

Climate Change Scoping Development Plan Document Statement of Consultation

Strategic Planning

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Introduction

This report is the consultation statement for the Climate Change Development Plan Scoping Document (DPD). The DPD was published in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This statement sets out how the public and other stakeholders have been consulted on the DPD.

We carried out public consultation on the Climate change Development Plan Scoping Document (DPD) between 30 March and 26 May 2020. The period was extended to take account of the impact Covid 19 had on the way we were able to consult and to allow respondents additional time to respond.

We welcome all the feedback and comments and the depth of feeling and the extensive knowledge of the responders is evident. Not all of the suggestions and concerns can be addressed through planning policy and this Climate Emergency DPD, but this is just one way that Cornwall Council is taking action to address climate change. All evidence and information will be shared with colleagues across the Council who will all be involved in the delivery of the Council's Climate Action plan.

The Climate Emergency DPD will be subject to two further periods of public consultation as required by the Local Plan Regulations. It is anticipated that these next key statutory engagement stages will be held in August 2020 and January 2021.

Creating a DPD is a legal process and it takes time and the language relating to planning policy is often technical and complex. This is necessary to ensure that the policies we have in place are robust and are legally compliant.

Our consultation approach has been adapted to ensure a broad cross section of people have been engaged despite the current health emergency. Whilst initial consultation has been held predominantly online, to ensure we reached the widest audience, along with press releases to all social media and traditional media outlets we have placed adverts in local newspapers and newsletters.

Plans were put in place for anyone who is unable to access the consultation on-line. We published a telephone number, so people could express their views directly to a member of the DPD team. There was also the option for hard copies of the documents to be made available on request and a postal address for responses.

As consultation is for a DPD aimed at addressing the Climate Change Emergency we hoped to keep printing to an absolute minimum.

Regulations

The DPD is produced in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The relevant regulations relating to the consultation process are explained below.

The regulations require the Council to produce a consultation statement before the adoption of the DPD, this should set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised

and how these issues were incorporated into the DPD. The Council is required to publish the DPD and any supporting documents for public consultation, specify the date when responses should be received, and identify the address to which responses should be sent.

This consultation statement sets out a summary of comments received to the scoping stage of the DPD – further statements will be published at each stage to summarise the comments received and actions taken by the Council to respond to them.

Preparation of a Development Plan Document

Regulation 18 states that a local planning authority must notify each person/organisations of the subject of the Plan that it is proposing to prepare and invite representations on what that plan should contain. This is known as the ‘Scoping’ stage. The Council are then required to take into account any representations made in response to the Scoping stage.

Who did we consult?

The Council sought the views of the relevant statutory and other key consultees on the scoping version of the Climate Change DPD, in accordance with the Council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement. The Local Plan database of consultees contains approximately 1,300 statutory and individual consultees and all these were notified of the DPD consultation via email or letter.

Response Summary issues raised?

3.1 We asked the following questions as part of a questionnaire:

- Tell us the two things that concern you most about Climate Change?
- What are the top two things we need to achieve first for Cornwall?
- Is there a topic or theme that you think we should investigate and why is this so important to you?
- What policies do you think would be most effective against climate change?
- What do you expect the impacts of new planning policy could have on your business, organisation or community?
- Do you have any other comments or any evidence for us to include?

3.2 We received responses via email, letter, questionnaire and in report format.

| Response summary at 2nd June 2020 | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Total Responses | 330 |
| Individual/resident | 216 |
| Business | 28 |
| Other | 47 |
| Town/ Parish Council | 34 |
| Email | 117 |

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Letter | 5 |
| Questionnaires | 206 |
| Our Ambitions | |
| Agree Strongly | 143 |
| Agree Somewhat | 23 |
| Don't know | 1 |
| Disagree Somewhat | 3 |
| Disagree Strongly | 2 |
| Did not answer | 158 |

3.3 The main comments received to date include asking us to consider:

- Better protection for trees, canopy and hedges.
- Suggestions from the policy examples of other geographical areas (national and international).
- The impact Climate Change has on vulnerable communities and the sea.
- Their support for this plan and the idea of allocating areas for renewable energy deployment (like wind and solar).
- Difficulty in getting planning permission for solar panels currently.
- Promoting cycle routes.
- Sustainable Public Transport
- Food Shortages
- Water shortages
- Co-Housing
- Cancelling Spaceport

3.4 Officer response to issues raised at scoping consultation

We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the Climate Change Development Plan Document Scoping consultation.

All comments received have helped to shape the policies that appear in the next stage of the DPD which has been renamed the Climate Emergency DPD to better reflect the importance of this work.

The Climate Emergency DPD, sets out draft planning policy and options designed to help the Council achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and will be reviewed at Cabinet in July 2020.

Planning plays a key part in managing building and development in Cornwall and at the same time operates to a strict system of controls, technical standards, Building Regulations and the Council's procurement policies. This is why the inclusion of the DPD within the Council's Climate Change Action Plan is so important, but it is just one of a number of things needed to address the Climate Emergency.

We want to be as ambitious as possible, but have to consider the potential for significant policy, practice and technological advances between now and 2030. We have to make policies flexible, so they can keep pace with change. The DPD must be broadly compliant

with national planning policy at the time of its official Examination but we are also taking care to make sure it is not restrictive and is able to adapt in the future.

The Covid-19 pandemic seriously restricted our ability to engage face to face in all the usual ways. We used a variety of engagement methods to reach our audience. As restrictions ease, we hope to combine the best of new and traditional methods to reach as many people as possible.

The form of the DPD is led by local planning regulations and by the evidence that is needed for the official examination. The DPD is a legal document and this can make the language used in planning policies complicated so we are trying to include versions written in plain English whenever we can.

The Council does not have a Citizen's Assembly but is developing new ways to make sure that residents can engage the work it is doing and can have their say about documents such as the DPD. Whilst face to face meetings and focus groups have been very restricted, we hope to use these methods as restrictions are lifted.

So that the environment and social benefit are considered in all recovery policies the Council is making better use of its pioneering Decision Wheel, based on the 'Doughnut Economics' model developed by the award-winning economist Kate Raworth, and introduced last year as part of its climate change action plan. Cornwall is believed to be the country's first local authority to adopt this ground-breaking approach, which is also being used by the Dutch city of Amsterdam. Every policy being suggested by the DPD will be assessed using the decision wheel.

We have noted responses to the 'concerns about climate change' and suggestions under 'the things that Cornwall needs to achieve first' sections. Some of these issues can't be dealt with by planning alone so we will share all comments and suggestions with other Council teams and our partners. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall Team is looking at things we need to ask Government for, this may help address some of these concerns and suggestions.

The Council wants to make sure that the climate emergency and carbon neutrality is part of all planning decisions. The Climate Emergency DPD will give greater detail, but the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) wants a balance to be struck between social, economic and environmental sustainability and we will need to show this balance for our plan to be legally 'sound'.

We are working with other councils to see how we could use a carbon budgeting approach and are collecting evidence to support the position. This will be an area that needs careful thought after the Covid pandemic and we are viability testing so that carbon budgeting can be applied and will be valid at the official examination of the DPD.

We are developing policy to support community-owned energy projects and options that would give an amount of community ownership or control over renewable energy projects in Cornwall. We are working with Regen Southwest who are helping us to understand how this might work.

Work is underway to develop how we look at listed buildings with Council Heritage colleagues. This is based on work that has been done to make listed buildings more energy efficient. This has been published and may be found at:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/strategic-historic-environment-service/guidance/technical-guidance/improving-energy-efficiency-in-historic-cornish-buildings/>

Offshore and wave energy generation fall within the marine planning process and are mainly dealt with by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), but as part of this DPD we are setting policy that supports the associated infrastructure on land.

Geothermal energy is an area that we are keen to support, but unless technical developments are quicker, it's unlikely there will be a lot of geothermal production in the plan period. Our economic development and climate change colleagues are working to help unlock the geothermal potential in Cornwall.

Planning has no control over the use of holiday cottages or second homes. Neighbourhood Plans have been successful in a number of areas in securing policies to limit the use of new dwellings to primary residence and we consider that this is better achieved at neighbourhood plan level where the evidence and impact on the sustainability of communities can be demonstrated.

The Council's response to the recent consultation on the Future Homes Standard (both the summary and the technical response) can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/government-policy-consultations>. As set out above, whilst the Council is frustrated with the pace of change from Government on this, it is good news that all new development will need to meet new building regulation standards if they proceed in the same form. This means that new standards will be applied quickly for approved and new development.

We are suggesting a policy that reduces water consumption to 100 litres per person, per day in the plan. This lower limit of 110 litres has been set in optional technical standards by Government and replaces the requirement in the Code for Sustainable Homes. This figure will still need to be justified on existing or well documented grounds and we are aware of other authorities that have tried and failed to convince an Inspector of a need to set a lower standard. The exact treatment of wastewater and questions of separation of liquids and solids and greywater systems will need to be justified against Building Regulations.

The Council is already cautious around development in flood risk areas and is advised by the Environment Agency (EA). We are actively working with the EA to write a new policy that uses the EA's latest Flood Risk maps, including those that predict the effect of climate change. This helps to increase protection and stop homes being built in areas likely to flood in future. We are working towards natural flood management and are keen to explore how this might fit with the emerging Nature Recovery Strategy.

We have strengthened how we talk about biodiversity impacts in our draft policies and whilst we can't change the wording in the Local Plan policy, it is clear that national policy has removed the wording 'where possible' for biodiversity net gain so our new policies will be stronger.

The Government has indicated that Biodiversity Net Gain will be mandated at 10% in England. This mandating is unlikely to be in place for a period of up to 2 years due to the transition periods stated in the Environment Bill. This means that Cornwall will need to both be aware of potential changes to the figure (up or down) nationally and to justify any increase over 10%. There has been a rapid decline in biodiversity and we have the increased net gain needed in our draft policies, but any increase has to match national guidance and consider the need for development to be viable.

Trees have been considered and have been built into a number of policies, including to retain and increase tree canopy cover either as part of net gain or as a stand-alone policy. These have been developed working with the Forestry and Forest for Cornwall teams.

We are working with Natural England and colleagues in the Council's Environment team to develop the Cornwall Nature Recovery Network Strategy and this will help us invest in the right areas. This will use the mapping that has been done as part of the Lagas project (lagas.co.uk). We can't change the Local Plan policy, but we can provide extra wording in the DPD to achieve this. Policy in the DPD will show the importance of nature recovery investment and will protect areas of strategic nature recovery. The Carbon Neutral Cornwall and Environment teams are looking at the use and improvement of the Council's landholdings and farms and at setting policy around pesticides, that is already in place on Council land. Other improvements outside of planning are also being looked at.

The DPD can't stop new roads being built. We are working on policies to help change the way we travel, by making private cars much less important and we know roads will still be needed for travel. Our policies will put more active and sustainable travel like cycling, walking and public transport first. We still need cars, but we want to make them more of a second thought after greener ways to travel.

Planning has little control over most agricultural building and development and virtually no control over land management processes, techniques or farm sizes. We are working to make the areas that we can control better, reducing the emissions associated with farming. We need to balance the need to provide food and services, at same time as reducing the water and air pollution associated with some farming practices. Comments that were made during consultation have been shared with the County Farms team.

There was strong support for One Planet Development (OPD), and we have been working on a draft policy for a scheme that could work in Cornwall. In talking to the author of the Welsh approach we have looked at a less complicated model. Further detail will be provided, and we would welcome comments when we consult again later this summer. There has been very little interest in an urban model for OPD, mainly because it is already easier to develop in these areas. We will carry on looking into support for this type of urban development, but it is less likely to need a policy.

Food production and the logistics of the food market, unless part of a specific development proposal isn't controlled by planning but, we are asking for Community growing spaces to be included in new developments. The Agriculture Bill that is currently going through the Houses of Commons and Lords will look at other issues that can't be addressed through planning.

Draft policies covering light and sound pollution will be included in the DPD policies.

The draft town centre policies look at the need for town centres to serve their populations and can successfully restructure post-Covid economy. Some Town Centres are not always as sustainable as they could be, but they are a focus for public transport, services and facilities that mean we need to travel less or can travel more sustainably. We are exploring policies that increase car free centres and support clusters of rural settlements with facilities and services that mean we travel less for work and shopping. This is a start that will help us when we make changes to the Cornwall Local Plan in the future.

The Cornwall Local plan already has a general policy for Health and wellbeing and we want to make sure that this runs through all the policies in the DPD.

Pre-Submission Consultation August/September 2020

Following the response to the Scoping consultation draft Policies have been drawn up to address the issues raised. They are subject to public consultation between 10 August and 25 September 2020. All representations in response to Scoping are set out in Appendices 1 - 5.

Appendices: Responses to Scoping Consultation.

- Appendix 1. Town and Parish Council and Political Party
- Appendix 2. Local and other Interest Groups
- Appendix 3 Business
- Appendix 4 Individuals
- Appendix 5 Other supporting information