**XRW Dorset Council Consultation**

This is your opportunity to have your say and your responses are of course up to you.

Here is Dorset Council’s draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/climate-emergency/climate-ecological-emergency-strategy/the-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy.aspx>

We have read the draft strategy - not everyone will have had the time. This document is for guidance purposes only.

Here is the online response form <https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=160260542487>

You will first be asked questions about for example your carbon footprint.

Next are Dorset Council’s plans and questions about them. Below are our answers. The sections in bold type are headings from the consultation and are included to help you navigate. If you scroll down you will see the following sections: carbon targets, renewable energy, buildings, food and drink, economy, waste, water, natural assets, transport.

You may want to respond to some or all sections. We have included responses to all.

***Dorset Council’s Role***

***“Our approach is about understanding what actions Dorset Council can directly influence, indirectly influence [such as through our services or use of our assets] and what we can only influence as part of a wider partnership. Do you agree with our approach?”***

Disagree

***Please explain why you think this***

Creating a 3-tier approach of “Direct”, “Indirect (through services)”, and “Influence and Partnerships” suggests Dorset Council will take less responsibility for each succeeding tier and treat each succeeding tier with less urgency and commitment. Given that we are in a climate and ecological emergency the Council is going to have to take the lead and by innovation and collaboration address the challenges we all face.

For example, Dorset Council must take direct action and primary responsibility for reducing the carbon footprint to zero of:

* Key services such as planning, housing, economic development, waste and transport
* Town and parish councils, many of which do not have the knowledge or resolve to take action themselves.
* Surface transport within Dorset by having a target to decarbonise public transport in Dorset by 2025, a policy decision which will be facilitated by an amended regional transport policy.

Furthermore, a zero-carbon Dorset means the extraction and refinement of fossil fuels at Wytch Farm must end. Wytch Farm is the largest onshore oil field in Europe producing 20,000 barrels a day (around 83% of UK onshore oil productions). Oil is piped to Fawley for export by tanker. This Dorset oil fuels surface transport and the plastics industry across the globe. Dorset Council must acknowledge that our beautiful county is the home to planet destroying fossil fuel extraction. Yet this export of oil which is accelerating the climate and ecological emergency worldwide is not mentioned in the draft strategy.

Dorset Council must lobby the Department of Energy and Climate change for an immediate cessation of oil exploitation in Dorset. It must refuse any further planning applications in association with Wytch Farm or any other form of fossil fuel extraction. Dorset Council must demonstrate its climate leadership by committing to zero expansion of the fossil fuel industry. No increase in extraction, no new planning permission, no new permits.

The draft strategy makes no mention of the carbon emissions produced by Dorset Council’s Pension Fund. Dorset Council’s investment in fossil fuels by its own admission is £60m and might be as much as £141 million. Dorset Council must divest its pension funds from fossil fuel investments with immediate effect.

Dorset Council must join the campaign to support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill, a serious plan to tackle UK’s fair share of emissions, halt global heating at 1.5°C, and actively conserves the natural world by protecting and restoring the UK’s ecosystems.

Disagree

See my comments above

***Carbon Targets***

Strongly disagree

Strongly disagree

***Please explain your answers***

2040 is too late for Dorset Council to achieve carbon neutrality, and 2050 is too late for Dorset as a whole.

In 2018 the IPCC said we have 12 years to take action to keep global heating to a maximum of 1.5C and that unprecedented change is required. However recent global temperature rises suggest the time left to take action is even shorter than 12 years. This is because the year 2020 has tied with 2016 to be the joint hottest year ever recorded with the global average temperature in 2020 increasing by 1.25C – dangerously close to 1.5C.

In 2019 the Committee on Climate Change said aiming for net zero by 2050 gives us only a 50/50 chance of limiting temperature increase to 1.5C. Dorset Council cannot stake our future on the equivalent of a toss of the coin.

Our world is in peril, are way of life is in grave danger. Dorset Council must take urgent action to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025.

If we leave it to 2050 or even 2040 we will suffer a devastating acceleration of intense heatwaves, fires, storms, floods, hurricanes, droughts, water shortages, rising seas, coastal flooding, wildlife losses on land and in the oceans, reduced food production, hunger, impacts on human health, mass displacements including internal refugees, poverty and financial instability. And more pandemics. Many of the root causes of climate change also increase the risk of pandemics: habitat loss for agricultural purposes, livestock farming, air pollution – these all make pandemics more likely or their effects more serious.

However there is good news. The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) says cutting emissions will cost less than previously thought and will have revenue-saving benefits especially in areas of health, energy poverty and reducing unemployment.

Dorset Council must identify keys areas for action and set strong time-bound targets for reducing emissions which are translated into specific targets with annual reviews. The strategy must set early targets for the largest share of reductions. This is because the most difficult reductions are those towards the end of the process, the easy ones having already been made; targets must be frontloaded or there could be a catastrophic failure to reach the final target.

Dorset Council’s draft strategy falls short of what is required to address the climate and ecological emergency. It must facilitate the creation of an emergency Citizens’ Assembly working with experts to empower councillors to make tough decisions that will deliver net zero by 2025 and protect and restore Dorset’s ecosystems. Dorset Council will prepare an updated draft strategy taking into account recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly within 3 months after the Assembly.

**Renewable Energy**

What we can directly impact – strongly disagree

What we can indirectly impact – strongly disagree

What we can influence and partnership – Disagree

***Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in our “renewable energy” are for action***

Under the heading “Topic Area – Renewable Energy” Dorset Council says it cannot itself generate renewable electricity or the money to put into renewable energy sources on its own. This is short sighted especially as Dorset has much potential for generating energy from tidal, wave, hydro and geothermal technologies.

Councils are generating their own renewable electricity all over the UK; eg Warrington Borough Council, West Berkshire District, Manchester etc. This is achieved by working with the private sector, having joint investment projects with other authorities, raising investment via green bonds etc.

Dorset Council must urgently seek a Government grant – as did Bristol Council – for a Heat Network project, a system of underground pipes that transport hot water from different sources to homes and businesses in order to heat them. Government is currently investing up to £320 million through the existing Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP), using grants and loans to accelerate the growth of the market. This scheme will come to an end in 2022.

Reading Council is developing district energy systems to harness heat from local rivers/watercourses.

Under “Direct” Dorset Council refers to hydrogen-ready hybrid heat pumps. Dorset has sufficient renewable energy – solar, wind, wave power – and should not place reliance on hydrogen as an energy source which itself has a carbon footprint.

Under “Indirect” Dorset Council hands away responsibility for achieving carbon neutrality. Dorset Council must take direct responsibility as a Local Planning Authority to ensure that renewable energy is deployed, rather than merely “encourage”. Similarly, identifying potential sites for self-sufficiency is not enough. These sites must be the focus of self-sufficiency, led by the Council.

Dorset Council must ensure that new developments are carbon neutral and must take steps to suppress greenhouse gasses from the residential sector. Dorset Council as the local planning authority must set a target for achieving zero carbon housing developments

Communities across Bath and North East Somerset have benefitted from millions of pounds in funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in supporting efforts to tackle the climate and ecological emergency. CIL is a charge placed on developers by a local authority. Dorset infrastructure should benefit from this levy too. CIL can be used to develop alternative forms of energy, transport etc and/or to incentivise zero carbon approaches among residents and business.

In 2015 the Navitus Bay wind farm was refused permission by the Government. This array of turbines off Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight would have provided electricity for up to 700,000 homes. However, the local authorities – including Dorset Council but not the Isle of Wight Council – were opposed to it, as was the National Trust. There were fears for tourism and for the Jurassic Coast’s UNESCO World Heritage Status. It is time for Dorset Council to work with all parties to resurrect this scheme. Climate change is an existential threat. In the years to come tourism in Dorset will be adversely affected by rising temperatures, unpredictable weather, storms, air and water pollution, poverty, and, as has been the case during the Covid-19 pandemic, by infectious disease.

Disagree

See my comments above

***Buildings***

Disagree

**Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in the “buildings” area for action?**

* Dorset Council’s estate must become zero carbon by 2025. See comments under Carbon Targets.
* Dorset Council must set a target of 2025 for retrofitting social housing, landlord owned, and owner occupied.
* The Council must undertake to make climate and ecological considerations the first and paramount consideration – along with social justice – in all decision making when it comes to housing, buildings, developments. Cornwall Council is using a decision-making wheel based on Kate Raworth’s Doughnut Economics model. The wheel helps to show how projects affect the environment and people. If it shows that the project will have a bad effect on either, the project is redesigned.
* Under the heading “Indirect”, the wording and resolve is too weak to ensure that the climate emergency is effectively addressed. It is not enough to “encourage” designs and layouts which “lend” themselves to low-carbon energy solutions and to guide and advise developers. Dorset Council must have a clear policy that all developments must be zero carbon and that they protect the environment.
* “Decarbonise heating by investigating largescale installation of low carbon heating and undertaking heat mapping to identify opportunities” is vague and nonspecific. Decarbonisation is not achieved by investigation; it is achieved by action. See under Renewable Energy for suggestions.
* Dorset Council must ensure all Dorset businesses declare a climate and ecological emergency and set net zero by 2025 targets for their properties and operations. These works to be financed by Low Carbon Dorset grants and grants from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Dorset Council must incentivise Dorset businesses to achieve this with zero or reduced business rates in the year of transition, and an Awards system: the Dorset Green Business Award

There are many innovative actions that Dorset Council could take (more details below):

* work with the private sector to provide low carbon heating for residents or attract private investment for retrofitting social housing
* apply for Garden Town status
* roll out Green Passports
* collaborate with other local authorities and housing providers to deliver low-carbon upgrades to social housing stock
* encourage residents and landlords to apply for Green Homes Grants
* write the Local Plan so that it incorporates tighter restrictions, higher building standards, prioritises brownfield sites, a low-carbon lifestyle, focuses on natural landscape features for sustainable drainage systems,
* introduce a county wide Landlord Licensing Scheme and make energy efficiency a condition of license. This will raise standards in the private rented sector.
* Carve out a fund (for example from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)) for businesses to transition their premises to net zero

Dorset Council is preparing a Local Plan. This must guarantee new developments are a positive contribution to addressing the climate and ecological emergency.

* + Higher building standards to ensure new developments are built sustainably with high energy efficiency, solar panels, heat pumps, EV charge points and community energy production. For example demand that developers meet Level 6 of the Code for Sustainable homes which will require them to go significantly in excess of the building regulations in reducing carbon emissions
  + All building materials to be carbon-neutral designed for reuse within a circular economy
  + Prioritisation of brownfield sites for development
  + Reduce need to travel; integrate new developments with transport planning
  + Directing development to sustainable locations
  + Sustainable drainage systems must focus on natural landscape features rather than man-made or engineered structures, features such as attenuation ponds, rills and swales integrated into the landscape and collecting water during periods of high rainfall before letting it slowly soak into the ground. Planting with hardy and drought resistant vegetation can be used to slow flow and naturally cleanse water. Biodiversity is boosted and it becomes a better place to live. There are attractive open areas, improved air quality, improved mental well-being.
  + Contractors must include an indicator of the environmental impact of their activities
  + Tighter restrictions for upgrading existing building stock. All upgrades to include high energy efficiency, solar panels, heat pumps, EV charge points and community energy production
  + Mandate more efficient use of water in building development, renovation, and retrofitting including water neutrality, drought preparedness, water conservation techniques, and develop generous cordons near rivers and other bodies of water where development is not allowed.

South Cambridgeshire Council is setting higher standards for developers of new housing, requiring new areas to be developed in a way which allow people to live a low-carbon lifestyle. It has a five-year capital spending plan which involves investment in heating systems and insulation and have already saved thousands of tonnes of CO2 emissions. Its contract regulations require suppliers to provide evidence that they are monitoring and reducing CO2 emissions.

Dorset Council’s Local Plan must target the retrofitting of all social housing by 2025. This will reduce GHG emissions, make homes healthier and safer to live in, and reduce bills. The “Energiesprong” refit model should be followed. The money usually paid on repairs will finance these makeovers. Dorset must join forces with other social housing providers to facilitate this.

Here are some examples of actions taken by other local authorities:

* Leeds City Council has gone out to tender for a provider to design, develop and deliver heating networks that will reduce carbon emissions, help residents save money, and improve the wellbeing and comfort of those in council properties. The programme will provide local employment.
* Many Councils have applied to the Government for Garden Town status to grow greener towns with more sustainable development, planning, and environment. Transport emissions are reduced as there’s less need to drive. Cleaner transport is supported. Homes are designed for low energy demand. Food is grown at home to reduce food miles and increase food literacy and influence behaviour around food choice and waste. Garden towns support smart grids and onsite renewable energy generation by making use of available space for eg ground source heat or solar to supply cheap zero carbon energy to the community.
* The Mayor of London’s Retrofit Accelerator is to deliver large scale whole-house low-carbon upgrades of the capital’s social housing stock. This has been achieved by several London Boroughs collaborating with various city councils including Nottingham and Bristol, and with social housing providers. The delivery team includes Energiesprong UK and the Carbon Trust. The aim is to build a supply chain to deliver deep retrofits. As many houses across the country are involved, and many constructions companies, this will achieve economies of scale and create a market for low carbon and environmental goods and services. It will create new, high-skilled jobs and radically reduce the carbon footprint of social housing.
* Cornwall Council’s Local Plan states that no new build council housing will be connected to fossil fuel power sources. The Whole House Retrofit programme is a key part of the Council’s response to the climate emergency. The carbon-reducing programme aims to be cost effective model to improve energy efficient to Cornwall’s existing homes. Cornwall has won BEIS funding to put this in place. This pilot will be used as a platform to enable a wider mass retrofit across the county’s entire housing stock.

Here are some other examples of actions that Dorset Council must take:

* The Committee on Climate Change has recommended to Government the immediate roll out of Green Passports. Dorset Council must pledge to roll them out to all Dorset homes before the end of 2021. They are an essential tool in prioritising and measuring the greening of all Dorset homes, and will ensure greater resilience to future climate shocks such as high temperatures, flooding, water scarcity, indoor pollution. Passports should set out a customised and holistic retrofit roadmap for each home. They would be transferable between building owners and help to maintain sight of long-term decarbonisation / resilience goals. They would capture EPC data digitally and augment it with other data over time.
* Dorset Council should ensure all residents including homeowners, tenants and landlords, are aware of the Green Homes Grant scheme and take advantage of it. This scheme funds up to 2/3 of the cost of home improvements up to £5000. Homeowners with low incomes or on certain benefits will eligible to be funded up to 100% up for improvements up to £10,000. Grants cover insulation, double or triple glazing, heat pumps, solar thermal. £500m of the Green Homes Grant scheme has been assigned for local authorities to provide green home improvements for households with an income of under £30,000. Funding is also available for landlords.
* Government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund is available to upgrade energy efficiency in the worst-performing social homes. Dorset Council should take advantage of this scheme and ensure that all social housing providers are aware of it and take advantage of it. Dorset Council should commission a survey to establish the worst performing homes in their stock and prioritise them for immediate retrofit.

Disagree

See my comments above

*Food & Drink*

Disagree

***Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in food and drink area for action***

* Dorset Council must aim to improve food sustainability by 2025
* The aim should not be to “reduce” food waste, packaging, use of fertilizers, but to “eliminate use of”.
* Plastic waste is a serious threat to the environment, rivers, and seas, and is now in our food and water supply. Emergency steps must be taken. Dorset Council must ban single use plastic from its estate, operations, and concessions. Reduction is simply not enough.
* Fertilisers must be banned from use on Council land. They leach into the atmosphere increasing global heating and into our rivers and seas causing eutrophication. Pesticides, insecticides, herbicides must also be banned.
* Dorset farms and allotments must become organic and keep to the principles of the Soil Association.
* County Farm tenants should be given a framework of climate and wildlife friendly targets to reach. Encouragement is not enough.
* Fundamental changes in rural land management are required to reduce the high emissions from agriculture. Dorset Council must promote solutions such as permaculture and regenerative agriculture.
* The holding of allotments must be encouraged by incentives; eg first year rent free, rent subsidies. Allotments for the disabled must be provided and encouraged. There must be incentives for turning allotments into wildlife sanctuaries. Food production on allotments must be encouraged by Dorset Council buying the produce from allotments for use by the Council or its services, or by Foodbanks
* Incentives for establishment of allotments on school premises to be cultivated by school children. Establish a Dorset Council Food Miles award for schools.
* Dorset Council must enter the county into Round 3 of the Sustainable Food Places Award. This Award recognises and celebrates the success of places taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.

Durham City Council aims to improve food sustainability by 2030 by having significantly increased the proportion of local produce sold and grown in the county. The Council is working with local farmers and landowners to promote soil conservation, regenerative farming and agro-ecology. Residents are encouraged to home-compost.

Disagree

See my comments above

*Economy*

***Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in “economy” area for action?***

Disagree

* The Council must undertake to make climate and ecological considerations the first and paramount consideration – along with social justice – in all decision making. Cornwall Council is using a decision-making wheel based on Kate Raworth’s Doughnut Economics model. The wheel helps to show how projects affect the environment and people. If it shows that the project will have a bad effect on either, the project is redesigned.
* Dorset Council must promote Dorset’s economy in line with the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development goals.
* A clear policy for fairly traded and sustainable procurement must be mandated across Dorset Council and its services.

Dorset Council must take action. Dorset Council can make actions happen by providing incentives, grants and awards. These will have revenue-saving benefits especially in areas of health as a result of reductions in air pollution and will reduce unemployment by allowing greater flexibility in the employment model. Examples of incentives, funds and awards:

* Funds carved out of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
* More effective promotion of the availability of grants from Low Carbon Dorset
* Business rate reduction incentives
* Dorset Green Business Awards

By these means Dorset Council will be able to:

* Incentivise businesses to promote and support homeworking and hence travel reduction
* Incentivise a low-carbon economy in Dorset by the adoption of renewable energy by business
* Encourage investment in green jobs and businesses in Dorset
* Decarbonise tourism by promoting Dorset as a sustainable holiday destination and providing a green ranking system, green tourism awards
* Work with schools, colleges and universities to promote qualifications and careers that are green and sustainable
* Encourage businesses to declare climate and ecological emergencies and to pledge to attaining net zero and transitioning to ethical procurement and ethical investment and banking by 2025.

Disagree

See my comments above

Waste

***Waste – The above is taken from the strategy and identifies the areas for action where we see Dorset Council can either directly impact, indirectly impact or only influence outcomes. Do you agree with what we have proposed?***

Disagree

* Dorset Council must adopt a waste reduction plan across its operations with the following targets
  + 75% of all waste to be recycled/composted and prepared for re-use by 2025
  + 100% of food waste to be recycled/composed and prepared for re-use by 2025
* Dorset Council must adopt a single use plastic reduction plan across its operations with the target of becoming single use plastic free by the end of 2021.
* The contracts to reuse, recycle and recover Dorset Council waste should include an enforceable contractual term that 75% of Dorset Council waste must be reused, recycled and recovered by 2025 and 100% of food waste to be recycled/composted and prepared for re-use by 2025.
* All waste collection vehicles must be emission free by 2025
* A clear policy for fairly traded and sustainable procurement must be mandated across Dorset Council and its services to include that all materials be carbon-neutral and designed for reuse within a circular economy
* Dorset Council must demonstrate its climate and ecological leadership by committing to no incinerators in Dorset. An incinerator in Dorset
  + is unnecessary to deal with Dorset’s waste
  + contradicts the need for a circular economy
  + increases greenhouse gas emissions
  + pollutes the air
  + damages human health

To encourage individual participation in the circular economy Dorset Council must:

* Educate the public on all aspects of the circular economy
* Initiate a Single Use Plastic reduction campaign across the County. Publicise and support this by introducing public water fountains in every town.
* Monitor areas for recycling rates and send postcards with feedback and encouraging messages to both successful and failing areas. See the ESRC funded research carried out by the University of Manchester.
* Increase recycling opportunities

Commercial waste is an urgent problem in Dorset with many businesses not recycling but sending their recyclable waste to landfill. The Council should set a target for 20% of these businesses to recycle by the end of 2021 and 100% by 2025.

* + The Council must publicise the need for all businesses to have a recycling policy, and the availability of recycling bins and their collection
  + When businesses have a recycling policy and a contract with the Council to recycle their waste, they should be awarded a “We Recycle for Dorset” certificate with publicity; eg the first business to take part, the 50th etc.
  + Dorset Council must award deposit return schemes, reuse of materials and the making of goods from recycled materials
  + Rather than inviting schools to get in touch if they want information about recycling or compost bins, Dorset Council must get in touch with schools and say they will be visiting to give a talk and to deliver recycling and compost bins. The Council must set a target to identify the schools which do not recycle or compost and roll out this scheme to achieve 100% recycling and composting in this sector by 2025.

Cornwall Council has pledged to reduce waste and increase recycling by:

* introducing weekly food waste collections
* developing innovative ways to use food waste and grass cuttings to make clean energy for vehicles and machinery
* encouraging individuals to look at the impact of their diet and encouraging reducing meat consumption
* working with food producers to help people buy and eat food that is in season and grown in Cornwall or nearby

Disagree

See my comments above

Water

Disagree

In the draft strategy Dorset Council completely overlooks the urgent issue of river pollution.

English rivers are the most polluted in Europe, only 14% are of good overall environmental condition, and none are of good chemical standard. River pollution is a danger to wildlife and to human health and is set to get worse. Climate change will see more frequent storms and hence more raw sewage being discharged from combined sewage overflows.

The River Stour is a good example of a polluted Dorset river. Wessex Water discharged raw sewage into rivers on 13,876 occasions over 107,404 hours in 2019 under licence from the Environment Agency. There is no evidence the Wild Rivers Scheme mentioned in the draft strategy had any beneficial effects whatsoever on the levels of pollution in the River Stour.

Dorset Council must liaise with Wessex Water and with landowners adjacent to Dorset’s rivers, in particular farmers and industry, to ensure that pollution is minimised. Dorset Council should also lobby government to support the Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill.

Dorset Council must:

* Set a target to reduce Dorset Council’s and its services water use by 75% by 2025.
* Work with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to reach a target of reducing water use by Dorset residents by 75% by 2025.
* Work with Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to increase water storage, reduce flooding and promote water conservation techniques
* Support Wessex Water’s rollout of water meters across the county
* Develop a habitat management plan for Dorset’s waterbodies by the end of 2021
* Reduce surface transport which will reduce pollution from car types and brakes
* Plant trees on river margins to reduce agricultural run-off. Trees reduce soil and water movement and increase water infiltration rates slowing the flow of sediments and chemicals within them.
* Promote and support community applications for all Dorset rivers to attain bathing water status
* Introduce beavers to improve water quality in rivers and reduce the loss of valuable soils and nutrients from farms which of course pollute rivers. Beavers cut flooding and pollution and boost wildlife populations.
* Advise on and encourage the reshaping of Dorset towns, breaking-up hard surfaces, encouraging green roofs, natural flood management measures and sustainable drainage systems to slow the flow of storm water. This will lead to irrigation opportunities rather than floods.

In the Local Plan, Dorset Council must mandate more efficient use of water in building development, renovation, and retrofitting including water neutrality, drought preparedness, water conservation techniques, and develop generous cordons near rivers and other bodies of water where development is not allowed.

Disagree

See my comments above

*Natural Assets*

***please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in “natural assets” area for action?***

Disagree

Natural assets include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. However not all these topics are addressed in the draft strategy.

For example air pollution is not addressed specifically merely as an opportunity resulting from reduced transportation. This is despite the fact that Chideock Hill in west Dorset has been ranked number one in England for breaching air pollution limits. Air pollution kills 40,000 people every year. Meanwhile Dorset tops the charts for illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide and Dorset Council doesn’t have a plan. Air pollution and the climate emergency are inextricably linked. If one isn’t fixed, neither will the other. Dorset Council must formulate a target for reducing air pollution by 90% by 2025.

The consideration of Natural Assets is relevant to all the topic areas in the draft strategy. Dorset Council must undertake to make climate and ecological considerations the first and paramount consideration – along with social justice – in all decision making. Cornwall Council is using a decision-making wheel based on Kate Raworth’s Doughnut Economics model. The wheel helps to show how projects affect the environment and people. If it shows that the project will have a bad effect on either, the project is redesigned.

Dorset Council must work with all County Farms to, initially, take up environmentally-friendly practices by 2023 through the agri-environment schemes, to become organic and/or implement Regenerative Agriculture by 2025. They can also act as demonstration farms for the wider agricultural community.

Dorset Council must immediately cease all use of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides) on council land. Non-chemical approaches are well-known.

Wildlife friendly areas are insufficient and vague. Dorset Council must manage all council land for biodiversity and environmental benefit and must formulate management plans by the end of 2021 to achieve this.

Tree, woodland and hedgerow planting are laudable, but Dorset Council must formulate a wider plan by the end of 2021 for net gain (following the Environment Bill). Dorset Council must restore currently poor quality habitat (woodlands, wildflower meadows, heathlands, etc) and create habitat on degraded land such as brownfield sites, poor quality road verges, degraded farmland, as well as improving the wildlife value of parks and other in-town areas

Dorset Council must bring freshwater and coastal habitats into the strategy, with plans to be formulated by the end of 2021 to restore and re-wild waterways, such as restoring meanders and re-instating floodplains to benefit people as well as wildlife

Dorset Council must consult with Natural England and bring its land and water into the local Nature Recover Network plans by the end of 2021, as well as working with local landowners to do the same. Connecting fragmented habitats is key to the Environment Bill and the Nature Recovery Network launched by Natural England with many public and private sector partners.

Dorset Council must recognise that we cannot have a healthy planet without a healthy ocean. Dorset Council must support and encourage sustainable food production, energy from offshore wind, decarbonisation of shipping, restoration of seagrass beds.

Dorset Council must join the Stop Ecocide campaign, and must join the campaign to support the Climate & Ecological Emergency Bill, a serious plan to tackle UK’s fair share of emissions, halt global heating at 1.5°C, and actively conserves the natural world by protecting and restoring the UK’s ecosystems.

Dorset Council’s draft strategy falls short of what is required to address the climate and ecological emergency. It must facilitate the creation of an emergency Citizens’ Assembly working with experts to empower councillors to make tough decisions that will deliver net zero by 2025 and protect and restore Dorset’s ecosystems. Dorset Council will prepare an updated draft strategy taking into account recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly within 3 months after the Assembly.

Disagree

See my comments above

*Transport*

Disagree

***Please explain why you think this and if there is anything fundamental that you feel we have missed in “transport” area for action***

Air pollution is not addressed with sufficient urgency and only as a by-product of reduced transportation. Dorset tops the charts in England for illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide and Dorset Council doesn’t have a plan (see above). Air pollution and the climate emergency are inextricably linked. If one isn’t fixed, neither will the other. There is also the question of particles from car tyres and brakes which pollute Dorset’s rivers.

* Dorset Council must formulate a target for reducing air pollution by 90% by 2025.
* Dorset Council fleet, and fleets used by Dorset Council services, must be carbon free by 2025.
* Dorset Council must decarbonise public transport in Dorset by 2025 by amending the regional transport policy to include good rail links, an extensive bus network using bio-gas fuel, fast-track public transport priority routes, park and ride schemes.

Dorset Council must also take a leading role in decarbonising private transport:

* The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be used to develop alternative forms of transport etc and/or to incentivise zero emission approaches among residents and business.
* The Local Plan must ensure new developments reduce the need to travel. New developments must be integrated with transport planning
* Locations for the installation of electric bike charging points must be identified.
* Encourage a switch to low/ zero carbon modes of transport, and support the phased replacement of petrol/ diesel vehicles with electric vehicles by the provision of EV charge points
* Provision for active, sustainable modes of travel via an extended cycle network

Many Councils have applied to the Government for Garden Town status to grow greener towns with more sustainable development, planning, and environment. Transport emissions are reduced as there’s less need to drive. Cleaner transport is supported.

Dorset is responsible for fuelling surface transport across the globe by means of the extraction of oil at Wytch Farm. Wytch Farm is the largest onshore oil field in Europe producing 20,000 barrels a day (around 83% of UK onshore oil productions). Oil is piped to Fawley for export by tanker.

Dorset Council must lobby the Department of Energy and Climate Change for an immediate cessation of oil exploitation in Dorset. It must refuse any further planning applications in association with Wytch Farm or any other form of fossil fuel extraction. Dorset Council must demonstrate its climate leadership by committing to zero expansion of the fossil fuel industry. No increase in extraction, no new planning permission, no new permits.

Disagree

See my comments above

***Making it Happen***

***Funding the Response***

***Engagement***

Disagree

This is all very vague and non specific. For answers as to priorities and decision making, sources of funding and grants, see responses to target areas above.

***Any other comments***

Dorset Council’s draft strategy falls short of what is required to address the climate and ecological emergency. It must facilitate the creation of an emergency Citizens’ Assembly working with experts to empower councillors to make tough decisions that will deliver net zero by 2025 and protect and restore Dorset’s ecosystems. Dorset Council will prepare an updated draft strategy taking into account recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly within 3 months after the Assembly.