	This is the fourth annual review of our plan.	Produce 2025/2026 carbon footprint.	Autumn 2026
4.1 Deliver more sustainable procurement.	Our new Procurement Strategy, adopted in 2024, has a greater emphasis on sustainable procurement.	Review of sustainable procurement delivery for Climate Action Team.	End 2026
4.2 Integrate carbon, environmental and biodiversity ambitions into all our capital projects and ensure that stated standards and targets in these areas are included into those projects.	Revised project approval process introduced in 2024.	Revise Committee process for assessing environmental impacts of our work.	Q2 2026
4.3 Reduce carbon emissions from staff travel.	NDC have a flexible working policy, and most staff are able to work flexibly to take advantage of this. We operate a minibus service for staff to access our main site. A proposal to allow staff to purchase EVs through a salary sacrifice scheme was shelved due to forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation. We have installed a bike rack at our main office, Brynsworthy and improved shower facilities for staff at Lynton House.		

How the Council is run	Update	Next steps	Timescale	
4.4 Review our treasury management policy and resources to determine feasibility of divestment and including NDC developing ethical investment vehicles within its portfolio.	Our Capital Strategy and our Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) considers Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance investments. Both are reviewed annually. We have previously invested in sustainable alternatives such as the Standard Chartered Bank Sustainable Fixed Term deposit. Pensions fall to DCC, and their commitment to a net zero portfolio is given here	Review Capital Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy.	February 2027	
4.5 Deliver climate communications plan.	We have a climate communications plan integrated with all departments across the Council to showcase the work of the Authority in leading the response to the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Our website contains information for the public, businesses and Town and Parish Councils who wish to act on climate change etc. We produce a monthly Environment bulletin which is received by nearly 8000 subscribers. You can sign up to receive this here			
4.6 Support members in their role in championing, influencing and implementing positive climate change and biodiversity measures within the Council and the wider communities they represent.	The Member Climate Action Team provides strategic input and oversight into a range of areas and reports their recommendations to our Strategy & Resources Committee. Expert speakers on a range of environmental matters report to various committees. An online climate change training module for members is available, and we have run Carbon Literacy training sessions.	Deliver Carbon Literacy training for Members.	Mar 2027	
4.7 Develop an offsetting strategy.	Work on an offsetting strategy has begun, however a lack of credible local offsetting schemes meant we were unable to progress this.	Review offsetting options.	Mar 2028	

Reducing carbon emissions across North Devon

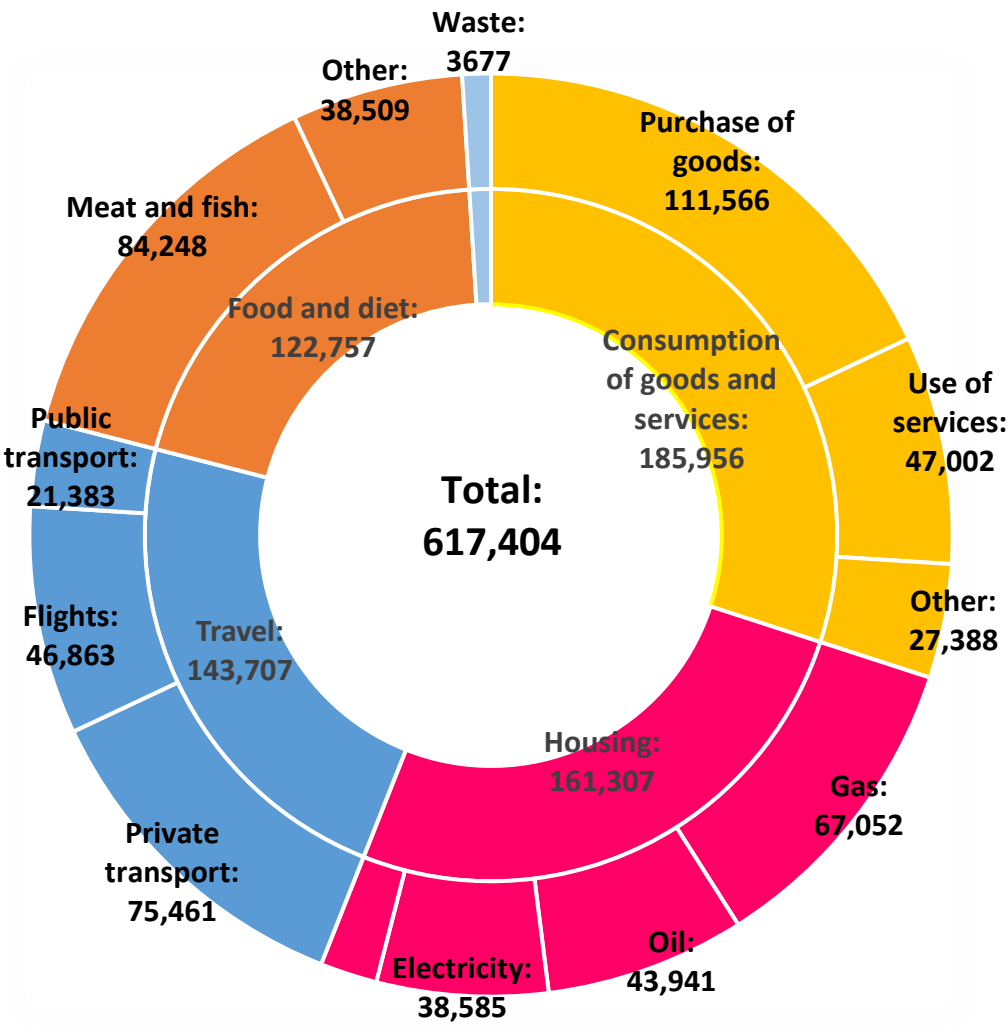
The UK has a legally binding target to meet net zero carbon by 2050. North Devon Council can support delivery of this target by working with residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their carbon emissions.

The diagram below shows the annual carbon emissions (measured in tonnes CO₂e) emitted as a result of the different activities that residents within your local authority’s boundary engage in – from heating to eating.

The information in this chart comes from Impact – an online community carbon footprint calculator: <https://impact-tool.org.uk/>.

The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. We report on the actions we are helping to deliver through the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.

We have identified a number of priority actions for North Devon that are set out in the following table.



Actions to reduce District emissions to net zero by 2050

Energy	Update	Next steps	Timescale
5.0 Develop a Local Area Energy Plan for Devon.	Completed action: Devon County Council received funding from the South West Net Zero Hub to produce an effective stakeholder engagement strategy, energy baseline and forward plan for Devon. We supported this by providing data and information. With the introduction of Regional Energy Strategic Plans it has been decided not to progress a Devon Local Area Energy Plan, as it duplicates the regional work.	This action is now complete.	
<i>This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E1</i>			
Transport	Update	Next steps	Timescale
6.0 Provide EV charging in Council carparks.	EV charging is in eight of our car parks: Barnstaple Central, Cattle Market Barnstaple, Wilder Road Ilfracombe, South Molton Central, Belle Meadow Barnstaple, South Molton Sheep Pen, Upper Lyndale Lynmouth and Hillsborough Ilfracombe.		

Transport	Update	Next steps	Timescale	
6.1 Support active travel.	A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was published in Feb 2023. We have allocated £66k to make improvements to an active travel route in Rock Park, with Barnstaple Town Council. Completed action: We secured funding from the Cultural Development Fund to create a Wayfinding and Public Art strategy for the town centre. We reviewed the existing wayfinding network and have installed new signage across the town.	Fund improvements to Rock Park route. Identify S106 funds that could be used towards creating active travel schemes.	March 2027 2030	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T6, T7				
6.2 Review our Taxi Licensing Policy and encourage our taxi operators to move to electric and ultra-low vehicles.	Our Taxi Licensing Policy was reviewed 2023; it includes measures to encourage operators to move to cleaner vehicles and to discourage engine idling.	Review Taxi Licensing Policy.	March 2027	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T36				

Planning	Update	Next steps	Timescale
7.0 Review Local Plan for North Devon and Torridge.	The Councils have formally commenced the plan making process and are currently undertaking the first stage which is a scoping consultation. Councillors have set up a climate thematic working group with 6 representatives from North Devon and Torridge District Councils and through this we will explore opportunities to deliver carbon reductions and improvements in sustainability and biodiversity making use of guidance, expert evidence and best practice to best deliver on a range of environmental matters. We will maximise the potential of new developments to be highly efficient and incorporate low carbon heating and cooling solutions and support sustainable travel for future residents, workers and visitors. We will consider the opportunities to support onshore and offshore wind energy development. We anticipate the plan will be formally adopted in April 2029.	Develop evidence base for Local Plan review, carry out public consultation.	March 2027
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C6, C7, E1.1, E1.2, E1.3, E4, B12, T12			

Planning	Update	Next steps	Timescale
7.1 Build upon our pioneering work that seeks biodiversity net gain from development.	Requirements for developers to deliver to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on the majority of developments was introduced in 2024. However, Government is now proposing requirements may be reduced for certain types of development. Completed action: We have published our Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report which sets out how we have delivered Biodiversity Net Gain in the past year.	This action is now complete.	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F14			
7.2 Develop local biodiversity off setting schemes to provide choice and assurance to developers obligated through the planning process within North Devon.	Biodiversity Net Gain requires off-site biodiversity units to be available if the required net gain cannot be delivered on-site. Development of such schemes is led by third parties. Completed action: The Habitat Bank at Mornacott is registered and credits are available for purchase.	This action is now complete.	
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F17, F18			
7.3 Lobby Government for improved building regulations for energy efficiency and making renewable energy sources compulsory for new builds.	We provided a comprehensive and detailed response to last autumn's consultation on national planning framework policies. The Council will continue to respond to consultation opportunities as and when they arise.		
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: E6			

Planning	Update	Next steps	Timescale
7.4 Lobby Government and local providers for improved digital connectivity to order to promote further flexible and remote working patterns, enhancing access to services, supporting our isolated communities and reducing the need to travel.	The government intends to deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband as soon as possible, and aims for the majority of the population to have 5G coverage by 2027. As progress in this area becomes clearer this will be kept under review. Our Economic Strategy recognises the need for universal and reliable access to full fibre broadband. Digital and mobile infrastructure has been incorporated within the Northern Devon Futures group infrastructure discussions.		
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: T1			
Nature	Update	Next steps	Timescale
8.0 We will work with the partners to support delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Plan.	Working with partners such as the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere and the North Devon Coast National Landscape is incorporated into our Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report. We are supporting the North Devon Coast National Landscape to develop a bid for a 10-year nature enhancement project with our local communities.	Support and part-fund NDCNL bid	March 2027
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: F14, F18, F23.2			
Waste and Recycling	Update	Next steps	Timescale
9.0 Deliver the Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay	This action has been completed.		
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R2, R6, R13, R15			
9.1 Support the circular economy and action to reduce waste.	North Devon has a recycling rate of 43.7%. We have set up a Councillor Waste & Recycling group to identify actions to improve the quantity and quality of recyclates collected.	Comply with 'Simpler Recycling' regulations.	March 2026

Waste and Recycling	Update	Next steps	Timescale
9.1 Support the circular economy and action to reduce waste (<i>continued</i>).	Since September 2025 we have been delivering a campaign to encourage recycling. The campaign lasts 12 months, focusing on seasonal, light-touch social media content to educate and re-engage residents, second-home owners, and visitors. Our approach combines myth-busting posts, “what happens to my recycling” storytelling, and hyper-localised fleet messaging to make recycling clearer and more relatable. The aim is to encourage simple, achievable behaviour changes by making recycling feel visible, easy, and worthwhile. Ongoing resident feedback will inform content adjustments throughout the year. Completed action: We have completed a £3.8M project to refit our waste processing facilities at Brynsworthy. This will enable us to sort more waste streams and to produce higher quality recyclates for sale. We have introduced kerbside tetrapak recycling for householders as part of ‘Simpler Recycling’.	Publish results of soft plastics recycling trial.	September 2026
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: R1, R7, F23.5			
9.2 Work with Earth Action North Devon to support delivery of their Strategy.	Officers work with Earth Action North Devon (formerly Plastic Free North Devon) on relevant issues. Completed action: We have supported Earth Action North Devon and other partners in screenings of the People’s Emergency Briefing, a climate documentary, across northern Devon.	Develop action plan using feedback from People’s Emergency Briefing discussions.	Q3 2026
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C4, R1			

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.0 Support communities in adapting to climate change and delivering sustainability and carbon reduction in community and emergency plans.	Support for communities who wish to develop an emergency plan is delivered through the Devon Community Resilience Forum, whom we part-fund. Completed action: We have delivered sessions on emergency response and recovery to all managers and senior managers, in partnership with the Devon Emergency Planning Partnership (DEPP). This training included an exercise to familiarise staff with their roles during an incident. We have up to date response and recovery plans aligned with DEPP.		
Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.1 Provide our towns, parishes and communities with information and support on carbon cutting and biodiversity enhancing projects, funding and opportunities.	We run a series of volunteer events and schools education days at Hillsborough, Cairn and Fremington Local Nature Reserves and Yeo Valley Community Woodland. Officers also attends talks, community events, schools etc as required. We are supporting the North Devon Coast National Landscape to develop a bid for a 10 year nature enhancement project with our local communities.	Continue to deliver events at North Devon council sites. See 8.0 above	March 2027

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.1 Provide our towns, parishes and communities with information and support on carbon cutting and biodiversity enhancing projects, funding and opportunities (<i>continued</i>).	Completed action: We were a partner in the North Devon National Landscape's Finding Nature's Footprints project, a three-year National Lottery Heritage Supported project working with communities to survey, map and take action for the wildlife of the area. Outcomes we helped deliver included: 3 bio-blitzes (an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area); 2,539 people engaged with nature themed activities and a number of events and workshops. We have installed new interpretation boards at Hillsborough, guiding visitors around the site and explaining the history of the area as well as the plants and animals that can be found there.		
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C2, C3, R1			
Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.2 Deliver home energy efficiency improvements, particularly to those households experiencing fuel poverty.	We have a statement of intent for Ecoflex and the Great British Insulation Scheme. The ECO4 scheme ended as intended on 31st March 2026 and therefore, our statement of intent will be phased out up to December 2026.		

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.2 Deliver home energy efficiency improvements, particularly to those households experiencing fuel poverty (<i>continued</i>).	The Warm Homes: Local Grant is a government funding scheme to reduce the energy bills of low-income households living in poorly performing homes. It funds home improvement measure including: cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, air source heat pumps, and solar PV. The scheme started in April 2025 and set to run for 3 years. Applications for North Devon residents are yet to be opened. The Council has an Energy Efficiency grants & loan webpage when new grants are available. We have re-commissioned 361 Energy to provide a home energy advice service, prioritising vulnerable and low-income households.	Deliver Warm Homes: Local Grant in North Devon	March 2027
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: B2, B6			
10.3 Promote sustainable events through licensing function and North Devon's Safety Advisory Group.	Guidance published 2022.		Ongoing
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: C2			
10.4 Seek opportunities to develop a low carbon economy and promote green entrepreneurship and investment through our Economic Strategy.	North Devon Plus's Clean Maritime and Green Energy Officer works in partnership to support delivery of the Council's Economic Strategy and Clean Maritime Growth Vision, with a focus on enabling a resilient, low-carbon economy across North Devon and Torridge.		

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.4 Seek opportunities to develop a low carbon economy and promote green entrepreneurship and investment through our Economic Strategy (<i>continued</i>).	We convene and support sector collaboration through the North Devon & Torridge Maritime Network, which meets quarterly. The network plays an important role on fostering innovation, improving environmental performance, and strengthening economic and social outcomes by connecting businesses, educational institutions, public bodies and community organisations. Work is also progressing in supporting nature-positive economic opportunities. In partnership with the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere, a strategic framework for aquaculture is being developed. This includes identifying suitable species and production systems, assessing environmental and spatial capacity, and outlining governance, licensing and market considerations to enable responsible sector growth. Completed action: We published the North Devon and Torridge Green Hydrogen Routemap, which sets out the region's potential role in hydrogen production, distribution and use through to 2050, alongside an assessment of future skills requirements. While hydrogen remains an important future technology, the routemap identifies that local production opportunities are currently constrained by the availability of large-scale renewable energy generation, particularly offshore floating wind. As a result, future supply is likely to depend on external sources, including potential import via road and the gas network. Ongoing engagement with Hydrogen South West and Wales & West Utilities is exploring the viability of hydrogen integration into regional energy infrastructure.	Finalise the aquaculture strategic framework with the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere.	Autumn 2026

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.5 Work with North Devon College and local schools to maximise opportunities for the next generation in our new green future.	Engagement with North Devon College has included direct input to students on green economy opportunities and emerging sectors such as clean maritime and renewable energy, helping to raise awareness of future career pathways. Direct discussions with the Crown Estate on the need to support STEM engagement, including renewable energy with early years (6-9 years old) has led to funding for a Community Interest Company to provide hands-on robotics, engineering and design projects to young people in remote, rural communities across North Devon and Torridge. This aligns closely with the Council's ambition to build long-term awareness of green career pathways and future workforce opportunities. Early years engagement is critical – this cohort will form the apprentices and skilled workforce required to deliver major infrastructure projects, such as offshore wind, in the coming decades.	Work with the CIC to roll out the 6-9 year old STEM programme across rural communities, ensuring strong reach and inclusion.	Autumn 2026
	We are working with Exeter Science Centre to set up a temporary centre in Green Lanes, Barnstaple and develop a programme of talks and events.	Develop educational materials and programme of events.	July 2026
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: <i>R3, R22</i>			
10.6 Promote local shopping.	We are delivering this in Barnstaple through our Future High Street Fund project and across the district through ongoing town centre management. We promote local shopping through our comms, including an e-bulletin received by over 12,000 subscribers. You can sign up to receive this here		
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: <i>F1, F1.1, F1.2</i>			

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale
10.7 Support our farmers and the agricultural industry to produce more sustainable food.	Support for farmers and the agricultural industry is delivered through North Devon Plus. In the last year they have visited 31 individual farms looking at the current farming enterprise and reviewing what options they have available to secure the long sustainability of the farm. In February the Council's planning team was invited to a dairy farm to look at what the farm was doing , why it was doing it and why they needed different types of planning permission at various times as the business expanded or new laws have been introduced that they must comply with. North Devon Plus have also run 23 workshops on line or at venues covering a range of topics including agri-environment schemes, regenerative farming, nutrient management and water saving.	Deliver environmental advice to farmers and the agricultural industry through North Devon Plus.	2030
This action links to the following Devon Carbon Plan actions: <i>F9, F19</i>			
10.8 Work with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to deliver actions enabling Devon to become net zero carbon by 2050.	We continue to work with the Devon Climate Emergency partnership to deliver the Devon Carbon Plan. We part-fund a communications post at the partnership.	With partners, set out a climate vision and actions for the new Devon authority/authorities post Local Government Reorganisation.	March 2027

Our Communities	Update	Next steps	Timescale	
10.9 Work with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to deliver actions enabling Devon to adapt to climate change.	We continue to work with the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership to deliver the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Adaptation Strategy.	Support review of business engagement on severe weather resilience and preparedness.	March 2027.	
10.10 We will support our towns, parishes and communities to monitor and improve water quality in the district.	We work with the Environment Agency and other partners to address water quality issues at our designated Bathing Waters. We are participating in the Smart Biosphere project, which provides live monitoring of water flow and water quality over entire river catchments in North Devon. The data can be viewed here: North Devon Biosphere Environmental Dashboard			
10.11 We will support development of community energy in North Devon, where appropriate.	This is a new action for 2026.	Assess implication of Great British Power Plan for delivery of community energy in North Devon.	March 2027.	