

Report from Cornwall Council for Saltash Town Council

7th October 2021

1) Climate Change Policy To Be Submitted To the Government After a vote at full council on 28th September 2021

Cornwall Council has backed plans to make sure new buildings contribute to ambitions to be net-carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council has been working on the Climate Emergency Development Plan Document (DPD) for two years and now members of the full council have confirmed its progression to the Government.

One of the key actions in Cornwall's Climate Change Action Plan, it covers policies to support green energy, enhance the environment, provide more efficient housing, greener travel and resilience to issues such as coastal change and flooding.

The Climate Emergency DPD will sit alongside the Cornwall Local Plan and other policies and will be used as part of making decisions on all development proposals.

Cornwall Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and set out its aims to be net-carbon neutral by 2030.

Olly Monk, the Council's portfolio holder for planning and housing, said: "The Council recognises that its planning policies have a major impact on the quality of development that is built, which is critical to helping to protect and shape the Cornwall of the future.

"Cornwall has a Local Plan outlining where development will happen and the Climate Emergency DPD has been developed to strengthen it and help address climate change."

Martyn Alvey, portfolio holder for environment and climate change, said: "The aim is to make sure that future development is sustainable and helps to address climate change in every aspect of its design and construction, contributing to the Council's aim to be net carbon-neutral by 2030.

"It will contribute to our green recovery and support the environmental, agricultural, clean energy and active travel sectors."

The submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government is the culmination of two years of work, which has included several consultations with the public and stakeholders.

Now, the Government department will appoint an examiner and the document will undergo examination in public.

The document can be viewed on the Climate Emergency DPD website.

Once the full statutory process is concluded, the Climate Emergency DPD will become an adopted planning document, meaning that proposed future development will be assessed against stronger policies that protect the environment.

2) Council Wins National MJ Award For Climate Emergency Programme

Cornwall Council has been named the nation's leading local authority in tackling the climate crisis in a prestigious awards ceremony held today (September 17).

The unitary authority has won the Leadership in Responding to the Climate Emergency category in the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards .

The awards highlight local authorities' delivery of services over the last 12 months and allows them to share expertise with peers across the nation.

In a ceremony hosted by former politician Ed Balls and held at London Hilton Hotel, judges praised Cornwall Council for being clear in its role in tackling climate change and the work it has done to date to engage with communities.

They said the Council's excellent use of evidence provided a compelling narrative and highlighted its significant actions in work on environmental mitigation, adaptation and nature-based solutions.

Martyn Alvey, Cornwall's cabinet member for environment and climate change, said: "This national award is testament to our leading work in tackling the climate emergency, helping Cornwall work towards net zero emissions and protecting and adapting our environment to benefit our residents.

"It is a shining example of how we are gaining national recognition amongst local authorities across the country for our pioneering work in lowering carbon emissions and engaging our residents and partners in the fight against global warming. I want to congratulate our brilliant climate change team for achieving this accolade and everyone who has joined us in taking climate action so far."

Cornwall Council was one of the country's first local authorities to produce a detailed and ambitious plan to tackle the climate emergency while developing a blueprint for regional leadership.

The plan to help Cornwall strive towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 includes the Forest for Cornwall, a homes retrofit programme and new electric vehicle infrastructure. It has attracted the attention of scientists and the government and is a key reason the region was chosen to host G7.

The MJ Awards have been held every year since 2004 recognising officers, managers, teams and councils, and is one of the major events in the public sector calendar.

3) Extra jab clinics, street teams and 'Vaxi Taxis' among new measures to help tackle Covid in Cornwall

Street teams, 'Vaxi Taxis' and extra vaccination clinics are just some of the measures being introduced across Cornwall to help bring Covid cases down and keep residents safe.

They are part of the extra support available after Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly were designated an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) on August 27.

Almost three weeks on and case rates have dropped in line with the South West and national average - although the number of people with Covid-19 in hospital continues to put pressure on the NHS.

Rachel Wigglesworth, Director of Public Health for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, said: "Thank you to everyone - whether you are a resident or a visitor - who has done their bit to help bring our cases down.

"It's great to have extra support in our battle with the virus but we still need everyone to play their part and remember our key message: 'get jabbed and be cautious!' Only by staying vigilant can we stay on top of Covid, keep each other safe and protect our health services."

This week, as part of the additional ERA measures, teams will hit the streets to engage with residents in areas of lower vaccine uptake about the importance of getting vaccinated.

They will work with Volunteer Cornwall to have door-to-door conversations and hand out vaccine clinic leaflets. Team members will be carrying ID and wearing blue high-vis tabards, so our residents know that they are legitimate.

Other measures introduced under the ERA include:

- 'Vaxi Taxi', a free transport scheme supported by Volunteer Cornwall, to encourage carers to get fully jabbed before September 16. Any carer or person working in a care setting will need to be fully vaccinated from November 11. This means they will need their first dose by September 16 to meet the deadline for the second vaccination.
- COVID marshals have been re-introduced in town centres. For the next two weeks they will be primarily covering St Ives, Falmouth, Newquay and Looe between 11am-7pm.
- Face coverings are being used in school 'pinch points', such as corridors, and on public transport. Assisted testing is also taking place to help reduce the spread of cases as younger people often display very mild symptoms.
- Vaccine clinics have been taking place in Helston, Newquay, Roche, Saltash and St Ives with plans for Falmouth town centre, the Falmouth and Exeter university campuses, Bodmin, Penzance and Truro this week.
- Additional vaccine pop up clinics will be held in Falmouth and Truro this week. The pop up clinics do not need to be booked and are open to anyone aged 16+.
- In addition to new radio advertising and local digital road sign information digital ad vans will be circulating in towns with vaccine clinics to support messaging to get jabbed and take part in free testing. The vans will be in Bodmin, Camborne, Falmouth, Helston, Penzance, Redruth and Truro this week.

Rachel added: "We are doing everything we can to bring down Covid case numbers in Cornwall and we still need everyone to do their bit to help. As we learn to live with this virus the advice hasn't changed and we need people to keep doing the things we know work. So remember 'hands, face, space and fresh air', test regularly, self-isolate when required and above all, get both of your jabs. You can't avoid Covid, we need to respect it and learn how to work around it."

Cllr Andy Virr, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Public Health, said: "It's great that we've managed to bring case numbers down in Cornwall but we still need everyone to step and do their bit to help protect each other. The recent spike in cases is also taking its toll on the NHS so it's crucial that people take precautions, follow the guidance and get their vaccinations as soon as possible."

Cllr Virr, who also works as a consultant in the Emergency Department at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, added: "It's a source of ongoing frustration and heartbreak for me that the majority of people with Covid that I see in hospital aren't fully vaccinated. I can't stress enough that vaccines are our way out of the pandemic and I would urge everyone to get their jabs as soon as possible."