Your Ref:
Our Ref:

All Members

Mid Devon DISTRICT COUNCIL
Phoenix House
Phoenix Lane
Tiverton
Devon
EX16 6PP
www.middevon.gov.uk

Contact: **Julia Stuckey**
Telephone: **01884 234209**
Email: **Jstuckey@middevon.gov.uk**

1 March 2016

Dear Member

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the **Managing the Environment Policy Development Group**, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

10 **Climate Strategy and Action Plan** *(Pages 3 - 32)*

To receive a report from the Head of Housing and Property Services providing Members with the updated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for consideration

Yours sincerely

Julia Stuckey
Member Services Officer

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Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

2016 to 2020

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 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.

Below the Government and legislative position is set out. The Council needs to ensure compliance and play its part in contributing to reducing the effect of climate change

Climate Change Act and UK Regulations

The Government has taken a number of steps to limit the UK's emissions of greenhouse gases through legally binding targets, both now and in the future. The UK has been signed up to the Kyoto Protocol since 1995.

The Paris Agreement following the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change of 195 countries to holding the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

The Climate Change Act

The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.

The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- **2050 Target.** The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low-carbon Economy.

- **Carbon Budgets.** The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027. The CCC has recommended a target for a further 4 year period.

- 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)
- 1,765 MtCO2e over the fifth carbon budget period (2028 to 2032)

- **The Committee on Climate Change** was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets, and report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **A National Adaptation Plan** requires the Government to assess the UK's risks from climate change, prepare a strategy to address them, and encourage critical organisations to do the same.

UK Government and Climate Change

Preventing dangerous climate change and preparing for it, touches on all aspects of the economy. Therefore, many government departments provide input into climate change policies. The two key government departments charged with setting climate policy are:

- **Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)** leads on the UK's policy to reduce emissions. It is responsible for delivering secure energy and driving ambitious action on climate change at home and abroad

- **Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra)** leads on the UK's domestic adaptation policy. It is responsible for developing a National Adaptation Programme to address the risks set out in the first Climate Change Risk Assessment. Government is working with business, Local Government, civil society and public sector organisations to develop this programme.

Energy Act 2011

Summary and Background

The Act implements elements of: *The Coalition's programme for Government*(**1**) the first *Annual Energy Statement*(**2**) published on 27 July 2010 and the *Carbon Plan*(**3**) published on 8 March 2011, which set out that Government's plans to support the UK's transition to a secure, safe, low-carbon, affordable energy system, and to mobilise commitment to ambitious action on climate change internationally.

The Act is underpinned by three policy objectives: tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency; enhancing energy security; and facilitating investment in low carbon energy supplies.

The majority of the Act is made up of provisions to enable the financing and facilitation of the installation of energy efficiency measures in homes and businesses – the 'Green Deal' – with the remainder of the Act dealing with securing fair competition in energy markets and the supply of low carbon energy.

The Act is in five parts:

Part 1: Energy efficiency. Improving energy efficiency by tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency through the Green Deal and measures to maximise its uptake; introducing powers for a new Energy Company Obligation from 2012 to complement and work in tandem with the Green Deal; making energy performance data from Energy Performance Certificates more widely available; extending powers to direct the roll out of smart meters; and conferring powers to require cheapest tariff information to be included on energy bills.

Part 2: Security of energy supplies. Enhancing energy security through better monitoring of future electricity security; strengthening market incentive mechanisms for ensuring sufficient gas is available during a Gas Supply Emergency; improving third party access to UK oil and gas infrastructure; putting in place a Special Administration Regime for gas and electricity suppliers; and maximising the UK's ability to exploit the UK Continental Shelf.

Part 3: Measures for reducing carbon emissions. Enabling implementation of the enduring offshore electricity transmission regime beyond 2010, giving investors in the new nuclear sector increased certainty as to their obligations and making provision in respect of the decommissioning of infrastructure converted for carbon capture and storage demonstration projects and pipe-lines for conveying carbon dioxide.

Part 4: Coal Authority. Extending the power of the Coal Authority in relation to offering and charging for services relating to non-coal mining activities.

Part 5: Miscellaneous and General. Including the repeal of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995; extent; commencement; and the short title.

Green Deal

In light of low take-up and concerns about industry standards, there will be no further funding to the Green Deal Finance Company, in a move to protect taxpayers.

The Government will work with the building industry and consumer groups on a new value-for-money approach. The Government will also stop any future funding releases of the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund.

Future schemes must provide better value for money, supporting the goal of insulating a million more homes over the next five years and the Government's commitment to tackle fuel poverty.

This decision has no impact on existing Green Deal Finance Plans or existing Green Deal Home Improvement Fund applications and vouchers.

Current Government policies including the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme will continue to provide support this year to low-income and vulnerable households, reflecting the fact that ECO delivered 97% of home improvements in the last two years.

DECC will work in partnership with the Department for Communities and Local Government to improve the UK's existing housing stock. The longer-term future of the Energy Company Obligation scheme will be part of these discussions around a new, better-integrated policy.

A summary of the former Green Deal is given below. Reference to the Green Deal in this document should be taken in the context that is no longer available and the Government is considering alternative mechanisms to achieve similar objectives, although exactly what that will be is unclear.

- 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.

Paris Agreement

The government has also committed to support Mission Innovation. This is a commitment of 20 leading governments to seek to double their clean energy research and development investment over five years. New investments would be focused on transformational clean energy technology innovations that can be scalable to varying economic and energy market conditions that exist in participating countries and in the broader world.

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. On-going 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°C. By the 2050s, average temperatures are likely to be 2.7°C warmer (and could be as much as 5.1°C 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.
- Allow 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 have 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

Corporate Plan - 2012-2015 Objectives

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 Lord's 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.

Increase the recycling rate – the rate is increasing and exceeds 50%

- Reducing Carbon Footprint of our offices and leisure centres – the arrangement the Council have with Anesco Energy Services (South) Ltd is realising energy savings in these buildings and that project is being built on, when opportunity allows, during planned maintenance and replacement. The investment with solar PV on these buildings is also reaping rewards.

- Adopt a Low Emissions Strategy – this is rolled on from the previous Corporate Plan and remains an action, although low emissions improvements are being driven by Local Plan policy and the ECO Stars initiative. It should be understood that carbon reduction is an indirect benefit of reduced low emission which major on improved air quality.

- Replacement of fleet with more eco-friendly vehicles - fleet replacement is on-going, as appropriate, and current recycling vehicles meet Euro 6.

- Prepare action plan for maintenance of open space – this remains an action to be completed.

- Reducing Fuel Poverty on Council Housing Stock – investment is on-going and in addition to the extensive Solar PV installations includes replacement boilers, controls and insulation, air-source heat pumps, solar thermal, trials of air to air heat pumps and consideration of other and emerging technology. Efforts are also being concentrated in providing a main gas supply to all the Housing Stock as the preferred source of energy.

- Private Sector Housing is actively supporting that sector where they are able to do so. Actions include giving advice directly or via partners, enabling improvements via the former Green Deal and any replacement funding opportunity that may become available.

- A Green Infrastructure Assessment has been completed and forms part of the local plan evidence (it is not a specific plan or policy as originally intended).

- The Eco Stars initiative, in addition to the refuse vehicles and taxi operators, has many local to national outside vehicle operators who use the roads in Mid Devon signed up to operating vehicles with lower emissions.

- Mid Devon actively participate with the Low Emissions Partnership network to deliver improved air quality.

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 floor space 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.

Changes in national planning policy have affected the Council's implementation of this policy. The inclusion of onsite renewable energy within housing developments is no longer required, though a Carbon Reduction Statement is required to demonstrate how the design has taken account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption. The implementation of the policy with regard to commercial development remains unaffected.

Local Plan Part 3: Development management policies (LP3) were 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.

Changes in national planning policy have affected the Council's implementation of this policy. Water efficiency standards are now assessed through the building regulations process. Therefore, there is no longer the need for applications to submit documentation setting out how compliance with the Code for Sustainable Homes is being achieved. The implementation of the policy with regard to commercial development and the BREEAM elements of the policy remain unaffected.

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.

Changes in national planning policy have affected the Council's implementation of this policy. Where applications for wind turbines are considered they will have to be compliant with the Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) dated 18 June 2015 which sets out new considerations to be applied to proposed wind energy development. The WMS states that a wind turbine proposal must be in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development and fully addresses the planning impact identified by local communities and, therefore, has their backing.

Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033

The Local Plan is currently being reviewed which once adopted will replace the Core Strategy (2007), AIDPD (2010) and LP3 (2013). The Local Plan Review includes policies to achieve sustainable design and reduce carbon emissions and pollution in accordance with the latest national policy and guidance.

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 £90million 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 document 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, an Open Space and Play Area Strategy was commissioned 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 Green Infrastructure Assessment and Open Space and Play Area Strategy can be found on our web site at https://new.middevon.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-review-evidence-base/.

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. The policy is under review, but the content remains relevant. This policy highlights 4 key priorities for assistance:

- Providing Decent Homes for the vulnerable.
- Provision of Affordable Housing.
- Empty Homes.
- Tackling Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Measures.

Tackling Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Measures (Home Energy Conservation Act 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). HECA was temporarily suspended but reintroduced in 2013 when all local authorities were required to submit a new plan. A further report was submitted in 2015 and that can be found at the following location on our website https://new.middevon.gov.uk/media/1207/heca-further-progress-report-2015.pdf

Traditional energy schemes funded through the energy companies such as Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets (CERT) closed in January 2013 and legislative change bringing the alternative Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Green Deal funds has been slow to reach delivery stage.

The Council believes the following will be the priority area for dwellings in the district:

- Insulation of hot water tanks, cavity walls, attics and solid walls.
- 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 (e.g. Cosy Devon) and to continue the development and delivery of Devon-wide Affordable Warmth projects.

Working with energy efficiency companies such as 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, Tenancy Services and Wessex Home Improvement Loans carrying out joint promotions and data sharing, where appropriate.

Energy Projects:

In Mid-Devon about a fifth of all homes pre-date 1919 and have solid walls, previously there have been no cost-effective measures (in terms of the economic payback periods) for treating them. In comparison with cavity wall insulation, for example, external insulation has cost up to 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. There are developing technologies that are making the insulation of solid walls more cost effective. Many homes in Mid-Devon are not on mains gas. For households on low income, fossil fuels are becoming increasingly expensive.

From April 2016, private residential landlords will be unable to refuse a tenant's 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.

We have been working with Devon County Council, Torbay and the other Devon Districts to bring back a scheme that will provide free insulation and replacement boilers to targeted fuel poor households (rented and owner-occupied). This was launched in 2014 under the Cosy Devon brand and with energy partner commitment will run to 2017.

The Council is seeking the provision of funding to support the installation of central heating systems in homes with no gas supply and benefit dependant household.

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 and signposting at present.

Corporate Plan 2016-2020 (draft)

The Council states in its draft Corporate Plan 2016-2020 that its aims with respect to the Environment are:

- Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.
- Reduce our carbon footprint.
- Protect the natural environment.

Specific projects are:

- Reduce residual household waste by 10%.
- Introduce waste education and enforcement policy.
- Expand the ECO Stars initiative to include Mid Devon fleet.
- Low emissions partnering.
- Air Quality Action Plans.

Additionally the aims with respect to homes include in its projects - Cosy Devon and Central Heating Fund projects to alleviate fuel poverty.

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. When the Local Plan Review is adopted, the Council expects to fund air quality improvements through the Community Infrastructure Levy, details of which are available on the Council's website at https://new.middevon.gov.uk/planning-policy/community-infrastructure-levy-cil/

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Licensing Policy

All new vehicles licensed as either Hackney Carriage or Private Hire must be less than 5 years old, with exemptions being made for limousines, classic vehicles for a specific purpose and vehicles with wheelchair access. Vehicles already licensed do have the benefit of grandfather rights, but the 5 year policy will ensure that new vehicles continually meet higher standards in terms of safety for passengers and also the environment, in terms of compliance with Euro standard emissions.

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, air-source heat pumps, replacement boilers and associated controls, insulation, solar thermal hot water and trials of air to air heat pumps. There is no single fix for all circumstances and alternative treatments for those unable to benefit directly from the extensive solar PV installations are being implemented with revenue stream provided by the solar PV and other funding. Investigations to the benefits of other and developing technologies are on-going. Opportunities will be taken to provide a main gas supply to those currently 'off-gas'.

Annex A - Climate Change Action Plan Monitoring

The Council has sixteen 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.

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

Annex A

Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate change category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Approval
Mid Devon Core Strategy 2007-2026, adopted	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment	Liz Pickering	Head of Planning and Regeneration
Policy AL/IN/6 Carbon footprint reduction	Forward Planning	• The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Liz Pickering	Head of Planning and Regeneration
Policy DM/3 Sustainable development	Forward Planning	• The built and urban environment • Sustainability • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption • Managing the Council's environmental impact	Liz Pickering	Head of Planning and Regeneration

Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020

Policy and Plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and reporting
Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033	Forward Planning	• Bio and Geodiversity • The built and urban environment • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption • Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact	Liz Pickering	Head of Planning and Regeneration
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	Simon Newcombe	Decent and Affordable Homes PDG Cabinet
Policy Sustainability	Procurement	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact	Andrew Jarrett Chanelle Busby	Audit Committee Cabinet
Corporate Plan 2016-2020 *Increase recycling and reduce waste*	*Environmental Services*	• *Waste Management*	*Andrew Jarrett*	*Managing the Environment PDG* *Cabinet*

Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2020

Policy and plan	Service	Climate Change Category	Lead Officer(s)	Monitoring and Reporting
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy	*Environmental Services*	• *Transport*	*Simon Newcombe Tom Keating*	*Regulatory Committee*
Corporate Plan 2016-2020 Reduce our carbon footprint	Property Services	• Sustainability • Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson Andrew Busby	Nick Sanderson Andrew Busby
Corporate Plan 2016-2020 Protect the natural environment	Development Management		Jenny Clifford	Planning Committee
Corporate Plan 2016-2020 Plan an enhance the built environment	Development Management		Jenny Clifford	Planning Committee

Green Infrastructure Assessment	Forward Planning		Liz Pickering	Jenny Clifford
Green Travel Plan				
Air Quality Monitoring	*Environmental Services*			*Managing the Environment PDG Cabinet*
Housing Strategy 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
Asset Management Plan	Housing and Property Services	• Managing the Council's environmental impact • The reduction of the use of natural resources and energy consumption	Nick Sanderson Andrew Busby	Cabinet

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