Action for Climate in Teignbridge (ACT)

Coordination Group

Section 1. Terms of Reference

1.1 Role

The Coordinating Group's role is to:

1. To consider and decide all matters relating to the formation, roles and structures of Action for Climate in Teignbridge's (ACT's) working groups.
2. To determine which working groups should be established, changed or disbanded. The initial list of working groups forms Appendix 1 to these Terms of Reference.
3. Consider and decide, with the participation of ACT's membership, what legal form ACT should adopt.
4. Lead and coordinate all engagement with Teignbridge District Council members and officers. Members of subgroups may engage directly with them, provided the coordinating group knows and agrees this will happen.
5. To put in place and use, and encourage working groups to use, effective and coordinated ways of communicating and working with town and parish councils, community organisations and residents of Teignbridge.
6. Develop, with participation of ACT's membership, a plan to achieve ACT's mission.
7. To review, in discussion with working group leads, each working group's proposals for action, particularly to understand how each will contribute to ACT's mission.
8. To have the final decision regarding whether any proposed initiative is implemented, reviewed, amended or ended.
9. To propose, initiate and oversee public engagement activities, to secure maximum participation of local people in developing and delivering initiatives. Such engagement may be face-to-face, or through appropriate social media.
10. To develop and use effective ways of lobbying for change, in partnership with Teignbridge and other councils, and community organisations, wherever appropriate.
11. To develop and deliver ways of changing behaviour in relation to carbon emissions, where this is appropriate and can be done in partnership with other organisations.
12. Seek and secure funding and other external support.
13. Recommend to the membership any changes to its terms of reference, and adopt any which are approved.

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1.2 Membership

The Coordinating Group shall be made up of the following:

- A Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer
- Up to two representatives from each action group
- Other posts which it decides are needed

The maximum number of Coordinating Group members shall be 12.

1.3 Meetings

The Coordinating Group will meet as often as needed, and not less than every two months. It will arrange meeting dates and locations which suit its members, using Doodle poll or similar where necessary.

1.4 Appendix 1: ACT Working groups

1. Built Environment
2. Transport
3. Food Farming Horticulture and Forestry
4. Ecology

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Section 2. Mission, guiding principles and objectives

2.1 Vision

In 2025, Teignbridge is carbon neutral, with its residents building communities and economies which are sustainable, resilient and healthy.

2.2 Mission

To assist, encourage and help Teignbridge District Council and town and parish councils, community groups and residents in the district to act together to realise the vision.

2.3 Principles

ACT will follow the following principles as it undertakes its mission:

1. Reducing the speed and effects of climate change should be at heart of all actions
2. Community participation is essential
3. Bold, innovative and far-reaching initiatives are required
4. Of openness, inclusivity, respect and democracy.

2.4 Objectives

We will realise our mission through achieving the following objectives:

1. To support Teignbridge District Council to ensure its Climate Emergency Declaration is reflected in all its policies, decisions and activities
2. To support town and parish councils to implement initiatives in response to their climate emergency declarations
3. To inspire and enable organisations and residents across Teignbridge to develop and implement initiatives which contribute significantly to achieving our mission
4. In pursuing its other objectives, to recognise the value of infrastructural change working at scale, assisting people experiencing deprivation and ensuring initiatives are socially and financially sustainable

[These objectives are currently in draft; they will be revised and made SMART as soon as possible].

2.5 Method of working

To realise our mission and achieve our objectives, we will work in the following ways:

1. Through a structure consisting of a coordinating group and action groups focusing on different action areas.
2. By establishing a carbon emissions baseline against which change can be measured.
3. By inviting, collating and assessing suggestions for actions from all organisations and individuals in Teignbridge, and forming a plan which will achieve our mission.
4. Closely with Teignbridge District Council members and officers.
5. In partnership with town and parish councils, and community and other organisations
6. By inviting participation from individuals across Teignbridge who share our aim of achieving carbon neutrality;
7. By actively pursuing ways of helping individual Teignbridge residents to understand and feel committed to the need for further action and ways in which we can all reduce our carbon footprint;

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2.6 Appendix 1: Teignbridge Climate Emergency resolution, 18th April 2019

RESOLVED that Teignbridge District Council:-

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency'

2. Pledge to do what is within our powers, to make Teignbridge District carbon neutral by 2025, taking into account both production and consumption emissions.

3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources necessary for Teignbridge District to achieve the target of becoming carbon neutral by 2025, and to implement best practice methods to limit global warming to 1.5C.

4. Report to Full Council within six months with an Action Plan, outlining how the Council will address this emergency. The Action Plan will detail the leadership role Teignbridge District will take in promoting community, public, business and other Council partnerships to achieve this Carbon Neutral 2025 Commitment throughout the District. The Action Plan will also outline adequate staff time and resources to undertake the actions to achieve the target.

5. To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment.

2.7 Appendix 2: Teignbridge Adoption of the Devon Climate Declaration, 5th July 2019

[Action on Climate in Teignbridge agrees with the proposals in the Devon Climate Declaration, but believes they should be implemented by 2025]

The Leader Cllr Gordon Hook and Managing Director Phil Shears recently signed the Devon Climate Declaration, reaffirming our commitment to leading the charge for change.

By signing the declaration, we have committed to supporting a raft of measures and initiatives including lobbying government to prioritise decarbonisation and to provide the resources and funding necessary to speed up the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.

We are part of the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. This brings together 20 public and private sector organisations in Devon.

The group is supporting urgent action on the climate emergency and is coordinating the production of a Devon Carbon Plan. This includes creating a 'citizens assembly' to ensure you get the opportunity to have your say in the process too.

Devon Climate Declaration

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1. This Declaration has been prepared by a consortium of public, private and voluntary organisations collaborating through a Devon Climate Emergency Response Group. It sets out an ambition to tackle climate change that covers all of Devon, including those people who live, work in and visit our county, and those businesses who are based or operate here.
2. We are aware of the significant implications of climate change for Devon's communities; it is already affecting our environment, infrastructure, economy and health & wellbeing. If not addressed, the impact on future generations will be profound and the ability to meet the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals will be severely compromised.
3. We understand that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has advised that carbon emissions must reduce globally by at least 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels and reach net-zero by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change by keeping warming below 1.5 degrees.
4. We will lead in the global response to climate change through our collective action, innovation and influence.
5. Individually, we will review (within 6 months) our plans to reduce our organisation's carbon emissions to meet or exceed these targets, including ensuring the people we do business with are doing the same. We will publicly report our carbon emissions annually in accessible formats.
6. In collaboration, we will engage Devon's residents, businesses and visitors to develop and implement a plan to facilitate the reduction of Devon's production and consumption emissions to meet IPCC recommendations at the latest. We will openly report progress on its delivery. We know this transformational change will be challenging and will include:

- Deploying more renewable, decentralised and smart energy systems
- Retrofitting energy-efficiency measures into our existing buildings
- Constructing zero-carbon new buildings
- Travelling less and using improved walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure more often, and using electric and hydrogen vehicles
- Changing our consumption to use less, re-use more and choose low-carbon options
- Challenging all economic sectors to review their practices and the values of those they do business with
- Divesting from fossil fuels
- Changing our dietary patterns and reducing food waste
- Changing agricultural practices to reduce emissions associated with farming operations, manage soils sustainably and replenish soil carbon
- Encouraging carbon storage such as through tree planting, the use of wood in construction and peatland restoration
- Empowering the people of Devon with the knowledge and skills to act collectively.

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7. Additionally, we will work to understand the near-term and future risks of climate change for Devon to plan for how our infrastructure, public services and communities will have to adapt for a 1.5-degree warmer world.

8. Local organisations and communities cannot do this alone as national government plays a key role in many of the policy areas that are vital to reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. We call on government to prioritise decarbonisation and adaptation within decision making and work with us by using its powers to provide the resources and funding necessary to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy and society.

9. We challenge every organisation, business, community and individual to do the same.

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