MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT PDG **AGENDA ITEM: 5**
14 JANUARY 2014

Review of strategic documents on Climate Change

Cabinet Member: Cllr Clive Eginton
Responsible Officer: Facilities and Corporate Buildings Manager

Reason for this report: To provide Members with a Climate Strategy and Action Plan document that captures the previously reported policies that form our strategy and our action plan and identifies officers and Policy Development Groups who will monitor the document.

Recommendation: Members to review the Climate Strategy and Action Plan and recommend to Cabinet for approval.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Reduce energy usage within the Council, saving money and reducing our carbon footprint. Gradually replace our Council fleet with more eco-friendly vehicles.

Financial Implications: The Climate Strategy and Action Plan have been developed on existing policies and plans that officers are already working to. Investment in new technology or changed working practices often has a financial benefit over the life of the investment.

Legal Implications: The air monitoring policy is a mandatory requirement and other policies follow guidelines set by the government.

Risk Assessment: Upon approval of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, it is suggested that a Climate Change risk assessment be developed by each service involved and identified within the Action Plan and monitored by Internal Audit.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Facilities and Corporate Buildings Manager has undertaken a review of all the Council's activities which had an impact on the environment. These include the purchasing policy, transport and fleet issues, enforcement of environmental legislation, planning policy and operational issues. The key areas have now been included within an Environmental Strategy and Action Plan and are listed below.

1.2 Key areas that have been included within the Environmental Strategy and Action Plan are:-

- Managing the environmental impact of the Council's activities
- The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption
- Transport
- All land and water quality
- Bio and Geodiversity
- The built and urban environment
- Waste Management
- Sustainability

2.0 **Policy review**

2.1 An internal meeting took place with officers whose work is linked to Climate Change and would therefore have an impact on the environment. These services were Forward Planning, Private Sector Housing, and Housing Planned maintenance. Discussions have also taken place with other service areas.

2.2 Annex A shows policies that have been identified within the Climate Strategy and Action Plan as well as the lead officers and Policy Development Groups that will monitor once approved. Those policies that will be monitored by the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group are shown in italics ad shaded in the Action Plan.

Contact for more Information: Nick Sanderson**,** Head of Housing & Property Services or Andrew Busby, Facilities and Corporate Buildings Manager, 01884 234948, abusby@middevon.gov.uk

Annex A

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate change category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Approval
Mid Devon Core Strategy 2006-2026, adopted 2007	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Policy AL/IN/6 Carbon footprint reduction	Forward Planning	• The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Policy DM/3 Sustainable development	Forward Planning	• The built and urban environment • Sustainability • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Green Assessment Plan	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment • Sustainability	Peter Williams	Cabinet

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and reporting
Private Sector Renewal Policy Home Energy Conservation Act	Private Sector Housing	• The built and urban environment • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson	Decent and Affordable Homes PDG Cabinet
Policy Sustainability	Procurement	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact	Andrew Jarrett Amy Tregellas	Audit Committee Cabinet
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 Increase MDDC's recycling rate to 50%	*Environmental Services*	• *Waste Management*	*Paul Williams* *Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG* *Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 Reduce the Council's carbon footprint from our offices and leisure centres	*Property Services*	• *Sustainability* • *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption*	*Nick Sanderson* *Andrew Busby*	*Managing the Environment PDG* *Cabinet*

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Reporting
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 Adopt a low emission strategy	*Environmental Services Housing and Property Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *Transport*	*Paul Williams Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 Gradually replace our Council fleet with more eco-friendly vehicles	*Environmental Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *Transport*	*Paul Williams Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 Prepare an action plan about maintenance of open spaces	*Environmental Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact*	*Paul Williams Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Air Monitoring	*Environmental Services*	• *Transport*	*Paul Williams*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Reporting
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy	*Environmental Services*	• *Transport*	*Paul Williams*	*Regulatory Committee*
Reducing fuel poverty on our housing stock	Housing and Property Services	• Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson	Decent and Affordable Homes PDG Cabinet
LP3 Policy DM5 Renewable and low carbon energy	Forward Planning	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet

Mid Devon
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

2014 to 2017

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for Mid Devon District Council

Introduction

A key emerging priority for sustainable development is tackling climate change. Mid Devon District Council acknowledges that evidence shows that climate change is occurring and will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people, places, economy, society and the environment.

Mid Devon District Council has a vision for a lower carbon future and is seeking to help address climate change within the i our key services. The Council can make a positive impact through the quality of housing and the environment, energy savings, planning decisions, choice of transport use and reducing carbon emissions. As a large partner in the area we can influence strategic decision making.

This strategy and action plan is intended as a living document which will be regularly reviewed.

The UK government has made commitments and is the first country to set legally binding carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act 2008,. This Act involves setting carbon budgets for every tonne of greenhouse gases emitted between now and 2050. Where emissions rise in one sector, the UK will have to achieve corresponding falls in another. The Council needs to play its part in contributing to these reductions. The reduction in carbon budgets are shown below:-

- 3,018 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO2e) over the first carbon budget period (2008 to 2012)
- 2,782 MtCO2e over the second carbon budget period (2013 to 2017)
- 2,544 MtCO2e over the third carbon budget period (2018 to 2022)
- 1,950 MtCO2e over the fourth carbon budget period (2023 to 2027)

Further to these targets the Energy Act 2011 has three principal objectives: tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency; enhancing energy security; and enabling investment in low carbon energy supplies.

In summary, the Act:

Green Deal

- Creates a new financing framework to enable the provision of fixed improvements to the energy efficiency of households and non-domestic properties, funded by a charge on energy bills that avoids the need for consumers to pay upfront costs. This framework includes:

    - powers to set parameters around the use of this facility to ensure consumer protection for both the originator of the work and subsequent occupiers;

- powers to limit access to the financial mechanism in the framework to the installation of measures that are expected to deliver savings exceeding the level of the charge;

- an obligation on energy companies to administer the charges and pass monies to the appropriate party.

- Exempts energy suppliers from the Consumer Credit Act requirement to gain a credit licence when they collect Green Deal payments. It exempts Green Deal Providers from the requirement to hold a consumer credit licence in respect of Green Deal Finance offered to smaller businesses, to avoid segmenting the non-domestic market.

- Obliges the Secretary of State to take reasonable steps to improve the energy efficiency of the English residential sector by 2020 in order that emissions from this sector follow a trajectory consistent with UK carbon budgets.

- Requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament on the contribution of the Green Deal policy and Energy Company Obligation to reduce carbon emissions in Great Britain and the extent to which such reductions have contributed towards achieving the carbon budgets.

Private Rented Sector

- Includes provisions to ensure that from April 2016, private residential landlords will be unable to refuse a tenants' reasonable request for consent to energy efficiency improvements, where a finance package, such as the Green Deal and/or the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), is available. Provisions in the Act also provide for powers to ensure that from April 2018, it will be unlawful to rent out a residential or business premise that does not reach a minimum energy efficiency standard (the intention is for this to be set at EPC rating "E"). These requirements will be subject to there being no upfront financial cost to landlords; therefore, landlords will have fulfilled the requirement if they have reached "E" or carried out the maximum package of measures funded under the Green Deal and/or ECO.

Energy Company Obligation

- Amends existing powers in the Gas Act 1986, Electricity Act 1989 and the Utilities Act 2000 to enable the Secretary of State to create a new Energy Company Obligation to take over from the existing obligations to reduce carbon emissions (the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)), which expires at the end of 2012, and to work alongside the Green Deal finance offer by targeting appropriate measures at those households which are likely to need additional support, in particular those containing vulnerable people on low incomes and those in hard to treat housing.

Additional measures to improve energy efficiency:

- Amends the smart meters powers in the Energy Act 2008 to allow Government to direct the approach to the roll-out of Smart Meters until 2018 and to enable the Secretary of State to make changes to transmission licences to ensure the effective introduction of the new central data and communications arrangements to support all smart meters.

- Amends the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, to enable the removal of unnecessary restrictions on access to data.

- Establishes powers for both the Secretary of State to require energy companies to provide information on the cheapest tariff on energy bills.

Measures to improve energy security:

- Confers on the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority a duty to report to the Secretary of State with an estimate of future need for electricity capacity. Amends the Energy Act 2004 to give the Secretary of State a duty to publish his assessment of future capacity need.

- Establishes powers for Ofgem to require changes to be made to the Uniform Network Code so as to strengthen market incentive mechanisms for ensuring sufficient gas is available during a Gas Supply Emergency.

- Consolidates existing provisions, across four Acts of Parliament, for third party access to upstream oil and gas infrastructure, and streamlines current procedures to facilitate determinations by the Secretary of State where required. Makes new provisions for the notification of commercial negotiations, to trigger determination procedures where negotiations have been unduly protracted, and to publish any determinations made.

- Establishes powers for the Secretary of State (or Ofgem, with the consent of the Secretary of State) to apply to the court for an energy supply company administration order for gas and electricity suppliers to ensure that gas and electricity continue to be supplied as cost effectively as possible in the event that a large gas and electricity supply company becomes insolvent.

- Establishes powers to de-designate areas of the UK Continental Shelf in order to facilitate the signing of a comprehensive agreement with Ireland about maritime boundaries; which will enable the alignment of Exclusive Economic Zones and provide flexibility in managing the UK Continental Shelf resources (important for oil, gas and renewable energy supply).

- Enables the Secretary of State to make regulations for the purposes of ensuring the security of civil nuclear facilities being built in the vicinity of an existing nuclear site from the point when construction work begins.

Measures to enable low carbon technologies:

- Extends existing Secretary of State powers in the Energy Act 2004 (that expired on 18 December 2010) and also extends existing Ofgem powers in the Electricity Act 1989 to enable the implementation of an enduring offshore electricity transmission regime beyond 2010.

- Amends existing powers in the Energy Act 2008 that enable the Secretary of State to modify a nuclear operator's Funded Decommissioning Programme; to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the Secretary of State's powers to protect the taxpayer and the operator's need for clarity over how those powers will be exercised.

- Removes barriers to the reuse of existing capital assets for the purpose of carbon dioxide storage and transport where they are suitable.

- Allows National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority to generate and sell renewable electricity within specific constraints.

- Extends the Renewable Heat Incentive primary powers in the Energy Act 2008 to cover Northern Ireland enabling them to make their own regulations to incentivise renewable heat. This will make the RHI a UK wide scheme as initially envisaged.

- Extends the end date for any scheme to adjust transmission charges under the power in section 185 of the Energy Act 2004 from October 2024 to 2034.

Measures to extend the role of the Coal Authority:

- Amends the Coal Industry Act 1994 to provide powers to the Coal Authority to enable it to offer and charge for services relating to the longer-term safety and remediation of non-coal mining subsidence and non-mine water pollution.

- Enables the Secretary of State to make regulations for the purposes of ensuring the security of civil nuclear facilities being built in the vicinity of an existing nuclear site from the point when construction work begins.

What is Climate Change?

In the last century our climate has started to change rapidly. This isn't thought to be just a temporary event, the evidence points to a long-term change in our climate which is happening at an unusual rate and scientists have ruled out the sun and natural variations in our climate as the major causes of the recent warming. There is overwhelming evidence that most of this warming we have seen is due to increased amounts of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Human activities have directly increased the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and some other greenhouse gases. These increases can be through the burning of fossil fuels such as oil and coal, and changes in land use such as chopping down forests for cattle grazing.

Carbon dioxide and methane are both important greenhouse gases which have the greatest effect on our changing climate. Methane has a stronger greenhouse effect, but there is less of it and it only remains in the atmosphere for about a decade. Carbon dioxide on the other hand is much more abundant in the atmosphere and lasts for about 100 years or more, having a greater cumulative effect on our climate. The amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere has increased by 38% since the industrial revolution and because it stays for such a long time in our atmosphere. As we emit more it continues to build up.

The world has warmed by three-quarters of a degree in the last century. On top of this we have seen changes in extremes of weather events, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall. There is a natural carbon cycle in our climate. Carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere from a variety of sources, from the oceans, land and vegetation, from animals breathing or volcanoes erupting. It is widely understood that our emissions of greenhouse gases are causing changes to our climate.

Ten facts on Climate Change

- Over the last 50 years, human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – have released sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to affect the global climate. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by more than 30% since pre-industrial times, trapping more heat in the lower atmosphere. The resulting changes in the global climate bring a range of risks to health, from deaths in extreme high temperatures to changing patterns of infectious diseases.

- From the tropics to the arctic, climate and weather have powerful direct and indirect impacts on human life. Weather extremes – such as heavy rains, floods, and disasters like Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans, USA in August 2005 – endanger health as well as destroy property and livelihoods and more recently Typhoon Haiyan. Approximately 600,000 deaths occurred worldwide as a result of weather-related natural disasters in the 1990s, some 95% of which took place in developing countries.

- Intense short-term fluctuations in temperature can also seriously affect health – causing heat stress (hyperthermia) or extreme cold (hypothermia) – and lead to increased death rates from heart and respiratory diseases. Recent studies suggest that the record high temperatures in Western Europe in the summer of 2003 were associated with a spike of an estimated 70,000 more deaths than the equivalent periods in previous years.

- Pollen and other aeroallergen levels are also higher in extreme heat. These can trigger asthma, which affects around 300 million people. Ongoing temperature increases are expected to increase this burden.

- Rising sea levels – another outcome of global warming – increase the risk of coastal flooding, and could cause population displacement. More than half of the world's population now lives within 60 kilometres of shorelines. Floods can directly cause injury and death, and increase risks of infection from water and

vector-borne diseases. Population displacement could increase tensions and potentially the risks of conflict.

- More variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise hygiene and health. This increases the risk of diarrhoea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year, as well as trachoma (an eye infection that can lead to blindness) and other illnesses.

- Water scarcity encourages people to transport water long distances and store supplies in their homes. This can increase the risk of household water contamination, causing illnesses.

- Climatic conditions affect diseases transmitted through water, and via vectors such as mosquitoes. Climate-sensitive diseases are among the largest global killers. Diarrhoea, malaria and protein-energy malnutrition alone caused more than 3 million deaths globally in 2004, with over one third of these deaths occurring in Africa.

- Malnutrition causes millions of deaths each year, from both a lack of sufficient nutrients to sustain life and a resulting vulnerability to infectious diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses. Increasing temperatures on the planet and more variable rainfalls are expected to reduce crop yields in many tropical developing regions, where food security is already a problem.

- Steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or lessen the health impacts of climate change could have positive health effects. For example, promoting the safe use of public transportation and active movement - such as biking or walking as alternatives to using private vehicles - could reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve public health. They cannot only cut traffic injuries, but also air pollution and associated respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Increased levels of physical activity can lower overall mortality rates.

Mitigation – this refers to actions that reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy.

Mitigation is important in the long term as it is only by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions that we can hope to minimise human-induced climate change. Many of the measures to help reduce emissions may also have other benefits such as saving money and encouraging a more sustainable society.

Adaptation - addresses the impacts and opportunities resulting from a changing climate. Irrespective of the success of mitigation efforts, there will still be some degree of unavoidable climate change. This stems from our historic greenhouse gas emissions and the persistence of these gases in the atmosphere.

Local Impacts of Climate Change

Between 1961 and 2006, average daily temperature increased by 1.4℃. By the 2050s, average temperatures are likely to be 2.7℃ warmer (and could be as much as 5.1℃ warmer) in summer.

Autumns and winters are becoming wetter

Between 1961 and 2006, winter precipitation increased by 15.9%. By the 2050s, winter precipitation is likely to increase by 17% (and possibly by as much as 40.6%).

Summers are becoming drier

Between 1961 and 2006 summer precipitation decreased by 8.8%. By the 2050s, summer precipitation is likely to decrease by 20% (and possibly by as much as 44.5%).

Relative sea level continues to rise around the South West

Levels are likely to be 26-29 cm higher by the 2050s than they were in 1991.

More frequent and intense extreme weather

The South West can also expect more frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall/flooding, droughts and heatwaves.

The contribution to total winter precipitation from heavy rainfall events has already increased by approximately 5% since 1961.These figures have been taken from the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) and are in relation to the 1961-1990 baseline. This report also contains information about how these changes may affect key sectors across the South West's environment, economy and society. In November 2010 Climate SouthWest hosted a workshop to bring together partners from a wide range of sectors, in order to identify those climate change impacts, which are most pertinent for the South West. The following key themes emerged from the workshop as particularly important for the South West:

Critical Infrastructure - Disruption to critical infrastructure and transport links from flooding and other severe weather, which affect access, utilities, and services. This is a particular issue for rural and isolated communities. Such disruption also poses a risk to business due to the impacts on logistics and supply chains.

Tourism - Impacts on tourism from coastal change, disruption to infrastructure, health effects (particularly heat-related); as well as the effects of increased visitors (due to hotter, drier summers) on infrastructure and the environment.

Health - Impacts of heat (e.g. heat stroke, skin cancer) particularly on elderly and transient populations (tourists), as well as increased risk of tick-borne diseases and mental health issues arising from flood events.

Biodiversity - Impacts of climate change on ecosystem services (i.e. availability of water, changing natural habitats and landscapes).

Coastal Change - Sea level rise and erosion impacting on business, people, property, transport and wildlife, it is recognised that agriculture is an important sector locally and that local government will have an increasing responsibility for delivering on adaptation in their local areas and engaging communities.

How is MDDC addressing Climate Change Strategically?

- Play our part in helping to deliver local targets on climate change.
- Implement adopted planning policies that require new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change through sustainable design and the inclusion of renewable energy within development sites.
- Allow the development of wind, solar and other renewable energy development in suitable locations and at an appropriate scale in accordance with planning policies and guidance.
- Achieve significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from the Council's operations through energy conservation, greater use of renewable energy and sustainable transport, reducing the consumption of resources and minimising the environmental impact of procurement of goods and services.
- Ensure that the Council's policies and actions are consistent with sustainable development.
- Develop plans with our partners and local community to progressively address the causes and impacts of climate change.
- Empower and encourage sustainable communities by committing support and where possible, resources to community-led initiatives.
- Work with partners in tackling climate change, encouraging our partners to commit to positive action.
- The Council has a number of Policy Development Groups that will all work to monitor and review the Climate Change Action Plan. It has been shown which PDG is responsible for monitoring which category of this strategy and recommendation to the Council's Cabinet for approval.

What are the objectives of the climate change action plan?

- To adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change for the benefit of all who live, work and visit Mid Devon.

- To raise awareness about climate change and encourage action by staff, members, partners and the community.

- To promote sustainable development in the Council's decisions, policies and actions in conjunction with partners.

- To maximise our impact by working with partners and linking with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

- To encourage sustainable communities in Mid Devon and also lead our partners to work towards this objective.

National Indicators on Climate Change

On 31 January 2011, the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) requested views from local authorities on a way forward on sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions from local authority owned estates and operations.
In response to the comments received, DECC revised the previous request.

DECC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Association (LGA, formerly the Local Government Group) on 9 March 2011 to recognise the pivotal role local authorities have in reducing emissions at the local level. The first milestone in the Annex to the MOU was to develop and agree approach for sharing information on greenhouse gas emissions from council own estate and operations. DECC and the LGA agreed and signed an updated MOU in July 2013 that recognises councils have a unique insight and reach into communities and can ensure carbon reduction policies and programmes benefit communities and protect the most vulnerable. The reporting criteria for greenhouse emissions have been spilt into three scopes as outlined below:-

Scope 1 (Direct emissions)
Activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples of scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, owned or controlled vehicles.

Scope 2
(Energy indirect) Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of your organisation's activities but which occur at sources you do not own or control. The most common type of Scope 2 emission is electricity purchased for own consumption from the National Grid or a third party.

Scope 3
(other indirect) Emissions are discretionary to include that are a consequence of your actions, which occur at sources which you do not own or control and which are not classified as scope 2 emissions. Examples of scope 3 emissions include business travel not owned or controlled by your organisation (eg. use of public transport), commuting, use of 'grey fleet' (i.e. use of employees' own cars for which fuel costs

are claimed back via expenses), emissions from contractors, and supply chain procurement.

MDDC has reported the following baseline emission figures to the Department of Energy as well as making them available on our website.

Scope 1 emissions - gas supply to buildings (not degree day corrected)

2011-2012 = 612032.13 kg
2012-2013 =893594.75 kg

Scope 1 emissions - from owned vehicles and car pool

2011-2012 = 802504.2 kg
2012-2013 = 810764.6 kg

Scope 2 emissions - Purchased electricity

2011-2012 = 1463215.4 kg
2012-2013 = 1073369.3 kg

What are we already doing to tackle climate change?

The Facilities and Corporate Buildings Manager has undertaken a review of all the Council's activities which has an impact on the environment. These include the purchasing policy, transport and fleet issues, enforcement of environmental legislation, planning policy and operational issues. The following environmental activities have been included within this environmental strategy and action plan as listed below.

- Managing the Council's environmental impact
- The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption
- Transport
- All land and water quality
- Bio and Geodiversity
- The built and urban environment
- Waste Management
- Sustainability

Managing the Council's environmental impact

Energy: Corporate Plan- 2012-2015

Reduce the Council's carbon footprint from our offices and leisure centres.

MDDC will benefit from long term reductions to carbon emissions and usage thanks to a ground breaking initiative on Energy reduction, MDDC is set to save up to a third on its annual energy expenditure after installing a range of energy efficiency measures in a number of its corporate properties. The upgrades have been provided by energy services company Anesco Energy Services (South) Ltd (AESSL) and did

not require any upfront cost to the Council. The cost of the installation will be recouped by AESSL both through sharing a percentage of the savings generated on energy bills and through the government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. The agreement will run for 12 years, after which time the Council will receive the full benefit of the energy savings generated.

National energy efficiency solutions company Anesco managed the installations, which have been undertaken at Phoenix House, the multi-storey car park, two leisure centres and one sports centre.

The RHI payments for the introduction of a biomass boiler have offset the annual maintenance costs and the project has also relieved the council of the need to find and allocate substantial capital to replace end of life assets. The energy saving measures (ECM'S) installed were:-

- A biomass boiler installation at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre
- Valve insulation of heating pipes on our leisure centres
- Efficient lighting upgrades will bring electricity savings for the car park and leisure centres
- Replacement air handling units which circulate air and control humidity are expected to generate substantial energy reductions at our leisure centres
- Energy efficiency controls to air handling units at Phoenix House.

Mid Devon Core Strategy Policy COR5: Climate Change is an adopted planning policy, relating to new developments and is summarised below.

Measures will be sought, which minimise the impact of development on climate change, and contribute towards national and regional targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including:

The development of renewable energy capacity will be supported in locations with an acceptable local impact, including visual, on nearby residents and wildlife.

Energy efficiency improvement measures will be supported with an acceptable impact on historic interest.

It is intended that all new development will be carbon neutral in development and use as soon as a detailed approach can be developed through the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on this subject. This is likely to be through appropriate choice of materials, energy efficiency measures, transport management, renewable energy generation and carbon fixing. Until such time as the **SPD** is adopted all development should take positive measures to reduce carbon emissions to a realistic minimum.

The **SPD** referred to has never been completed, and circumstances have changed since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2007. There is now a national move towards reduced carbon emissions in new developments (operation and use of development, rather than carbon associated with materials and construction), to be implemented through the Building Regulations.

The government commissioned a review of local standards being applied differently across the country, followed by a consultation in 2013 on the introduction of a set of national standards which can be adopted within local plans subject to local justification and viability testing. Policies which impose a financial burden on development should be independently examined through the Local Plan, rather than being introduced through Supplementary Planning Documents.

The Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document (AIDPD) was adopted in 2010.

AIDPD Policy AL/IN/6: Carbon Footprint Reduction – (adopted planning policy) states the following:

Development of 10 or more dwellings or 1000 square metres or more of non-residential floorspace will make provision for at least 10% of the energy to be used in the development to come from decentralised on-site renewable or low-carbon sources rising incrementally to 20% by 2020. A Carbon Reduction Strategy outlining this and other methods to reduce development carbon footprint will need to accompany planning applications.

The Planning service now requires major developments to provide minimum 13% energy from renewable or low-carbon sources.

Local Plan Part 3: Development management policies (LP3) was adopted in October 2013.

LP3 Policy DM/3: Sustainable Design - (adopted planning policy) states the following:

Development proposals involving the construction of new buildings must demonstrate how sustainable design and construction methods will be incorporated to achieve energy and water efficiency and resilience to climate change. Designs must use landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.

Major housing developments will be required to meet Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes from 2013, rising to Level 5 from 2016.

Major commercial development will be required to achieve BREEAM ‘Very Good’ standard from 2013 and ‘Excellent’ from 2016.

If evidence demonstrates that meeting the minimum standard under the Code for Sustainable Homes or BREEAM would render the development unachievable, the

Council will balance the overall benefits of the development against the objectives of this policy.

LP3 Policy DM5: Renewable and low carbon energy (adopted planning policy) states the following:

The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy development will be weighed against its impact. Proposals for renewable or low carbon energy will be permitted where they do not have significant adverse impacts on the character, amenity and visual quality of the area, including cumulative impacts of similar developments within the parish or adjoining parishes. Where significant impacts are identified through Environmental Impact Assessment, the Council will balance the impact against the wider benefits of delivering renewable and low carbon energy. Development must consider:

- Landscape character and heritage assets
- Environmental amenity of nearby properties in accordance with Policy DM7
- Quality and productivity of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a)
- Biodiversity (avoiding habitat fragmentation)

The LP3 also has policies about transport/parking and air quality, but these are not geared towards reducing overall carbon emissions and meeting national targets. They are designed to improve local air quality so that the towns (especially centres of Cullompton and Crediton) reduce their levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates, improving living conditions. LP3 Policy DM8 requires infrastructure for electric vehicles to be incorporated in all new developments.

Policy Sustainability - Procurement Service

The purpose of this Strategy is to provide a sustainable focus to the procurement of goods, works and services, recognising the need for improving our environment and the quality of life enjoyed by people who live in the area and those who visit, ensuring all stakeholders who purchase anything on behalf of the Council(s) have due regard to the potential impacts. The 7 Devon Districts spend annually in the region of £90 million on goods, works and services. **"***Sustainable procurement is about delivering value for money, whole-life costing and benefits to society and the economy as well as the environment".*

Sustainability is something you hear about on a regular basis although some may think 'well what has it got to do with me?' The aim of the strategy is to eliminate myths and make sustainability real, with practical tips and guidance on how to approach sustainability issues and considerations when procuring goods, works and services.

The Districts have a key role to play in helping to deliver a more sustainable Devon; as an employer with responsibility for staff and buildings; as a provider of local services; and as a community leader working in partnership with other organisations and local communities. The Districts Sustainable Procurement Strategy sets out our commitment to put sustainable procurement at the heart of everything we do.

The EU Procurement regulations state that sustainable products can only be specified if they are *reasonable* and *relevant* to the nature of the contract. There must be a *legitimate* business need to specify sustainable products. The procurement process must not be anti-competitive or *non-commercial* (capable of being supplied). Criteria *must* be specified in the ITT document together with the allocated weighting. Evaluation criteria used needs to take into account:

- Social Benefits
- Economic Benefits
- Environmental Benefits

What is a sustainable product / service?

One that is fit for purpose providing value for money
One that is energy efficient / resource efficient
It uses the minimum use of material
It might be made with maximum use of recycled materials
Non (reduced) pollution
Durable, easily upgraded, and repairable
Reusable and recyclable
Ethically sourced
Reduced delivery miles
Utilises local supply

Other issues to be considered:

Minimising Packaging & its disposal
Delivery (times / mode) less stock lying around, efficiently made
Use of local labour e.g. apprenticeship schemes
Training and development opportunities to sustain on-going community development and regeneration
Supply chain (sub contractors / manufacturers) minimising the supply chain

What is whole life costing?

Whole Life Costing (WLC) = taking into account and evaluating the Social, Economic and Environmental impacts of a product or service - the total 'cost' of the solution.

Whole life costing should consider areas such as:

- Direct Running Costs
- Indirect Costs
- Administration Costs
- Training
- Recycling Capabilities

- Refurbished Products
- Disposal Costs
- Disposal Options (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle)

Green Infrastructure Assessment–Forward Planning

The Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA) considers a network of multi-functional green space with recreational, visual and biodiversity value. The plan identifies existing green infrastructure assets at the landscape scale and by catchment areas within Mid Devon. On the basis of that assessment and other information about Council-maintained green infrastructure, there is an intention to commission an up-to-date Open Space and Play Area Strategy in 2014.

The benefits of planning for green infrastructure are listed below:-

Safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity
Mitigating and adapting climate change
Improving economic prosperity through sustainable development, green tourism and local food production
Creating a low carbon society
Attractive and productive landscapes
Health and wellbeing through improved access to GI

The executive summary of the draft Green Infrastructure Plan is on our web site. The final version of the GI Assessment section is expected to be published on the website in January 2014

Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy- Private Sector Housing

Private sector housing has a draft policy in place that has links to Climate Change, these links are summarised below. This policy explains the way in which the Council provides advice and, wherever possible, financial assistance to the owners and occupiers of private sector property within Mid Devon.

Includes provisions to ensure that from April 2016, private residential landlords will be unable to refuse a tenants' reasonable request for consent to energy efficiency improvements, where a finance package, such as the Green Deal and/or the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), is available. Provisions in the Act also provide for powers to ensure that from April 2018, it will be unlawful to rent out a residential or business premise that does not reach a minimum energy efficiency standard (the intention is for this to be set at EPC rating "E"). These requirements will be subject to there being no upfront financial cost to landlords; therefore, landlords will have fulfilled the requirement if they have reached "E" or carried out the maximum package of measures funded under the Green Deal and/or ECO.

Home Energy Conservation and Climate Change

Since the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995, the Council has been committed to encouraging and supporting the work to reduce Fuel Poverty and develop the Devon Affordable Warmth strategy in cross cutting Devon wide partnership programmes. Mid Devon has reached 27.67% energy efficiency saving since 1996 (HECA return 2008).

Tackling Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Measures

The Council believes that in order to meet the Government's objectives of a 30% reduction in energy usage in the area, the following will be the priority area for dwellings in the district:

- Insulation of hot water tanks, cavity walls and lofts
- Installation of double glazed windows
- Draught proofing
- Replacement of inefficient central heating boilers

Mid Devon District Council look to achieve this by:-

Tackling fuel poverty, encouraging affordable warmth and energy efficiency by working in partnership with the Devon Private Sector Housing Group to continue the development and delivery of the Devon wide Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Working with energy efficiency companies such as EAGA Ltd, Energy Action Devon, Energy Saving Trust, National Energy Action, SW Carbon Action Network and the Utilities.

Working in partnership with colleagues in Benefits, Council Tax, Planning, Building Control, Community Development, HIA and Tenancy Services carrying out joint promotions and data sharing, where appropriate.

By addressing these key areas, the aim is to improve the private sector stock, maintain its diversity and condition for the wellbeing of our community.

"Increasing and sustaining access to the private rented sector can also reduce the number of people who experience homelessness and need to be assisted under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) with a corresponding positive impact on the number or households placed in temporary accommodation.

Energy Grants: Hard-to-Treat/Off-gas

In Mid-Devon about a fifth of all homes pre-date 1919 and have solid walls, but currently there are no cost-effective measures (in terms of the economic payback periods) for treating them. In comparison with cavity wall insulation, for example, external insulation can cost ten times as much for a similar dwelling. Early Park Homes have similar, poor insulation, and can be difficult to improve internally

because of the loss of floor space. Many homes in Mid-Devon are not on mains gas. For households on low income, fossil fuels are becoming increasingly expensive. Discretion to introduce assistance under this heading together with eligibility criteria and grant limits when and if cost-effective packages of treatment are identified. Will be by agreement between Portfolio Holder and Environmental Health Manager; however the Private sector housing group found no deliverable conclusions from its work last year.

Energy Grants: CosyDevon

This grant scheme for subsidised or free loft and cavity wall insulation is directly funded by utility and power generating companies, and will be supported (by mailshots and advertising materials) by the Council.

The Environmental Health Manager, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Housing, to have the discretion to additionally fund measures for specified groups of people (such as those in the “benefits trap” who are earning low incomes but receive no benefits) so as to offer subsidised or free insulation.

These additional measures would be funded through a scheme subsidy, administered by the installers, not to individuals. There would be no grant conditions attached.

Mid Devon supports the use of renewable energy and would if funds became available be prepared to chase those funds to assist with renewable energy, however because of financial restraints, the policy merely confirms support at present.

Energy Grants: PLEA (Private Landlords Energy Action)

These existing energy grants for landlords are based on ‘cash back’ (maximum) £1,000 split between insulation and central heating, i.e. £500 or 50% whichever is lower for insulation and the same for boiler replacement.

Payment of this grant is conditional on the property remaining available for letting for a 2 year period.

Discretionary power to limit assistance to areas of particular need or risk.

The Local House Condition Survey has provided evidence of the areas of highest need, and of the most vulnerable residents living in the highest risk types of property, often with the lowest income. The information is only available at statistical level, and cannot identify individual properties, but follow-up annual surveys (“longitudinal surveys”) and further work with the original survey may refine this.

There is discretion for the Environmental Health Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, and with subsequent reporting to the Policy Development Group, to restrict types of discretionary assistance to specific geographical areas, types of buildings or groups of people highlighted as being in greater need or risk in Mid Devon as evidenced by the 2008 Local House Condition Survey and its annual

updates. This would not apply to any of the Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants that would continue to be available in all areas of Mid Devon.

Corporate Plan 2012-2015

The Council has stated within the Corporate Plan 2012-2015 that Caring for our Environment is to be included within our top priorities and is therefore linked to the proposed areas of the Environment Strategy.

The Corporate Plan states the following:-

- Reducing the amount of landfill
- Increasing recycling/composting
- Reducing the Council's carbon footprint

Corporate Plan – Caring for our Environment **action point 1**

Increase Mid Devon's recycling rate to 50%

The Council states that we intend to achieve a recycling rate of 50% by March 2014.

Corporate Plan- Caring for our Environment **action point 2**

Reduce the Council's carbon footprint from our offices and leisure centres

Corporate Plan- Caring for our Environment **action point 3**

Adopt a Low Emission Strategy

Currently there is not a low emission strategy in place

Corporate Plan**-** Caring for our Environment **action point 4**

Gradually replace our Council fleet with more eco-friendly vehicles

Our fleet manager has been actively replacing our vehicles with more eco –friendly vehicles, a third of our refugee vehicles now **exceed** the euro 5 standard that have the following emission output.

Emissions from diesel vehicles:
Carbon monoxide: 500 mg/km;
Particulates: 5 mg/km (80 % reduction of emissions in comparison to the Euro 4 standard);

Nitrogen oxides (NOx): 180 mg/km (20 % reduction of emissions in comparison to the Euro 4 standard);

Combined emissions of hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides: 230 mg/km.

Any vehicle on the fleet scheduled for replacement will be replaced with a low emission, fuel efficient vehicle.

Corporate Plan **-** Caring for our Environment **action point 5**

Prepare an action plan about maintenance of open spaces

The Environmental Health service is currently in the process of rolling out a conditional survey of all open spaces to prioritise budget allocation in 13/14.

Air monitoring- Environmental Health/Forward Planning

Air monitoring work does not have a policy but related to our managing the environment work and has resulted in planning policies designed to improve local air quality.

Local Air Quality Management, known as LAQM, is a statutory regime introduced by the Environment Act 1995 which requires us to regularly assess outdoor air quality across the district. Information includes our latest air quality monitoring review and assessment reports and information on our Air Quality Management Areas in the district at Crediton and Cullompton. We also have a Supplementary Planning Document on Air Quality, resulting from Environmental Health's Air Quality Action Plans.

The SPD requires developers to make financial contributions towards the implementation of the AQAP, such as the construction of the Crediton Link Road which will divert a proportion of the traffic away from the town centre, reducing air pollutants in the town centre.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy– Licensing Policy

In order for a taxi or private hire firm to gain a licence and the Council insists that the vehicle receiving the licence must be a low emission vehicle. An age limit is not imposed on vehicles that are licensed by this Council but we are seeking to gradually raise the emissions standards as vehicles that meet higher standards will be safer both for passengers and the environment. In order to raise the emissions standards we will not licence vehicles that fail to meet Euro Standard 3 initially and then move to Euro Standard 4 as a minimum. Most vehicles that meet Euro Standard 3 were registered from January 2000 onwards, whilst Euro Standard 4 is generally vehicles registered after January 2005.

We will give 'grandfather' rights to existing licensed vehicles and will also make exceptions for limousines or classic vehicles (we currently licence a Rolls Royce, which offers a chauffeur-driven service). From 1 April 2010 all vehicles offered for licensing for the first time met Euro Standard 3. From 1 April 2011 all vehicles offered for licensing for the first time met Euro Standard 4.

Consultation is currently underway to increase the standard further; from 1 April 2014 all vehicles offered for licensing for the first time must meet Euro Standard 5 which is generally vehicles registered for the first time from January 2011.

Environmental considerations are an important part of the licensing regime and dual fuel vehicles are permitted.

Housing stock reducing fuel poverty - Housing Services

Although the work we have done towards fuel poverty is not current policy, this work has strong links with our work towards managing the environment
Housing Services continue to deliver energy saving measures to help our tenants with fuel poverty such as solar photovoltaic panels that help reduce electricity costs.

Annex A - Climate Change Action Plan Monitoring

The Council has fourteen policies/plans that form our Climate Change Action Plan. The tables below identify these policies and plans, including their category and relevance, this also details the responsible officers and which Policy Development Group will monitor going forward.

Seven of the fourteen policies are monitored by the Managing the Environment Policy Development Group and are highlighted in italics and shaded.

Annex A

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate change category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Approval
Mid Devon Core Strategy 2006-2026, adopted 2007	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Policy AL/IN/6 Carbon footprint reduction	Forward Planning	• The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Policy DM/3 Sustainable development	Forward Planning	• The built and urban environment • Sustainability • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet
Green Assessment Plan	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment • Sustainability	Peter Williams	Cabinet

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and reporting
Private Sector Renewal Policy Home Energy Conservation Act	Private Sector Housing	• The built and urban environment • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson	Decent and Affordable Homes PDG Cabinet
Policy Sustainability	Procurement	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact	Andrew Jarrett Amy Tregellas	Audit Committee Cabinet
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 *Increase MDDC's recycling rate to 50%*	*Environmental Services*	• *Waste Management*	*Paul Williams* *Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG* *Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 *Reduce the Council's carbon footprint from our offices and leisure centres*	*Property Services*	• *Sustainability* • *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption*	*Nick Sanderson* *Andrew Busby*	*Managing the Environment PDG* *Cabinet*

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Reporting
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 *Adopt a low emission strategy*	*Environmental Services* *Housing and Property Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *Transport*	*Paul Williams* *Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 *Gradually replace our Council fleet with more eco-friendly vehicles*	*Environmental Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact* • *Transport*	*Paul Williams* *Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Corporate Plan 2012-2015 *Prepare an action plan about maintenance of open spaces*	*Environmental Services*	• *Managing the Council's environmental impact*	*Paul Williams* *Amy Tregellas*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Air Monitoring	*Environmental Services*	• *Transport*	*Paul Williams*	*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*

Climate Change Action Plan 2014-2017

Policy and plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Reporting
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy	*Environmental Services*	• *Transport*	*Paul Williams*	*Regulatory Committee*
Reducing fuel poverty on our housing stock	Housing and Property Services	• Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson	Decent and Affordable Homes PDG Cabinet
LP3 Policy DM5 Renewable and low carbon energy	Forward Planning	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Peter Williams	Cabinet