

Developing a Devon Carbon Plan

Report from the Tactical Group

It is recommended that the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG):

- **Endorse the proposed process for the development of a Devon Carbon Plan and for this to be published**
- **Approve the Terms of Reference for the Net-Zero Task Force and for this to be published**
- **Invites an IPCC lead-author from the University of Exeter to chair the Net-Zero Task Force.**
- **Mandates the Tactical Group to work with the chair to identify the 11 additional members of the Net-Zero Task Force who would be receptive to an invitation.**

1. Purpose

This paper proposes a process for the development of a collaborative Devon Carbon Plan.

2. Background

In response to the declaration of climate emergencies, DCERG members have endorsed the principles of a Climate Declaration that commits its signatories to collaborating on a Devon Climate Plan.

The DCERG has asked the Tactical Group to design a process for developing the Devon Carbon Plan.

3. Key Requirements of the Plan-Making Process

The process must be transparent and provide opportunity for 1) collaboration 2) expert input to the debate, 3) direct involvement by the community and 4) the chance for everybody to submit their view.

In addition, Devon County Council and the University of Exeter would like to test the use of a citizens' assembly to steer the content of the Plan.

4. Proposed Process

The DCERG would appoint a specialist Net-Zero Task Force to develop the Devon Carbon Plan.

The Task Force would be 12 people with expertise in topic areas relevant to carbon mitigation and these would be drawn from economic, environmental, health and academic organisations so that it is as neutral as possible. It would have an impartial chair; positive conversations have been had with the University of Exeter about enabling an IPCC lead-author to perform this role. .

With the support of the Tactical Group and the Project Manager (yet to be appointed), the Task Force would use their expertise to design and deliver a series of topic-based hearings to which experts would be invited for questioning to determine what the barriers and opportunities are to decarbonising the specific topic areas. Topics might include transport, new development, waste, agriculture, existing buildings etc. For example, to the transport hearing could be invited the public transport operators, County Council, Highways Agency, rural and urban transport user groups, cycling and walking representatives etc. The

hearings may identify where additional research is necessary, which will need to be commissioned. The hearings would output a spectrum of policy options for potential inclusion in the Devon Carbon Plan. These policy options would then be tested and refined at a series of citizens' assembly meetings. A full public consultation on the draft Plan would follow. This process is depicted at Figure 1 and a timeline is provided at Figure 2 (appended to report).

Through the topic-based hearings, any additional necessary research and the citizens' assembly, the earliest credible date for decarbonising Devon will be determined.

The design of the citizens' assembly would be comprised of a sample of a minimum of 50 people representing the population of Devon. The exact design of the assembly and the hearings that inform its debate will hopefully be guided by an Exeter University research project that will also monitor the assembly's effectiveness and gather learning points for subsequent sharing with other local authorities and for other public policy topics. The Assembly design will also need to reflect the available resource. A market research company would be used to establish and operate the assembly, which will need to be procured. Using a representative citizen's assembly will ensure all of Devon's opinions are represented. Devon's Youth Parliament will be engaged by the Task Force to ensure concerns of young people are clearly heard in the process.

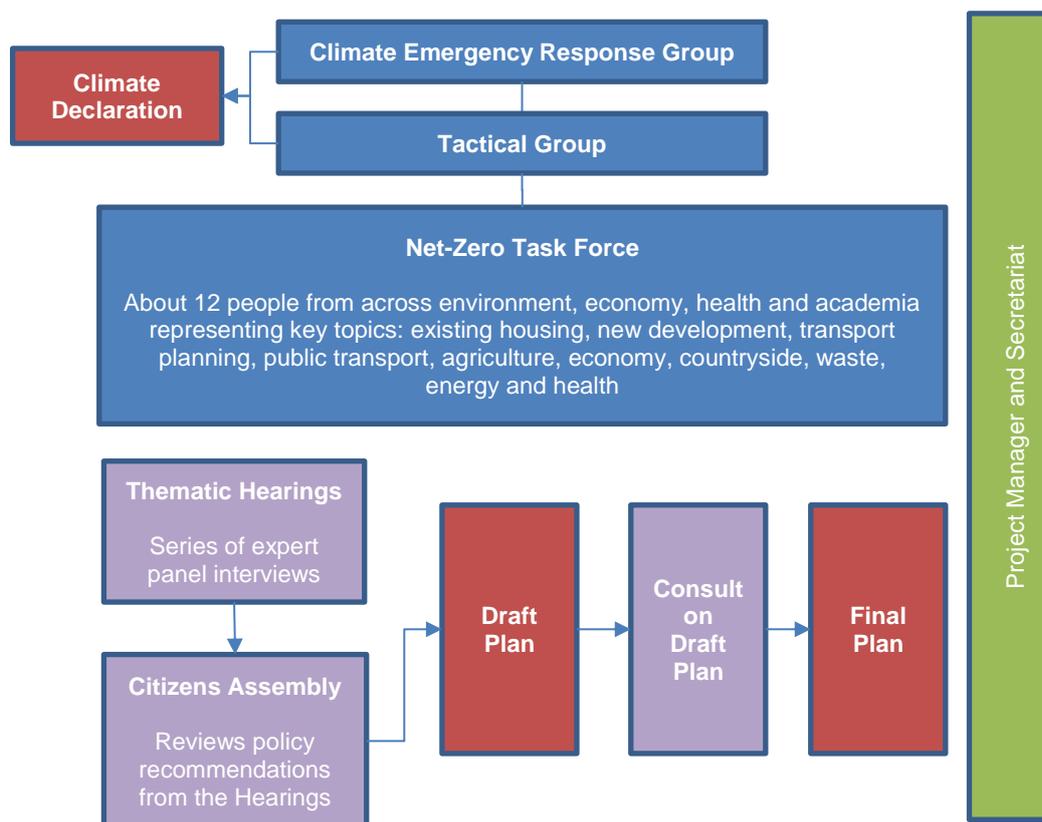


Figure 1 - Proposed process for a Devon Carbon Plan

5. Resources

This process will require funding for:

- A Project Manager to coordinate it
- Communications
- Staging the hearings

- Operating the citizen’s assembly
- The university’s time to advise the detail of the process
- Additional research.

The County Council has provided £250k to get the process moving and the university has submitted a £200k bid to the Economic and Social Research Council (£130k from the university and £70k from the research council). The outcome of this funding bid will be known around July 10th.

Up to a further £44k of research time will be allocated from the South West Energy and Environment Group (SWEEG), hosted by the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter, for the project over 2 years via Devon County Council’s annual subscription to SWEEG.

Aspect	Value	Funder
Project Manager for 2 years	£100k	Devon County Council
Multi-agency website and ongoing communications for 2 years	£10k	Devon County Council
Designing the citizens’ assembly and participative processes and advising throughout	£120k	University of Exeter
Stage the hearings	£10k	Devon County Council
SWEEG research time	£44k	Devon County Council
Operating the citizens’ assembly	Approx. £100k (indicative quote)	Devon County Council
Public consultation	£5k	Devon County Council
Appraisal of the process’ effectiveness	£60k	Economic and Social Research Council
Evaluation	£45k	(£25k) Devon County Council, (£10k) University of Exeter, (£10k) Economic and Social Research Council
Current Total	£494k	

If the research council funding is unsuccessful, the project can proceed: Funding currently allocated for aspects towards the end of the proposed process would be brought forward to fund earlier project aspects and the ambition of some aspects will need to be reviewed. Work to identify further funding and resources for the later project aspects would need to be undertaken by the project manager. Ideally these will be provided collectively by the DCERG membership from existing sources or further funding bids

6. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Net-Zero Task Force

Role

To use its specialist knowledge and experience to produce an evidence-led Devon Carbon Plan, including consideration of the earliest credible date that should be set for net-zero emissions, following the process and schedule endorsed by the DCERG.

Deliverable

A Devon Carbon Plan.

Meetings

The frequency of meetings will initially be ad-hoc and decided by its members.

Communications

The minutes of the Net-Zero Task Force will be published on the project website following their sign-off..

Membership

Twelve specialists will comprise the Task Force. The members will be invited by the DCERG, having been recommended by the Tactical Group, and will represent a variety of stakeholder groups and sectors relevant to the decarbonisation agenda. The members will be expected to provide practical support to the chair outside of the scheduled meetings, alongside the Tactical Group and the Project Manager.

Chairperson

The DCERG will invite one of the Task Force members to be the chair. The DCERG can change the chair. The chair will lead the Task Force in designing and delivering the aspects of the plan-making process endorsed by the DCERG.

Resources

The Project Manager and the Tactical Group will provide practical support to the Task Force to develop the Devon Carbon Plan. Funding to operate aspects of the Plan development has been made available.

The Task Force can seek advice and input from others to inform its activities.

Secretariat

Devon County Council's Environment Group will provide the secretariat and appoint the multi-agency Project Manager.

By end	Apr 2019	May 2019	Jun 2019	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sep 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2020	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2019	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
CERG and Tactical Group Established	■																			
Climate Declaration Published		■																		
Climate Declaration Signed by Organisations			■	■	■	■														
CERG Approves Plan-Making Process			■																	
Task Force appointed						■														
Project Management Appointment				■	■	■														
Appraise evidence and design Thematic Hearings						■	■	■												
Procure Citizen Assembly								■	■											
Thematic Hearings – Developing Policy Options								■	■											
Citizen Assemblies										■	■	■	■							
Draft the Plan											■	■	■	■						
CERG organisations endorse Draft Plan														■	■					
Consult on Draft Plan																■	■			
Produce Final Plan																		■		
CERG members adopt Final Plan																			■	■

Figure 2: Timeline of proposed process to develop the Devon Carbon Plan