

## Governance & Process Community of practice

This is a light-touch, informal community of practice to embed climate/ nature into council processes:

- Decision Wheel-type holistic assessments as inspired by Cornwall!
- Measures for those
- Procurement KPIs
- Carbon and environmental quantification

There may be benefits from:

- a. Consistency – e.g. in the case of procurement, so suppliers get used to responding to consistent indicators e.g. starting from National TOMs and filling any gaps
- b. Robustness – more brains = better measures
- c. Efficiency – Councils are largely similar and all of us are stretched so if one council has worked on one aspect of this in detail it saves the others time
- d. Support – it has made the world of difference to us being able to cite that Cornwall has already done a Decision Wheel

21 March 2022

Next steps:

➔ **Procurement Session:** to invite procurement colleagues. Items:

- Managing existing suppliers
- Proportionality and procurement – how do you capture all activity without it being too onerous
- **Guest speaker** from Social Value Portal to talk about TOMs – come with your queries/ issues!

➔ **Decision Wheel Session:** Nick Hayden from Cornwall has very generously offered to talk to us in more detail about the Decision Wheel, we will liaise on suitable dates and let you know

➔ **Brief for Wheel tool** – several councils were creating wheels and there was some support for a template user interface for a Wheel that could be populated with each council's themes and measures. This could then provide some consistency between councils to the degree it is possible/ desired. Kieran Highman offered to review a brief which I will circulate to the group once developed. Perhaps those interested could co-develop this brief if there is any opportunity to progress it either through funded work or the Energy Systems Catapult [Net Zero Go](#) project launching 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar, which included a Wheel component.

➔ [@nick.hayden@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:nick.hayden@cornwall.gov.uk) suggested it would be useful to have a session on standards and carbon assessment for Capital Programmes, there was support for this. [@Margaret Davis](#) might it be possible to have this on the agenda for the next/an Inter-Authority meeting?

Some key points are as follows, unattributed except Exeter Uni and SW Energy Hub since others may be interested in your widely applicable work, also Cornwall since you kindly offered to do another session for us and the notes could inform lines of enquiry:

### **Decision Making/ performance management framework**

- Exeter University:
  - Peter Lefort, formerly Cornwall Council, is working with the [Doughnut economics Action Lab](#) on their materials for local government. Also on how to build adaptation into governance (and complexity/ uncertainty). There is an event next month promoted through the Energy Hubs about adaptation. Also looking at Climate Literacy – not the science but how you make decisions in a complex space, working with Parish Councils.
  - Fraser Browning from the Climate Emergency team: The University now includes more stringent carbon accounting with an aim for all suppliers to provide carbon figures. Embedding climate into the risk framework has garnered good engagement.
- Nick Hayden - Cornwall Development & Decision Wheel – has now built a level of assurance into the algorithms of the Wheel and the next step is aggregating results to an organisational level, starting with the Medium Term Business Plan. The Wheel is now part of the Overview & Scrutiny process which means there is an earlier sighting of results prior to cabinet. Cornwall is moving away from Service Planning to Outcome Delivery Planning, including for the Carbon Neutral target, so this is part of the Performance Management Framework for the next 4 years. They have embedded a carbon budget and translated it into the different directorates across the council.
- Desire to embed the Wheel at an early stage of the process, through Programme Office and project management processes
- Could call the Wheel the ‘Assessment Wheel’ to allay the concern that it will undermine the decision making process
- Several councils at an early stages of a Wheel – questions around balancing qualitative and quantitative impacts, what to do with a ‘red’, the user experience for the tool so as to be simple and not onerous

### **Procurement**

- Work by the SW Energy Hub to compare the social value criteria in different procurement frameworks to see which ones have social value ‘baked in’
- Several LAs using TOMs – some limitations e.g. climate indicators not clear, differentiating contract versus organisational emissions, very quantitative perhaps missing qualitative benefits (from speaking to others, exclusion of small businesses is another concern)
- On scope 3, Cornwall commissioned a useful consultancy report from the company Sustainable Procurement to identify the category areas that could have the highest impact. The report supported discussion with commissioners and commercial team