

Have Your Say on the Interim Devon Carbon Plan

Residents have the chance to shape the county's roadmap to net-zero by taking part in the Interim Devon Carbon Plan Consultation.

The consultation, which opens on Monday December 7 and runs for 10 weeks, gives the public an opportunity to influence Devon's collective response to the global climate emergency and create a healthier, fairer and stronger Devon.

The consultation follows a series of hearings and more than 893 submissions of ideas and evidence from the public.

It's the next crucial step towards producing the Final Devon Carbon Plan, which once published, will enshrine what every Devon citizen, business and organisation has to do to ensure that Devon becomes net-zero.

The plan is being developed by the Net-Zero Task Force, a top-team of experts appointed by the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG), a partnership of councils, emergency services, voluntary organisations and business groups.

Consultees are asked to go to the Devon Climate Emergency website and review the Interim plan which includes the transformational changes needed to create a thriving net-zero Devon.

They are then asked to indicate to what extent they agree with each of the proposed actions listed. All the actions are based on the latest evidence and address the suggestions from the public call for evidence.

The topics range from active travel, renewable energy, and improved air quality to better insulation and warmer homes, reduced fuel poverty and eating more balanced diets.

Additionally, they highlight issues that are more challenging to implement. These will be prioritised for discussion at the Citizens' Assembly in 2021 to ensure that the recommendations in the Final Devon Carbon Plan reflect the views of Devon's citizens.

South Hams District Council's Leader, Cllr Judy Pearce, said: "South Hams District Council are proud to be one of the 25 organisations which make up the Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) partnership. As a Council, we have committed to work 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. This partnership across Devon will be critical to reaching this aim, recognising that much of what needs to be done is beyond the ability of any one authority and that its only through collaboration and partnerships that this important work can be done most effectively.

"Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic continues to place burdens upon Councils of all sizes, and has somewhat slowed down some of our work throughout 2020, I commend the dedication of those involved with the Devon Carbon Plan process to continue to work on this plan, which will form an important part of our own Climate Change Strategy in the future."

Cllr Neil Jory, Leader of West Devon Borough Council, added: "Here in West Devon we are custodians of an amazing and beautiful natural environment. We're all very aware of the dangers of climate change and the need to reduce our carbon emissions.

"The DCE consultation is your chance to have your say on how this emergency should be tackled in Devon, whether that be giving your views on active travel, renewable energy, and improved air quality to better insulation and warmer homes and reduced fuel poverty. Please take part and have your say on the most important issue of our time."

Professor Patrick Devine-Wright, the chair of the Net-Zero Task Force, said: "Since the pandemic began the Carbon Plan has grown beyond the necessity to reduce carbon emissions.

"It is now a rare opportunity to create a fairer, healthier, more resilient and more prosperous society.

"For instance, actions like a transition to clean technologies will create new jobs, improve energy security and will help increase economic prosperity.

"While enhancing the natural environment offers tremendous opportunities to reduce flood risk, improve water and air quality, the availability of nutritious food and will create more accessible greenspace.

"Ultimately it's up to all of us as Devon's citizens.. The more people who take part in the consultation from all walks of life and all parts of Devon, the stronger our argument becomes, the more momentum we create and the more likely we are to realise our goals.

"It's your carbon plan, and what you think really matters."

Dr Phil Norrey, chair of DCERG, said: "I would like to thank the members of the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and the Net-Zero Taskforce for their work.

"The science is clear, our planet is warming at an alarming rate and the crisis can only be managed through collective action.

"The Interim Devon Carbon Plan is Devon's proposed collective response and every person, every business and every organisation has a stake in this process. I urge everyone to take the time and look at what is being proposed and to give their views."

You can view the Interim Carbon Plan and the consultation questionnaire at the Devon Climate Emergency website from 00.01am, Monday December 7, 2020, by following this link: www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/interimcarbonplan.

You can obtain a paper copy:

- From your local library from January 6, 2021.
- By email: environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk.
- By phone: 0345 155 1015

Coastal Erosion Challenges at Beesands

Sea defence works are due to begin at Beesands, giving the community a bit more time to adjust to coastal erosion as sea levels rise and storms increase the vulnerability of the area.

Coastal erosion in South Hams villages such as Start Bay and Beesands is nothing new. The predicted sea level rise and more frequent storm events increase the risk to these communities.

At Beesands in 2016/2017 the Council carried out works to the existing coastal defences to maintain the level of defence and to extend their life span.

At this time, a number of stone baskets were buried in the village green to enable future erosion levels to be monitored. These baskets have now become exposed.

No further external funding is available to support work in this location. However, South Hams District Council has taken the decision to fund a 70m extension of the existing defence situated in front of the village green. These works are due to start in the next few weeks.

However, it is very likely these works will be the last defence works undertaken by the Council at this location.

It is hoped these works will provide more time for the community to prepare for a future without coastal erosion intervention works.

There will be further public awareness and community engagement sessions to help the community understand how they can adapt to the coastal change process.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, South Hams Executive Member for Beach Management: said: “Coastal erosion is not an easy thing for any of us to accept or predict. For the people who live in an area or visit regularly, it can be heart wrenching to see the coast disappear before their eyes. But, as we have seen in recent years along this coast, one big storm can result in a great deal of destruction, despite defence works in place and we are now heading into stormy season.

“At Beesands, we have decided that, while we all accept the coast will continue to recede, it would be beneficial to construct a further 70 metres of defences. We hope this will allow more time for the community to adapt to change. Sadly, this is very likely to be the last defence works we are able to do.”

The Council’s decision to stop coastal erosion intervention work in this area, aligns with the current shoreline management policies for coastal defence, which set out the management of the shoreline over the next 100 years.

Cllr Julian Brazil, South Hams District Council’s local Ward Member for Stokenham said: “Beesands is a very special place in the South Hams. These works will protect the Village Green, houses and the access road. We don’t know what the weather will bring in the future but I’m delighted the Council is doing its best to protect our local communities for the now.”

The contractor for the works is Landmarc who will be looking to set up their site compound from the 14 December. The main works are then programmed to begin on the 4 January and will take approximately eight weeks to complete

Residents will be kept informed as the works take place – officers will be onsite and in the local community talking to residents in the new year.

Shoreline Management Plan can be found here: [SDADCAG SMP2 - SWRCMP](#)
(coastalmonitoring.org)

District Council Committed to Climate Change

A report highlighting South Hams District Council's strong commitment to tackling key climate change and biodiversity issues is to be taken to committee this week.

Developed by the Council's Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group, the Draft Strategy and updated Action Plan, will be presented to Full Council on Thursday 17 December to request formal adoption.

Since the Council declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency in July 2019, officers have continued to work on tasks and projects that will help the District to become net zero by 2050.

These include reducing the Council's own carbon emissions, continuing to work with partners, including the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and our Joint Local Plan partners, Plymouth City Council and West Devon Borough Council, and to increase biodiversity by 10% in its green and wooded public habitats by 2025.

From the original funding allocation of £400,000, £20,000 has been committed to provide officer support for the expenditure of in excess of £500,000 to improve energy efficiency of residents' homes using the Green Homes Grant Scheme. The Council is now committing to split the remaining £380,000, with £180,000 to address the Council's own carbon footprint and the remaining £200k delivered over two phases, to support community initiatives through a range of match-funded grant awards.

Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader of South Hams District Council, said: "I am really pleased to report the progress of our Climate Change and Biodiversity initiatives. We remain committed to using the remaining £380,000 to the best effect. We are determined to reduce our own carbon footprint and also to support our communities to reduce theirs. We will do this through a range of actions including, funding a series of grants. It is important to back up our commitment in a way that maximises the benefits by leveraging in match-funding and capacity wherever we can.

"We continue to work closely with our Devon-wide partners and we are actively working with community representatives to get their views and expertise on an ongoing basis. We have started to change some of our fleet vehicles to electric and will continue to do so, as and when our existing contracts allow. Public electric charging points are in place in some areas of the South Hams with more already in the pipeline. We have supported eligible residents through the Green Homes Grant Scheme to help improve their homes' energy efficiency.

"We are also publishing a monthly Climate Change and Biodiversity e-bulletin to share updates and good practise with our residents, which you can sign up for on our website. All in all, I am confident that we are making strong and steady progress to our Climate Change and Biodiversity agenda."

The Council understand that Climate Change and Biodiversity loss are of critical importance and interest to a wide range of individuals and groups across the District. With this in mind, they arranged a Climate Change and Biodiversity Community Forum session, which took place on Wednesday 9 December and was declared a success by those in attendance. Together the Forum will continue this valuable relationship, where the Council and

community representatives share expertise and knowledge to work together and support common goals.

Any new opportunities and initiatives will be updated in the continually evolving Action Plan as they arise.

A member of South Hams District Council's Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group, and Leader of the Council's Green Party, Cllr Jacqi Hodgson, added: "This week's formal publication of our Climate and Biodiversity Emergency strategy is very timely as it coincides with Devon County's Interim Carbon Plan that was issued last week and the emergence of a number of climate action plans from parishes and town across the South Hams.

"Collaboration and 'joined up thinking' across the Councils with strategic incentives and ideas for the public to participate in meaningful actions to address the climate emergency will help us all to reduce our carbon footprint."

To find out more about the Council's commitment to the Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency, visit:

www.climatechange.southhams.gov.uk/achievements-and-activity

Christmas greeting from South Hams CVS Events

This morning we completed the last training offered by South Hams CVS for the year. Thank you to all our facilitators and participants.

From face to face group meetings in January " to the middle of March, then all on-line via Zoom, what a busy year it has been for South Hams CVS offering support and training for local "not for profit"™ organisations and volunteers. We have seen over 180 people access training opportunities including Creative Solutions & Community Development, Introduction to Wellbeing Listening, 5 Steps to Suicided Awareness, Equality & Diversity, Setting up and Funding for Community Groups, Support for people with hearing loss.

The training we offer is guided by your feedback and the needs you identify to benefit your organisations and volunteers.

Bookings are now being taken for 2021 sessions

5th Jan. 10-12 Making the most of Zoom " NOW FULL - REPEAT OF SESSION 24th Feb.

7th Jan. 10.30 " 12.30 Introduction to Wellbeing Listening

13th Jan. 10 " 12.30 Supporting Volunteer

20th Jan. 10 -12 Promoting Inclusion & Diversity" NOW FULL

28th Jan 10.30 " 1 Wellbeing Listening in Action " for those who have attended previous Introduction to Wellbeing Listening

2nd Feb 10.30 " 12 5 Steps to Suicide Awareness

24th Feb 1 â€“ 3pm â€“ Making the most of ZOOM

2nd March 1 â€“ 3pm Introduction to Wellbeing Listening

Have Your Say on Housing Priorities Across the South Hams and West Devon

South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils are asking local people to share their thoughts on the most important issues for local housing.

These are challenging times for the South Hams and West Devon. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is the importance of our homes and where we live. That is why the Councils want to hear local views on their proposed Housing Strategy 2021-2026. A seven-week consultation on the strategy launches today, 14 December 2020. Titled, Better Homes, Better Lives, it sets out a series of priorities around housing, which will help support the health and wellbeing of residents whilst recognising the unique qualities of the local area.

Many important local issues are highlighted in the plan. These include:

The need for quality, affordable housing

Access to the Disabled Facilities Grant to fund essential adaptations in homes and to promote independent living

The role housing planning can play in meeting climate change targets

This is your opportunity to help shape housing priorities for the future of our communities. Public feedback is vital to the success of the plan and will help the Councils to identify if any significant changes need to be made before it is formally adopted.

That is where the Councils need your help. To make sure everyone has a chance to join the conversation, there are several ways to have your say. Firstly, you can complete the online survey at www.westdevon.gov.uk/wd-housing-strategy or www.southhams.gov.uk/sh-housing-strategy This should only take a few minutes of your time. A series of super-quick 10-second polls will also run across the Councils' Facebook, Instagram and Twitter feeds. These are designed to capture local views on some of the most important elements of the strategy. Please follow us on Twitter @SouthHamsDC or @WestDevon_BC, Facebook @southhamsdistrictcouncil @westdevonboroughcouncil or Instagram @south.hams or @westdevon.boroughcouncil and have your say. Alternative formats are also available on request.

Cllr Hilary Bastone, South Hams District Council Executive Member for Homes said: "To make sure our plans truly meet local need, we now want our residents to join in the conversation. To make this easier for more people, we've got a choice of ways to have your say. We've got a short online survey that should only take a few minutes to complete. We're also planning a series of mini-surveys on Facebook and Twitter. These make it simple to share your views and we hope they will encourage even more people to get involved. "

Cllr Debo Sellis, West Devon Borough Council Hub Lead for Homes added: "This strategy comes at a time of great uncertainty following a year of restrictions and lockdowns as a result of the global coronavirus pandemic. A time when "home" took on a stronger meaning.

“As we move forward, it is important that we revisit our priorities and make commitments to change. That’s why we have called our strategy Better Homes, Better Lives. I urge everyone to spare just a few moments to have their voice heard. By telling us what is most important to you, we can deliver a plan that really will make a difference to our communities.”

The Housing Strategy focuses on six important themes:

Housing for Place

Ensuring sustainable housing growth

Promote balanced and sustainable communities

Ensuring that homes support the health and wellbeing of the area

Housing for People

Homes that support the health and wellbeing of our residents

Make the best use and improve quality of existing housing

Ensuring that people can access the support and advice they require

Both Councils have declared a climate emergency and greener initiatives that deliver on carbon reduction, green energy and improving homes in a sustainable way are key aspects of this strategy.

There are a number of ways to join the conversation and have your say about the proposed Housing Strategy.

You can read the Housing Strategy 2021-2026 here: www.southhams.gov.uk/housing-strategy or www.westdevon.gov.uk/housing-strategy

You can take part in the full consultation survey here: www.southhams.gov.uk/sh-housing-strategy or www.westdevon.gov.uk/wd-housing-strategy

To make it even easier for more people to get involved, the Councils will also be asking for feedback via social media. Please follow the Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and look out for a series of posts inviting you to have your say.

Twitter @SouthHamsDC or @WestDevon_BC

Facebook @southhamsdistrictcouncil @westdevonboroughcouncil

Instagram @south.hams or @westdevon.boroughcouncil

The consultation runs until 10am on 1 February 2021.

Green Homes Grant Mail Drop

In the New Year, we will be doing a mail drop to selected homes to increase awareness about the Green Homes Grant. The letters are targeted to residents who we believe would qualify for the grant based on the EPC of the property (the EPC would be E or below).

Please find a copy of the letter that we are sending out attached to this bulletin. If you get any questions from residents, please reassure them that this letter has come from us. It is an excellent opportunity to get financial support to undertake work that can really help to reduce their energy bills.

It would also be useful if you could use your local knowledge and contacts to let us know about any resident you feel may benefit from this grant. For instance, you may know of elderly constituents who may struggle to heat their home and who could potentially benefit.

Please do get in touch with any questions or suggestions: eco@swdevon.gov.uk

Housing Strategy Consultation

Our Joint Housing Strategy 'Better Homes, Better Lives' public and partner consultation starts on Monday 14 December.

Please note, this is slightly later to start than previously advised in order for us to adjust the consultation approach to encourage a greater range of responses.

The consultation will also now run until the 1 February 2021, which gives slightly longer to allow for the festive period.

From Monday, please click this link to access the partners' consultation survey and a pdf of the Strategy.

We are sharing this with a number of partners, including Town and Parish Councils, our local MP's and other statutory and voluntary agencies. Please help us to spread the word with this and if you can, send the link to all your local agencies and interested parties.

Alongside our traditional consultation survey we will be asking a series of questions through social media and asking people to share their experiences with us. This type of anecdotal evidence can be really useful and will help shape our delivery plan.

Please share, complete the survey and if you have any questions or ideas, please get in touch.

Train4Tomorrow Digital - Technical Bootcamps from January 2021

The Heart of the South West LEP Digital Skills Partnership is launching free Digital and Technical Bootcamps to help adults develop in-demand skills that lead to higher-paid roles within in-demand sectors.

The Digital and Technical Bootcamps offer adults aged 19+ free, high quality, digital and technical training designed by industry to meet their open and live vacancies. The bootcamps are recruiting now, ready to begin in January, have been designed for people out of work, returning to work, or in-work who are looking to advance their skills into industries that are set to grow or are resilient to the current economic downturn.

With ten different bootcamps to choose from, there are opportunities to move into cyber, data science, software, digital marketing, IT, digital for healthcare, welding, photonics, engineering, construction or electronics for renewables or automotive. The training is

completely free and comes with a guaranteed interview for everyone completing the bootcamp.

To encourage diversity and inclusion, the bootcamps have been designed to offer a range of learning modes, in a range of locations – including online – and range from requiring between 5 to 25 hours a week.

It is hoped bootcamps will appeal to people out of work, those who are in-work and released for study as well as people studying alongside a current job looking to retrain. Delivery partners are actively looking to raise awareness of the bootcamps and encourage participation from individuals with protected characteristics such as a disability; those who are neuro-diverse or MOD re-settlers.

Digital and Technical Bootcamps are open for registration now by visiting [this link](#).

South West Mutual Survey

South West Mutual is part of movement aiming to launch a network of regional, mutually owned, ethical community banks which are focussed on purpose before profit.

They will offer banking products and services for those underserved by existing providers - making it easier for everyone to access, manage and maintain their accounts - by seeking to really understand and deliver against need and having real people for you to talk to who can make decisions.

They are conducting some research into banking needs of sole traders, small and medium sized businesses and social / community minded organisations (eg charities / trusts / associations, etc) within the South West and it would be helpful if you could complete the short online survey via the link below.

Find out more at: www.southwestmutual.co.uk