

Sept 22 Update Report – Cllr Lois Samuel

We have been through an emotional and historic couple of weeks. I hope everyone have been able show their respects to Elizabeth II in your own personal way. Such an outpouring of National grief and at the same time welcoming in Charles III has been something we will not see again.

I would just like to thank the Towns and villages for all your hard work over these last few weeks in opening halls and churches for the community to come together to pay their respects and to celebrate Elizabeth II.

Here are a few things I wanted to highlight this month:

Adult Social Care

We await to see whether the changes in national government and the current national financial situation result in changes or delays to elements of the reforms, but in the meantime work is progressing at pace locally to ensure we're ready.

Devon Carers continues to have a positive impact

- We work closely with Devon Carers as the commissioned provider of carers services in Devon, with funding provide via the Better Care Fund which is a health and care pooled budget. The work Devon Carers does is incredible and I have previously informed members of the impact of the Carers Hospital Service that has successful reduced hospital admissions and supported discharge. I wanted to highlight to some of the other impacts that Devon Carers is having in this year alone:
 - Over 26,000 carers are being supported
 - Over 1,900 carers assisted through facilitation of Peer Support
 - Over 1700 carers have received carers breaks
 - Over 13,000 calls from carers have been answered, over 1300 emails responded to and over 1560 webchats have taken place
 - Training has been provided to 286 carers
 - Over 7,700 Carer Passports issued, in addition to the over 19,000 issued last year
 - Over 3200 carer assessments and reviews have taken place
- Work has been taking place across the year to see how the contract with Devon Carers can be developed further and what learning can be gained, especially from the pandemic. We anticipate plans will be published this month.

One Devon pilot on international recruitment into Adult Social Care

- £750,000 has been secured from One Devon to invest in a system-wide Pilot which will test the best approach to overseas recruitment. The plan is that on the DCC footprint we will recruit 100 care workers, 14 senior care workers and 9 nurses and they will be deployed in care and nursing homes and within home care. This work will support a number of priority areas of work

including, supporting hospital discharge into care homes, additional bed capacity for people 65+ with complex needs, reducing longest length of hospital stays, reducing dependency on agency staff, reducing temporary care home placements and supporting market sufficiency where a provider is at risk due to insufficient staff

Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

- In the coming weeks the committee will also be holding a spotlight session on Community Pharmacy, seeking to get an understanding of the issues facing community pharmacy and explore what some of the solutions might be and how committee might help.

Devon ranked as second best in the country for patient experience of general practice

- The national GP Patient Survey is carried out each year by Ipsos on behalf of NHS England to collate data on patient's experiences of using general practice services. The latest annual GP Patient Survey for 2022 has been published and it saw more than 14,500 people across Devon sharing their views on a range of topics, including making an appointment, overall experience, and local GP services.
- Analysis of the outcomes show Devon ranked as second best in the country for patient experience of general practice. The results have shown overwhelming public backing for Devon's GP surgeries, with eight in ten respondents reporting a good experience of their practice. NHS Devon has exceeded the national average many categories including: overall experience of GP practice (only one other system in England scored higher), ease of getting through to someone at the practice on the phone, choice of appointment, satisfaction with appointment offered, and mental health needs recognised and understood

COVID update

- DHSC have announced routine asymptomatic testing for Covid will be paused, this includes hospitals and care homes, from 31 August as cases continue to fall. Testing will remain in place for admissions into care homes and hospices from both hospitals and the community, and for transfers for immunocompromised patients into and within hospital to protect those who are most vulnerable
- 12 September saw the launch of the COVID-19 Autumn Booster and Flu Vaccination Programme. NHS roving vaccination teams began visiting care homes from 5 September 2022. These visits will also be an opportunity to offer vaccination to new residents and to care home staff who have not yet received a full primary course of the vaccine or booster dose.

Devon Carbon Plan Summary and Process

The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050 (at the latest). It divides action to reduce Devon’s emissions into five sectors: economy and resources; energy supply; food, land and sea; transport; and the built environment.

Creating the Devon Carbon Plan involved five main phases;

1. During the first phase, the independent Net Zero Task Force took a robust, evidence-led approach, with an open call for evidence from the public and organisations wishing to contribute which received 893 submissions from the public
2. Six Thematic Hearings (meetings) gathered expert input about barriers to reaching net-zero; and a Youth Parliament Climate Summit with 75 students from 15 primary and secondary schools across Devon was convened
3. Next, the Interim Devon Carbon Plan was developed. The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership asked for public feedback during a consultation which received 1322 responses.
4. The more controversial climate topics and action areas were set aside to be deliberated through a representative Citizens Assembly which was organised and chaired by a third party in the summer of 2021.
5. Following the successful completion of the Citizens’ Assembly, a further public consultation took place on the actions developed in response to the assembly’s recommendations in spring 2022.

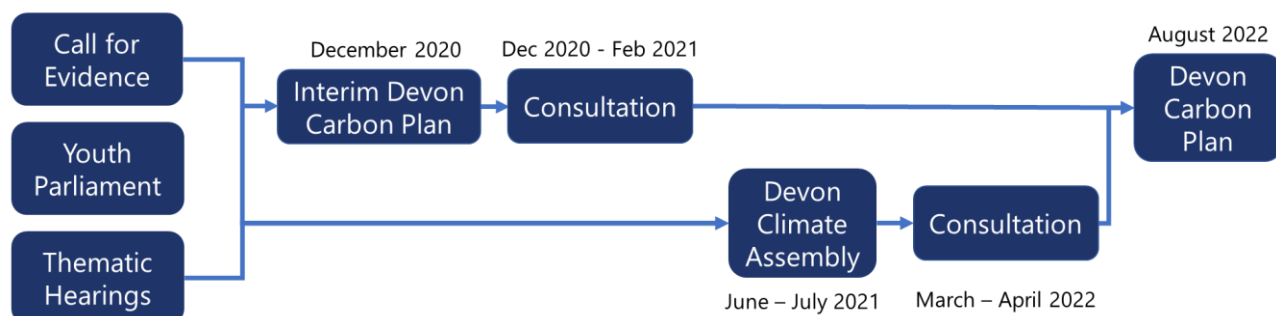
A visual representation of the process is shown below:

Communicating the Plan

The Plan will principally be an online document. Three versions will be available as online text and PDF downloads:

- The full Plan – 42,000 words

Oct 2019 – Jan 2020



- A summary version – 20,000 words (attached to this Briefing Note)
- A quick read – 18 pages

The Devon County Council communications team are assisting the partnership with developing press material. Instagram and Twitter question and answer sessions are to be scheduled as well as a public webinar on the evening of the 28th September.

Next Steps and Impact upon Partners

The next stage for the Plan is for the partners to endorse it and demonstrate how they will use their responsibilities and influence to help deliver it. All organisations and communities in Devon will be encouraged to do the same.

The Action-Table includes columns which indicates who an action is most relevant to. Very rarely is an action relevant to a single organisation - the Devon Carbon Plan is a County carbon plan for all, where collaboration and working together is at the core of the Devon Climate Emergency Partnership.

The Devon Carbon Plan doesn't propose to supersede existing democratic scrutiny processes or partners' own governance arrangements. It instead is an evidence-led plan which forms a roadmap which encourages each partner organisation, and organisations and communities beyond the partnership, to help deliver it.

It highlights the barriers that need to be overcome, the necessary resources (whether they are existing or required) and where collaboration with national government is needed.

Preparations are underway for the Devon Carbon Plan to be presented to Devon County Council's Cabinet in October for endorsement. Subsequently, the authority's own Climate Change Strategy will be updated to show how it will contribute to its implementation.

In the Meantime

Meanwhile, the partnership and Devon County Council continue to deliver projects that are reducing carbon emissions and improving Devon's resilience to the future climate. These are being compiled on the [Taking Action](#) webpages.

Children's Services

We recently received a copy of Ofsted's recent Special educational Needs Inspection report. This report makes difficult reading, but the Director of Children's Services Melissa Caslake and her Deputy Jackie Ross had already identified problems and are responding to the need for rapid improvement. The cabinet member has put in place

a regular meeting with the Parent and Carer Forum who represent families across Devon to meet me to talk about how we can improve, particularly in the way that we engage and listen to families. Listening to the voice of the child is paramount in providing child centred solutions that enable both children and their families to thrive. As part of his meetings with them, he will be checking that the service's interaction with families is improving.

Child Friendly Round Table

In July, Cllr Leadbetter hosted a roundtable event of organisations, mainly from the voluntary sector, that work with young people across Devon. The objective was to talk about their perspective of what a Child Family Devon should look like and to understand what the children, young people and families they work with want and need in the future. This was a really informative day and it was very interesting to see that the themes being raised in this forum were aligned to those that families have been telling us through our engagement over the past few months.

The group also identified communication and the sharing of information as a gap. It was clear that, whilst some of the groups knew each other well, some of the people around the table didn't have regular dialogue. The group felt that bringing them together had already created some direct benefits in terms of opening up opportunities for young people.

Championing Democracy

Our Youth Parliamentarians are very engaged. We welcomed a small delegation of young people to a recent Cabinet meeting. This had been arranged by our Democratic Services team with the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. It would be great to see more young people attending our meetings now that restrictions have been lifted. Please talk to your schools, colleges and youth groups about giving our young people access to see us at work.

New Leadership

At the end of last month, we appointed Rachel Shaw and Matthew Shanks as interim secondees as Head of Education and as Head of Education Strategic Improvement respectively. Rachel is the Chief Executive of Exeter Learning Academy Trust and Matthew is the Chief Executive of Education South West. Both will work on a part time basis between the Council and their Trust roles. We believe that their experience and knowledge of the sector will help us to support the schools sector through the changes set out in the White Paper, embed the in-housing of Babcock services so that we provide the best possible service to schools and parents and will drive school improvement in partnership and collaboration with the sector.

Council Finances

At month 4 it is estimated that budgets will overspend by £17 million, excluding the dedicated schools grant deficit. This is made up of an underlying overspend of £35.6 million that is being reduced by £18.6 million of Financial Sustainability Programme (FSP) proposed savings and income. There is also a risk that inflationary pressures could result in costs, in addition to this overspend, of more than £10 million this year.

Cabinet will be meeting over this next week to look at these cost pressures and where the savings can be made.

Any further updates on this or any other matters I will keep you updated.

Best wishes

Lois Samuel