

# PART A

## Email to 280+ Town & Parish Clerks

### MAJOR THREAT TO OUR REGION

We notify you of important recent correspondence sent to the Chief Executive, other senior Officers and all Councillors of Devon County Council (DCC) as copied inline below.

This correspondence is also directly relevant to your Council and as such please copy and forward this message in full with attachments to all of your Councillors for their immediate attention as this is a matter of public interest which it is the public duty of your Councillors to properly consider and to address. Please also note the content yourself.

### SIGNIFICANT ORGANISATION & MANAGEMENT ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL & ACROSS THE REGION

Dear Clerk

This correspondence informs you to a **notice** pertaining to serious organisation and management issues identified concerning emergency planning and management, in part relating to the declaration of a climate emergency and subsequent net zero plans and mandated targets. [Footnote 1](#).

Please see attached inline email and letter addressed to the Chief Executive of DCC.

#### A. Scientific, advisory and institutional bias

Specifically highlighted is widespread institutional and advisory bias & predetermination. This has **NOT been identified and corrected by audit and governance** for the past 5 years since declaring a climate emergency in 2019 [Footnote 1](#).

#### B. Organisation & management system ... **NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE**

Net Zero policies, programmes and plans are being created and promoted through an organisation and management system that is **NOT designed or developed for the purpose** of complex systemic emergencies. Consequently, the strategies, justifications and impact assessments are found to be **fundamentally flawed and strategically unsound**. Serious gaps in balanced, rigorous and pragmatic strategy making have been identified across the institution.

These findings are informed by a series of freedom of information inquiries and a 56 page report which scrutinises the findings. These were initially notified to Devon County Council Executive in October 2023. [Electronic copies of these as well as explanatory videos can be found on our website.](#)

### C. Leadership hubris & inappropriate response

Bringing these to the attention of the Devon County Council Executive has highlighted:

1) **hubris within the senior management / leadership culture.**

2) a lack of organisation culture with '**process maturity**' to deal openly and effectively with strategic risk warnings, strategic re-appraisal and dynamic 'critical' feedback which would be a necessary characteristic of 'process developed or mature' emergency planning and execution type organisations.

3) a **lack of awareness of how to engage appropriately** with the gravity and nature of the issues being notified.

4) **Avoidance of leadership responsibility and accountability** in terms of scoping, governance, organisation design and development.

### D. Heightened level of threat and harm to this region

The nature of DCC response presents **a heightened indicator** that the current organisation is **NOT FIT FOR THE PURPOSE** of complex systemic emergency planning and management.

This reinforces our previous message and **greatly enhances the level and likelihood of threat** on the people and the region posed by the inadequate organisation and management practices at the behest and leadership of DCC relating to emergencies.

Left unchecked these issues pose an imminent and serious threat of harm to our region, communities and its people. The adverse implications and unintended consequences may last generations.

### E. Councillors have asked ... what can we do at local level?

We have been asked by some concerned Parish Councillors and their citizens what can they do practically at a local level. We have suggested:

#### As Councillors

- Becoming advocates of 'free / uncensored speech' impartially hearing contrasting narratives.
- Speak to affected and informed citizens about the implications e.g. farmers, private landlords, property developers and small business owners aware of the significant adverse impacts from net zero policies and plans.
- Accept and share information leaflets from and through your community
- Become aware of the issues ... many people are now speaking up and challenging UK councils - **links can be found from our website**
- Invite guest speakers holding informed views to explain their position

- Raise questions at council meetings (ensure these are on agendas and recorded on minutes) Questions such as:
  - What are the real world impacts from net zero policies that our parish citizens can expect in the next 5 and 15 years?
  - Has there been an independent audit or review undertaken about the justification, benefits, risk and implications from the net zero targets?

### As a Council

- Ask upper tier councils (County or District) for independently assessed impact assessments pertaining to mandated targets, net zero related plans and programmes.
- Call upon experts within your community and across the region to scrutinise plans, consultations and initiatives.
- We strongly suggest that you seek assurance by requesting from Devon County Council (a) a formal '**Advisory Notice**' and (b) a '**Public Interest Report**' specifically pertaining to the issues raised in our notice and escalation letters – Bias, predetermination and .

We urge all Councillors and Officers to take this **opportunity to pause and scrutinise** whether they have been **adequately informed about the alleged climate emergency and the adverse implications from zero carbon plans** on the region's economy and people in a fully balanced and impartial manner.

Specifically relating to Devon & Cornwall is a response to a recent regional climate consultation by CLINTEL, an independent climate policy watchdog endorsed by over 1800 experts and scientists ([this can be found on our website](#))

[www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk](http://www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk) <https://sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk/torbay-1#bcb114d0-7634-46e8-b083-b793cf611556>

**Please note that the adverse implications from the net zero policies pose potentially catastrophic threats to the well-being of this region and its people. These have unequivocally NOT been adequately assessed, understood and accounted for in current plans and through the organisation systems established at the behest and under the leadership of Devon County Council to conduct net zero partnership initiatives.**

We suggest that Councillors consider becoming personal advocates of '**critical voice**' **inclusion** asserting that all relevant information and balancing narratives are heard in an open, impartial and equal manner in accordance with public sector equality duty prior to important strategic decision-making.

As Seven Concerned Citizens residing in Devon our intention is to support and work with councils, their officers and our wider community in-order to avert a major catastrophe associated with emergency planning, 'declared' climate emergencies and socially destructive net zero targets.

If you have any suggestions, concerns or requests for support please drop us a message on the above email or through our website, where you can find links to further information, updates and downloadable flyers.

Yours faithfully

Seven Concerned Citizens

Please visit our website for further details:

<http://www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk>

#### 1 Footnote:

*In 2019 Devon County Council 'declared a climate emergency' . This momentous decision and commitment, potentially requiring significant expenditure by Devon Councils, Devon residents and Devon businesses was made on being briefed with only one single piece of 'evidence' i.e. the IPCC SR15 report.*

*Councillors when making this enormous decision were not provided with balancing evidence from the many hundreds of top independent scientists up to Nobel Laureate level such as those of CLINTEL: <https://clintel.org/> & the CO2 Coalition: <https://co2coalition.org/> whose joint climate declaration is that: "There is NO (man made) climate emergency". Subsequent 'Climate Change' presentations and reports to Devon Council and its Councillors seem similarly biased to only providing Councillors exclusively with the work of the IPCC whose findings alone Councillors appear to have been guided to solely rely on.*

*Furthermore Councillors seem to date not to have been made aware of the numerous and repeated serious criticisms of the work of the IPCC such in the 'Climategate' scandal and the critical review by the Inter Academy Council up to this year's damning Clintel report 'The Frozen Views of the IPCC': <https://clintel.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Clintel-The-Frozen-Climate-Views-of-the-IPCC-online-version.pdf> which documents alleged cherry picking of data, flawed computer modelling, bias etc. (See also 'Challenging NetZero with science' report pdf: <https://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Challenging-Net-Zero-with-Science-digital-CO2-Coalition.pdf> & Positive Impact of Human CO2 Emissions report pdf: <https://fcpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Moore-Positive-Impact-of-Human-CO2-Emissions.pdf> )*

*Such advisory imbalance can only risk deep criticism that Councillor decisions have been predetermined by them having been given only one side of the evidence. This risks damaging public confidence in the decisions of Devon County Council and its Councillors regarding the alleged, but widely disputed, climate emergency and the related potentially highly costly and socially destructive 'Net Zero' targets.*

## PART B

# In line email to CEO copied to 52 Councillors and Senior Officers

Dear Donna,

## DCC - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

### HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF RISK / THREAT & RECTIFICATION NEEDS

In response to a letter issued by your litigation team dated 11 March 2024, we now bring to your attention a **heightened level of strategic risk / threat** posed by your organisations practices and procedures which if left unchecked are likely to cause catastrophic harm to the well being of this region and its people.

#### 1. Heightened indicators ... reinforcing previous notification

Your organisations official response to our notice of rectification & escalation letters (*dated: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 & 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024*) indicate **very serious issues** regarding:

##### a) Hubris within the senior management / leadership culture

**b) a lack of organisational culture with 'process maturity'** to deal openly and effectively with strategic risk warnings, strategic re-appraisal and dynamic 'critical' feedback which are necessary characteristics of 'process developed or mature' emergency planning and execution type organisations.

**c) Avoidance of your leadership responsibility and accountability** regarding the organisation construct (scope, direction, purpose, constraints, design) and the governing role DCC plays in the Devon Climate Emergency and associated programmes including the Net zero task force and Devon Carbon Plan.

**d) a lack of organisational awareness** of how to engage appropriately with the gravity and nature of the issues being notified. These are advisory gaps, strategic risk, organisation, audit and governance in nature.

**These are NOT the purview of a litigation / legal team.**

The nature of your response presents **a heightened indicator** that the current organisation is **NOT FIT FOR THE PURPOSE** of complex systemic emergency planning and management.

This **reinforces our previous message** to you and **greatly enhances the level and likelihood of threat** on the people and the region **posed by the inadequate organisation and management practices at the behest and leadership of Devon County Council** relating to emergencies.

In addition to the suggestions contained within our letters we **strongly suggest that your Senior Management Team urgently seek independent specialist advice and organisation developmental support** to help you address the issues that have been notified to you through this email, our letters and our report underpinned by a series of freedom of information inquiries.

For the avoidance of doubt, we will formalise this with a further letter of notice.

## **2. Escalation due to cancelling of 'critical voices'**

Through your response you state an intention of **NOT** engaging and dismissing our findings, we are consequently forced to initiate a peaceful campaign to bring these very serious issues and concerns to the public's attention across Devon.

## **3. Duty of care**

The gravity of the issues notified to you and the potential for catastrophic harm from your organisation and management practice is significant.

We remind you that as public servants; you have **a responsibility first and foremost to cause no harm**, to act objectively using the best evidence without discrimination, bias or pre-determination solely for the public interest and the needs of the people of Devon. There is a duty of care on public authorities and their officers to consider or think about how their policies, organisation systems and decisions affect the people and the wellbeing of this region.

We suggest that you consider discharging this duty of care, with due diligence, in light of the information now presented to you.

**To avoid organisation inertia, it is in the public interest to have transparency regarding the rectification measures being adopted.** We have previously suggested that Devon County Council urgently requests from your auditors (a) a formal **'Advisory Notice'** and (b) a **'Public Interest Report'** pertaining to the issues raised in our notice letter and accompanying 56 page report.

**Furthermore, in context of your response there is a heightened need to demonstrate assurance to the public.**

## **4. AGREEMENT BY DEFAULT - within 40 days**

If we have not received **appropriately considered** correspondence, to the contrary, from you within 40 working days of this email, stating a reassessed position with proposed rectifications, then we will consider by default that you agree with the entirety of our findings as outlined in our previous letters of notification.

Please note that these findings were communicated through the initial notice letter accompanied by a 56 page report. [Electronic copies and two explanatory videos can be found on our website.](#)

## **5. Our objective**

We reiterate that our objective as Seven Concerned Citizens is to avert a major regional planning related catastrophe by informing and assisting both the public and the council to become aware of issues surrounding emergency planning and execution. As concerned citizens we are seeking assurances that the councils' organisation system is 'fit for the purpose' of emergency planning without inflicting considerable and unnecessary harms onto the people from misguided and non-rigorous strategy and policy.

Devon County Council have now been notified of very serious organisational issues and strategic risks. We urge you to reflect openly upon the findings of our report, the explanatory videos and accompanying information on our website.

Yours faithfully

Seven Concerned Citizens

[www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk](http://www.sevenconcernedcitizens.co.uk)