

# Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

## Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 6 August 2019 at 5.30 pm  
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting  
Tuesday, 24 September 2019 at 5.30 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

## Membership

Cllr E J Berry  
Cllr W Burke  
Cllr D R Coren  
Cllr B Holdman  
Cllr R F Radford  
Cllr R L Stanley  
Cllr Ms E J Wainwright  
Cllr B G J Warren  
Cllr J Wright

## A G E N D A

*Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place*

- 1      **Apologies and substitute Members**  
To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).
- 2      **Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct**  
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.
- 3      **Public Question Time**  
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

- 4      **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 5 - 12*)  
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as a correct record.

The Committee is reminded that only those members of the Committee present at the previous meeting should vote and, in doing so, should be influenced only by seeking to ensure that the minutes are an accurate record.

5 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.

6 **Performance and Risk** *(Pages 13 - 20)*

To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2019-2020 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

7 **Connecting the Culm Project** *(Pages 21 - 30)*

To consider a report of the Head of Planning Economy and Regeneration informing members of progress with the Connecting the Culm Project

8 **Play Area Safety Inspection Policy** *(Pages 31 - 40)*

To receive a 3 year review from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) of the Play Area Safety Inspection Policy presented by the Group Manager for Corporate Policy and Commercial Assets

9 **Climate Change Declaration** *(Pages 41 - 46)*

To receive an overview from the Director of Operations on what the council have achieved to date.

10 **Identification of Items for Future Meetings**

Please note the following items are identified for future meetings:

Single Use Plastics  
District Officer Discretionary Time  
Environment Educational Enforcement Policy  
Finance Monitoring  
Performance and Risk  
Public Forum  
Training Opportunities  
Climate Change Declaration

Note: This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

**Stephen Walford**  
Chief Executive  
Monday, 29 July 2019

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Carole Oliphant on:

Tel: 01884 234209

E-Mail: [coliphant@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:coliphant@middevon.gov.uk)

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms.

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## MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
held on 11 June 2019 at 2.00 pm

### **Present Councillors**

E J Berry, W Burke, D R Coren, B Holdman,  
R F Radford, R L Stanley,  
Ms E J Wainwright, B G J Warren and  
J Wright

### **Also Present Councillor(s)**

R M Deed

### **Also Present Officer(s):**

Andrew Jarrett (Deputy Chief Executive (S151)), Andrew Pritchard (Director of Operations), Jenny Clifford (Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration), Simon Newcombe (Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services), Stuart Noyce (Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces), Catherine Yandle (Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security), Tristan Peat (Forward Planning Team Leader) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

#### **1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL IN THE CHAIR) (00.00.24)**

Cllr B G J Warren was duly elected Chairman for the municipal year 2019-2020.

(Proposed by Cllr E J Berry and seconded by Cllr B Holdman)

#### **2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (00.03.59)**

Cllr J Wright was duly elected Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2019-2020.

(Proposed by Cllr B Holdman and seconded by Cllr Ms E J Wainwright)

#### **3 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (00.05.37)**

There were no apologies

#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (00.05.53)**

There were no declarations made.

## 5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00.06.19)**

Mr Way urged members to support Motion 556 which called for the District Council to ban developers from using netting on hedgerows to stop nesting birds.

Alderman Lucas again referring to Motion 556 stated that this should be part of planning policy and that he was concerned with the perceived ease with which developers circumvented conditions set by the Council.

Mr Richardson, speaking on item 9 on the agenda, brought the issues of fly tipping and littering within Tiverton to the attention of the Group and stated that he had already brought forward suggestions to Full Council that camera's be installed in high risk areas. He asked how many fines for littering had been issued and questioned how and where this was being enforced. He asked if there was a dedicated phone number for people to call if they spotted littering and fly tipping.

The Chairman explained that the questions would be addressed at the appropriate agenda item

### Note:

- Cllr R L Stanley declared a personal interest as he was a director of 3 Rivers Developments Ltd

## 6 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00.17.10)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman

## 7 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00.18.25)**

The Chairman had no announcements to make

## 8 **MOTION 556 (COUNCILLOR N A WAY - 8 APRIL 2019) (00.18.34)**

The Group had before it Motion 556 (Councillor N A Way - 8 April 2019)

Mid Devon District Council has a record of environmental protection and protecting wildlife.

Council is greatly concerned by the growing trend across the country of developers using netting over hedgerows and trees at development sites to stop birds nesting and other wildlife using the hedges and trees.

This is wrong and runs against the best interests of supporting and enhancing local wildlife.

We call on all developers not to use netting in Mid Devon. Additionally, we call on Government to ban the use of netting at all sites with planning consent, those sites identified in the Local Plan and the emerging Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.

The Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration explained that the practice was not unlawful and there had been no instances of developers using netting in the district to date. She explained that from a planning perspective netting would not need planning permission in its own right and that the Council would need to investigate if the planning service had any control over such netting and what it could enforce.

Members advised the Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration that the RSPB had issued guidelines for developers which could be utilised in any planning policy amendments.

**RECOMMENDED** to Council that Motion 556 be supported

(Proposed by Cllr R L Stanley and seconded by Cllr Ms E J Wainwright)

Note: Cllr Ms E J Wainwright declared a personal interest as she was a member of RSPB

## 9 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK (00.24.48)**

The Group received and **NOTED** the \*Performance and Risk report from the Group Manager for Performance Governance and Data Security who explained this was the final out turn report for 2018-2019 and that it showed the highlights for the whole of the year. She highlighted key achievements including:

- Reduced costs
- Fixed penalty notices for the year
- Waste transfer station
- Reduction of carbon footprint
- Increased electric car charging points

In response to a question asked by members with regard to LED lighting she explained that this referred to changes to lighting in Council owned properties. The Director of Operations explained that the floodlights at the leisure centres were turned off when clubs had finished their activities but these did sometimes go on later in the evenings.

The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that the measure for the amount of residual waste sent to landfill was determined during the last administration and that the Council no longer sent any waste to landfill and that the performance indicator description would be adjusted to reflect this.

He explained that enforcement for fly tipping was difficult as officers were reliant on intelligence from members of the public or evidence left. In some instances residents had paid a contractor to take rubbish away and this had subsequently been fly tipped by the contractor but that the household was still responsible for the correct disposal of their waste. A campaign had been run in 2018 to encourage people to use only registered waste carriers who supply paperwork of the end destination.

In response to a direct question he confirmed that he would provide the Group with a breakdown of the 17 fixed penalty notices issued in 2018-2019.

The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces then addressed the specific questions raised by the public and stated that there was a 2 man litter busting team introduced in 2018/2019 which responded to fly tipping and littering reports within 5 working days. With regard to enforcement he explained that 3.8 officers were employed by the Council to carry out enforcement and car parking enforcement and that the Environment PDG decided how much time was spent on each activity via the District Officer Discretionary Time report brought to the Group annually. He stated that littering enforcement was taking place in the towns but officers were in uniform and that enforcement activity was not covert. He explained to members that the Council could do whatever the Group wanted in relation to enforcement but they would need to be mindful of the cost of providing an increased service. With regard to the request for a dedicated telephone number for public to report littering he explained that the Council policy was to provide a single number for the public to contact the call was dealt with by the customer contact team (all calls are then logged. There was a dedicated email address [streetscene@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@middevon.gov.uk) where the public could report instances of littering and fly tipping.

There was a discussion about the amount of food waste which was not currently being recycled and Members felt that the Council should be taking a tougher stance. The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that we already provide weekly food waste collection from residents but not for trade premises. That the Waste Education and Enforcement policy was adopted by the Environment PDG and that if Members wanted to make changes to current enforcement practices for homes and recycling they could recommend them at the review of the policy which would be coming back for review later in the year.

The Group then discussed further details on the report and gave consideration to:

- Devon Waste Authorities – working with other authorities and community groups to educate the public to reduce, reuse and recycle
- Clean Devon – a group being set up with county, district and local authorities to tackle litter issues jointly
- 3 weekly collections – Has not been proposed at this time. To make these changes would require changes to the waste fleet and that if the Council mandated receptacles such as wheelie bins for residents to store increased waste the Council would need to fund them
- Garden Waste figures were over target

Note: \* Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

#### 10 **OUTTURN 2018-2019 (01.04.49)**

The Group received and **NOTED** the \*Outturn report for 2018-2019 from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) who explained that the Environment PDG controlled a significant amount of the Council's overall budget.

Consideration was given to the following:

- Service budget variances
- Non service income and expenditure
- Executive summary



- Earmarked funds
- Sinking fund for waste vehicles
- General Fund reserve
- Financial forecasting
- Retail portfolios
- Increased trade waste customers
- HRA
- Council tax collection rates

Note: \* Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

## 11 **UPDATE ON CAR CHARGING POINTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS (01.26.26)**

The Forward Planning Team Leader gave the Group an update on the proposal by the Group that the Council consider the introduction of home electric vehicle charging points in all new build properties across the district.

He outlined the contents of the report and explained that the Government's target was to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040. He informed the Group that current national planning policy does not prescribe the standards for the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new development. This is a matter for Council's to set out in their local plans and needs evidentially based. The Forward Planning Team Leader referred to current standards (e.g. 1 charging point per 10 dwellings) in the adopted Local Plan and which will be rolled forward in the Local Plan Review that is currently being examined by a Planning Inspector.

He explained the options available through future plan making to introduce a new requirement for developers to install electric charging points in all new build properties constructed in the district:

- New Local Plan – this was timetabled for a review to be started 2020 and it would be unlikely that the review would be completed before 2023
- Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) – an 'options consultation' was due to take place in June 2019 and it is expected this plan would be adopted by April 2020
- Neighbourhood Planning – could be completed by a Town or Parish Council in a shorter timeframe and once adopted would carry full weight in planning decisions

The Group discussed the options and felt that the timeframes of all three presented were too long and that Mid Devon District Council should be leading the way and should be speeding up the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

There was further discussion on how the Group could speed up the process of changing policy to ensure that electric vehicle charging points would be installed in new builds in the future and consideration was given to:

- The need for up to date evidence that can be used to influence future plan making

- The length of time that it would take for new policy requirements through the preparation of the GESP or a New Local Plan, a that a quicker process was needed
- Changing technologies – current technologies may soon become out of date
- Increased usage of existing car charging points

The Forward Planning Team Leader explained that the quickest option was for the Council to seek a requirement for electric vehicle charging points in all new build properties through the preparation of the GESP.

The Group **NOTED** the report and agreed that the wishes of the Group should be included within the GESP consultation document.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: \* Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

## 12 **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BURIAL PROCEDURE (01.55.53)**

The Group received the 3 yearly review of the \*National Assistance Burial Procedure from the Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets presented by the Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services.

He gave an overview of the policy and explained that there were instances when people passed away and there were no next of kin, family or friends who were able to organise the funeral. In these instances the Authority had a statutory duty to act and arrange for the burial of these individuals.

He explained that MDDC only ran cemeteries and therefore when the Council had to act they arranged a burial in one of the Council run cemeteries.

The Group agreed that the policy was required and therefore:

**RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that the revised National Assistance Burial Policy be adopted.

(Proposed by Cllr R F Radford and seconded by Cllr D R Coren.

Note: \* Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

## 13 **START TIME OF MEETINGS (02.16.11)**

Following discussion the Group **AGREED** to hold its meetings at 5.30pm for the remainder of the 2019/20 municipal year.

## 14 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (02.33.05)**

There were no items identified for a future meeting.

(The meeting ended at 4.35 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**

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## ENVIRONMENT PDG

6 AUGUST 2019:

### PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

**Cabinet Member** Cllr Luke Taylor  
**Responsible Officer** Director of Operations, Andrew Pritchard

**Reason for Report:** To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2019-20 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** That the PDG reviews the Performance Indicators and Risks that are outlined in this report and feeds back any areas of concern to the Cabinet.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Corporate Plan priorities and targets are effectively maintained through the use of appropriate performance indicators and regular monitoring.

**Financial Implications:** None identified

**Legal Implications:** None identified

**Risk Assessment:** If performance is not monitored we may fail to meet our corporate and local service plan targets or to take appropriate corrective action where necessary. If key business risks are not identified and monitored they cannot be mitigated effectively.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No equality issues identified for this report.

**Impact on Climate Change:** This PDG has been tasked with considering the Council's own policy response(s) to the Climate Change Declaration made at Full Council on 26 June 2019.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides Members with details of performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for the 2019-20 financial year. The PDG is invited to suggest measures they would like to see included in the future for consideration.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 shows the section of the Corporate Risk Register which relates to the Environment Portfolio. See 3.0 below.
- 1.3 Appendix 3 shows the profile of all risks for the Environment at present.
- 1.4 All appendices are produced from the corporate Service Performance and Risk management system (SPAR).

## **2.0 Performance**

- 2.1 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste: % of household waste reused, recycled and composted;** all the waste KPIs on Appendix 1 are better than target. These are yet to be verified by DCC as required however, this is a great result.
- 2.2 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Protect the natural environment:** Work with Cullompton Neighbourhood plan group towards a country park (as part of the Garden Village project). A report went to Cabinet 30th May on stage 1 public consultation responses, this was noted.
- 2.3 Cabinet have also recommended to Full Council that the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Plan 2019-24 be adopted. This will be considered on 24 July.
- 2.4 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Reduce our carbon footprint:** The existing capital programme considers the need to reduce MDDC's Carbon Footprint as much as possible e.g. solar at Market walk roof via pods.
- 2.5 Work is commencing on benchmarking MDDC's Carbon Footprint as a first response to the Climate Change Declaration with a meeting at DCC on 23 July to work towards establishing Devon-wide definitions.
- 2.6 When benchmarking information is available it is included.

## **3.0 Risk**

- 3.1 Risk reports to committees include strategic risks with a current score of 10 or more in accordance. (See Appendix 2)
- 3.2 Operational risk assessments are job specific and flow through to safe systems of work. These risks go to the Health and Safety Committee biannually with escalation to committees where serious concerns are raised.
- 3.3 The Corporate risk register is regularly reviewed by Group Managers' Team (GMT) and Leadership Team (LT) and updated as required.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation**

- 4.1 That the PDG reviews the performance indicators and risks for 2019-20 that are outlined in this report and feeds back any areas of concern to the Cabinet.

**Contact for more Information:** Catherine Yandle, Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security ext. 4975

**Circulation of the Report:** Leadership Team and Cabinet Member

### Corporate Plan PI Report Environment

Monthly report for 2019-2020

Arranged by Aims

Filtered by Aim: Priorities Environment

For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators: No Data Well below target Below target On target Above target Well above target

\* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

### Corporate Plan PI Report Environment

#### Priorities: Environment

#### Aims: Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste

#### Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Group Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Residual household waste per household (measured in Kilograms) (figures have to be verified by DCC)</u>	92.52 (3/12)		365.00	28.31	58.16	86.11										Stuart Noyce	(April - June) 5.63% better than target for the quarter (LD)
<u>% of Household Waste Reused, Recycled and Composted (figures have to be verified by DCC)</u>	56.58% (3/12)		54.00%	55.01%	55.94%	55.72%										Stuart Noyce	(June) 1.72% better than target for the quarter; mainly due to a reduction in total waste arising. (LD)
<u>Number of Households on Chargeable Garden Waste</u>	9,912 (3/12)		10,000	9,921	10,102	10,109										Stuart Noyce	(June) An increase of 197 customers compared to the same period in the previous year. (LD)
<u>% of missed collections reported (refuse and organic waste)</u>	0.03% (3/12)		0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%										Stuart Noyce	(June) Better than target (LD)
<u>% of Missed Collections</u>	0.01% (3/12)		0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%										Stuart Noyce	(June) Better than target (LD)

**Corporate Plan PI Report Environment**

**Priorities: Environment**

**Aims: Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste**

**Performance Indicators**

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Group Manager	Officer Notes
<u>logged (recycling)</u>																	

**Aims: Protect the natural environment**

**Performance Indicators**

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Group Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) Issued (Environment)</u>	7 (3/12)			2	4	6										Stuart Noyce	



## Environment PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Report for 2019-2020

For Environment - Cllr Luke Taylor Portfolio

Filtered by Flag:Include: \* Corporate Risk Register

For MDDC - Services

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Risk Status: Low

Not Including Risk Child Projects records, Including Mitigating Action records

### Key to Performance Status:

Mitigating Action:	<b>Milestone Missed</b>	<b>Behind schedule</b>	<b>On / ahead of schedule</b>	<b>Completed and evaluated</b>	<b>No Data available</b>
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Risks:	<b>No Data (0+)</b>	<b>High (15+)</b>	<b>Medium (6+)</b>	<b>Low (1+)</b>
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## Environment PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

**Risk: Climate Change Declaration** The implications to the Council's strategic, budget and medium term financial plans are not yet fully explored and understood. This introduces an increased level of uncertainty.

Service: Governance

### Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
No Data available	Consideration by the Environment PDG	This PDG has been tasked with considering the Council's own policy response(s) to the Climate Change Declaration made at Full Council on 26 June 2019.	Catherine Yandle	19/07/2019	19/07/2019	No Score (0)
No Data available	Establishing baseline and definitions	A Devon wide definition of "Carbon footprint" needs to be established so the County can work to a common formula. MDDC's own Carbon footprint will be calculated to establish a baseline for future measurement.	Catherine Yandle	19/07/2019	19/07/2019	No Score (0)

## Environment PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

**Current Status: High  
(20)**

**Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very  
High**

**Current Risk Likelihood: 4 -  
High**

**Service Manager: None**

**Review Note:**

**Risk: ST-Reduction in Garden Waste Customers** Loss of income; reduction in recycling rate

**Service: Street Scene Services**

**Mitigating Action records**

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
Completed and evaluated	Reminder to renew correspondence	To maintain the existing customer base	Lorraine Durrant	06/06/2019	05/07/2019	Fully effective (1)
Completed and evaluated	Social media campaigns & publicity	To ensure that information about the garden waste service reaches as many residents as possible	Lorraine Durrant	06/06/2019	05/07/2019	Fully effective (1)

**Current Status: Medium  
(12)**

**Current Risk Severity: 4 -  
High**

**Current Risk Likelihood: 3 -  
Medium**

**Service Manager: Stuart Noyce**

**Review Note:**

**Printed by: Catherine Yandle**

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**Print Date: 19 July 2019 15:58**

# Risk Matrix Environment Appendix 3

## Report

Filtered by Service: Grounds Maintenance, Street Scene Services  
Current settings

<b>Risk Likelihood</b>	<b>5 - Very High</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>
	<b>4 - High</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>
	<b>3 - Medium</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>2 Risks</b>	<b>2 Risks</b>	<b>No Risks</b>
	<b>2 - Low</b>	<b>No Risks</b>	<b>3 Risks</b>	<b>5 Risks</b>	<b>10 Risks</b>	<b>11 Risks</b>
	<b>1 - Very Low</b>	<b>1 Risk</b>	<b>5 Risks</b>	<b>4 Risks</b>	<b>2 Risks</b>	<b>2 Risks</b>
		<b>1 - Very Low</b>	<b>2 - Low</b>	<b>3 - Medium</b>	<b>4 - High</b>	<b>5 - Very High</b>
		<b>Risk Severity</b>				

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**ENVIRONMENT PDG  
6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2019**

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION**

### **CONNECTING THE CULM PROJECT**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor Graeme Barnell  
**Responsible Officer:** Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration

**Reason for Report:** To inform members of progress with the Connecting the Culm Project

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the contents of the report be noted

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The project will support the corporate objectives of:

- Facilitating the housing growth that Mid Devon needs
- Planning and enhancing the built environment
- Protecting the natural environment

**Financial Implications:** The Council has committed £33,000 match funding to undertake a whole river catchment study of the River Culm, in support of strategic planning for the Culm Garden Village development. This is being funded through the Culm Garden Village capacity funding received from the Government to progress that project.

**Legal Implications:** There are no legal implications for the Council as the project is being managed by Devon County Council as the local partner and accountable body.

**Risk Assessment:** The project has its own risk assessment which forms part of the detailed project business plans. No direct risks to the Council have been identified.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** The project has its own equality impact assessment which forms part of the detailed project business plans.

#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Blackdown Hills AONB management team have successfully secured €700k EU funding, under the Interreg 2 Seas programme, towards the Connecting the Culm project. This is a partnership project which will work with landowners and communities along the River Culm to design nature based solutions and processes to improve the environmental and water quality of the River Culm, and increase resilience to flooding. Local partners include Mid Devon District Council, Devon County Council, the Environment Agency and the National Trust. The project is itself part of a wider Interreg 2 Seas 'Co-Adapt' programme, with allied projects in Somerset, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. An outline of the project is attached as **Appendix A**.

- 1.2 The project will support strategic planning for the Culm Garden Village and will provide technical evidence which will help to improve the quality and environmental impact of the proposed developments, help water management for the development in a natural and sustainable way, reduce the risk of flooding, improve water quality, and enhance the environmental benefits and leisure opportunities for the existing and new community. It is hoped that by working in a wide partnership including both British, French, Belgian and Dutch partners we will be able to learn from good practice in flood risk management across the partners that will be of benefit to the strategic plans for the Culm Garden Village.
- 1.3 The Culm Garden Village is one of three pilot areas for the project, the others being the headwaters of the Culm in the Blackdown Hills, and the Killerton Estate owned by the National Trust.
- 1.4 As part of the match funding arrangements for the overall £1 million project, Mid Devon District Council will be funding a whole-river catchment study for the River Culm by utilising Government capacity money for the Culm Garden Village project. This study will enhance the ecological and hydrological work already being undertaken in preparation for development at the Culm Garden Village.
- 1.5 The project steering group is currently undertaking a procurement exercise for the various packets of activities within the project, ready for the project starting in July this year. A Project Manager has been appointed and will be starting work at the beginning of July. Connecting the Culm will be a three year project with the end point being to develop a management plan setting out a blueprint for more sustainable management and use of the natural resources of the river. The catchment study will form part of the evidence base for the Garden Village project and its findings are expected to inform the planning of the proposal.
- 1.6 The PDG will continue to be updated as the project progresses.

**Contact for more Information:** John Bodley Scott, Economic Development Team Leader  
01884 234363 [jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk)

**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

**List of Background Papers:**

- Appendix A – Project Outline
- Appendix B - Connecting the Culm Poster

**Connecting the Culm is a 3-year partnership project working to tackle some significant challenges faced by the River Culm.**

**It is part of the wider EU Interreg 2 Seas funded 'Co-Adapt' programme, with allied projects being run in Somerset, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. This wider partnership demonstrate how communities can come together to implement nature-based solutions to climate-change related issues.**

**The £1million Connecting the Culm project** started in January 2019 and will run until June 2022, funded partly by a 60% contribution from Interreg and the remainder by partners.

**The Challenge** **Along the Culm's 40km length, from its headwaters in the Blackdown Hills in Somerset to its confluence with the Exe in Devon, the river generates several linked problems:**

- There are hundreds of properties at risk from flooding along the length of the river; the Culm's flood peak also magnifies the flood peak of the river Exe as it enters Exeter, increasing the risk to properties in the city and also affecting the national rail network
- The whole length of the river Culm is failing water quality targets because of diffuse and point source pollution and high sediment loads. The river also flows directly into and affects the quality of the Exe Estuary (an SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar Site)
- The river and its floodplain run through major development areas proposed in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (that also includes the planned 5,000-home Culm Garden Village); and planners and local communities must try to create flood-resilient developments
- Initiatives such as *Catchment Sensitive Farming* and *Upstream Thinking*, that work with landowners and communities to secure improvements to rivers and riparian land, have not been applied on the Culm.
- The headwaters of the catchment support important but degraded priority wetland mosaic habitats including spring line mires; these could act as natural sponges, but their function has been reduced by changes in agricultural practice
- The headwaters also support endangered populations of protected and priority species, including the white-clawed crayfish, which are threatened by poor water quality and the invasive American signal crayfish.
- Much of the central part of the catchment lacks areas of priority habitat, meaning ecological connectivity is lost through the catchment apart from the core river itself.
- The river is rich in heritage value, notably a chain of historic water mills with their associated leats, but these are under threat and little understood.
- Engaging the public on issues of pollution and wildlife loss in their communities can be difficult, especially when damage may have been over a long period and as a result of activity by members of that community

**Many of these problems have arisen because the river has often been treated by policy-makers, land managers and individual residents as a series of disconnected units with disparate functions, leading to poor decision-making and land management.**

**Our partnership** **Our partnership, which sits within the East Devon Catchment Partnership, consists of the following organisations:**



**The Opportunities**      **These problems need to be tackled, and the Culm has some positive features that make this feasible:**

- Its compact scale means that an integrated, whole-river approach can be readily adopted
- Previous projects working with communities in the Blackdown Hills have created a strong foundation of engaged volunteers and a good sense of connection to the river Culm
- The urban development of the Culm Garden Village requires imaginative solutions to avoid exacerbating existing problems and create a desirable green settlement, and the developers are keen to adopt a catchment-wide approach
- A key landowner on the floodplain – the National Trust – is keen to naturalise its landholding along the river and work with stakeholders to achieve this
- Collectively, residents, land managers and planners need a better understanding of the river as a single ecosystem that depends upon multiple inter-related decisions and influences by people in the catchment
- Innovative nature-based solutions and techniques are being developed to help resolve the problems of flooding, water pollution, soil erosion and biodiversity loss



**The Project**      **Connecting the Culm has formed a partnership to take a coordinated approach to these problems. The project aims are to:**

- Make the Culm river and its floodplain more resilient to flood and drought, using nature-based systems and approaches
- Improve water quality and biodiversity on the Culm (and consequently in the Exe and its estuary)
- Encourage people living in the catchment to feel more involved in decision-making and support the use of nature-based solutions to manage water

**We will do this by:**

- Improving local people's **understanding** of water management techniques and the function of the river / catchment ecosystem as an integrated whole
- Creating new opportunities for people to **collaborate** in addressing water management, leading to communities cooperating more effectively to address the challenges created by climate change
- Installing tangible **demonstrations** of appropriate nature-based solutions to build confidence, encourage cooperation and raise aspirations – these will be replicable and provide solutions that can be rolled out by the community
- Developing a *Blueprint for the Culm* that will be the masterplan for the whole catchment for the next 25 years, **co-created** by the people that live and work within the catchment and the organisations that have a role in the area.

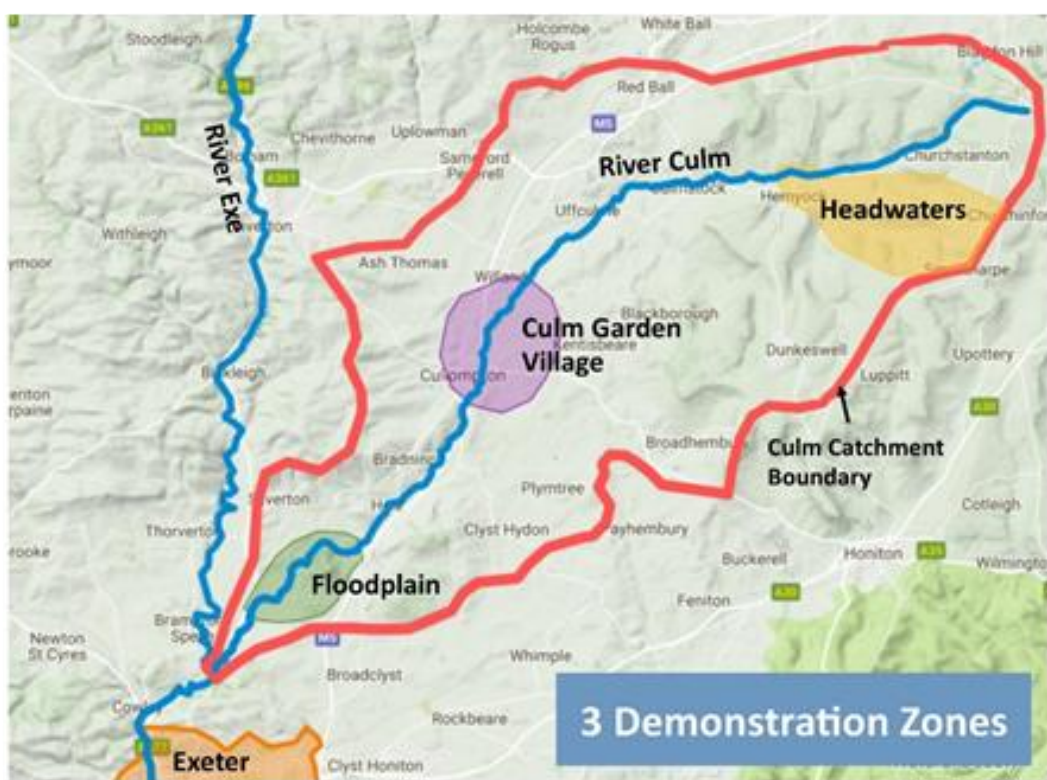




**Our approach** Our approach is to work throughout the catchment, engaging with people affected by, or playing a role in, the river and its tributaries.

A multi-agency team will deliver the project, comprising specialists in natural flood management, community engagement and biodiversity. We will:

- use **scenario-forecasting** to explore the potential impacts of climate change on the catchment; ecological network mapping overlaid onto hydrological studies will highlight key areas of multiple benefit and best added value
- show how innovative **nature-based** techniques can help mitigate impacts and adapt to the new circumstances;
- **involve** people in shaping a new governance solution for the catchment –the Blueprint for the Culm
- We will create three **Demonstration Zones** where the new techniques will be tested and demonstrated:



**The Headwaters Zone** restoring the mires where the river and its tributaries arise whilst conserving the remnant population of white clawed crayfish

**The Culm Garden Village Zone** where the first steps in developing a new town will be to construct flood management infrastructure on surrounding land, shaped by a catchment-wide hydrological study

**The Floodplain Zone** rewilding the floodplain, working alongside land managers and creating new trails and ecotourism facilities

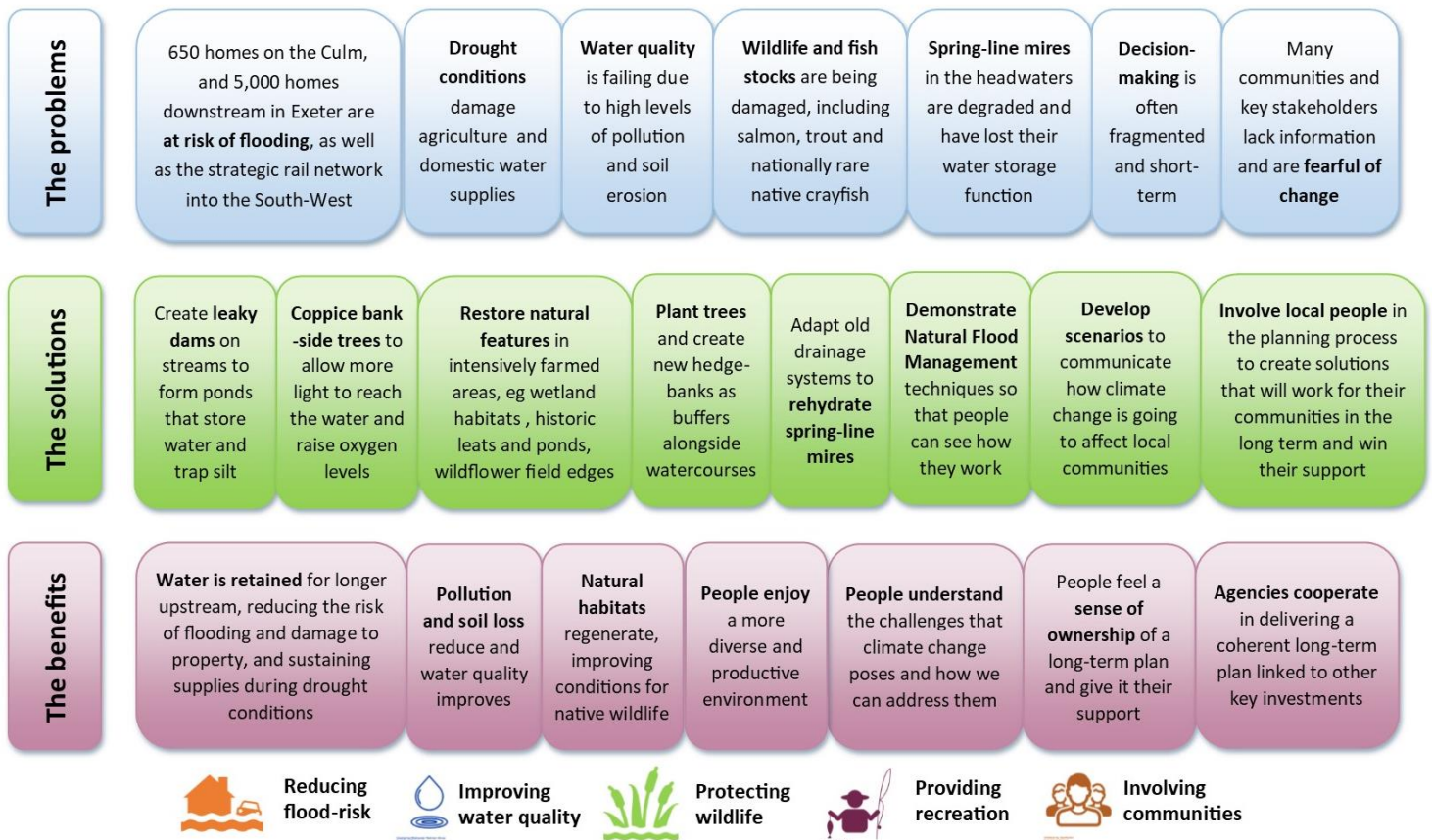
**Each zone will test a range of nature-based interventions, shaped by its landscape, its communities and their aspirations. Examples include:**

- Restoring hydrological function to spring-line and valley mires, providing a range of ecosystem service benefits including flood attenuation and carbon storage in peat rich soils
- Damming streams and drainage channels using natural woody debris to create attenuation ponds and silt traps, reducing flood peaks and reducing downstream sedimentation

- Innovative flood alleviation features on land associated with new, large developments, showing how multi-use green infrastructure is deliverable, unlocking significant added benefits
- Planning resilience into new developments including allowing for the spread of beavers from the neighboring River Otter catchment
- Coppicing and laying bank-side trees to imitate beaver activity, improve water oxygen levels and reduce livestock disturbance of the river bed
- Reconnecting the river to its floodplain and restoring more natural floodplain function on intensive agricultural land, by re-creating floodplain attenuation features, restoring wetland habitat and unlock other ecosystem service benefits including enhanced access and recreation
- Restoring agricultural soils to enable them to achieve their natural hydrological function
- Restoring historic leat systems and ponds that hold flood-peak waters and generating renewable electricity at their outlets
- Adopting community based and driven solutions to tackle the challenges faced by the river and its floodplain including supporting community land trusts, collaborations of small-scale landowners and community focused interventions

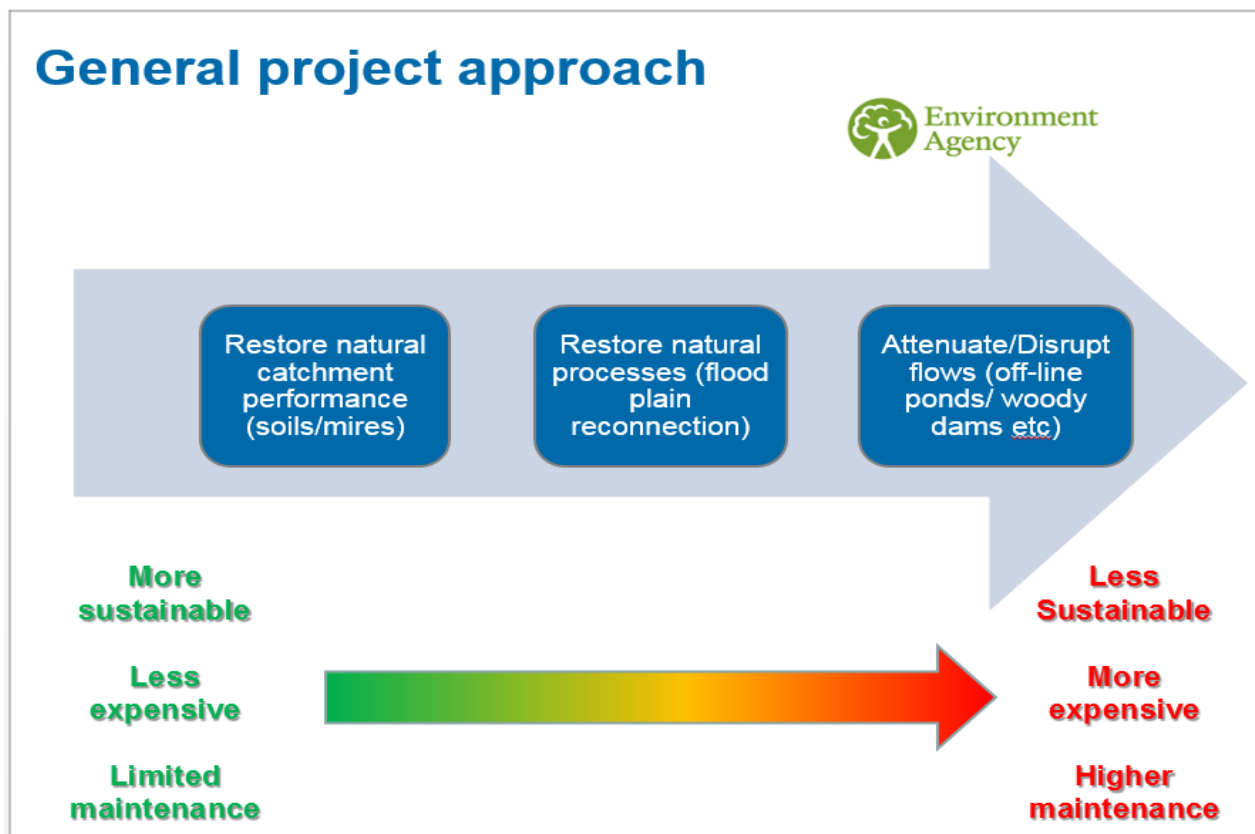


## Connecting the Culm through Natural Flood Management



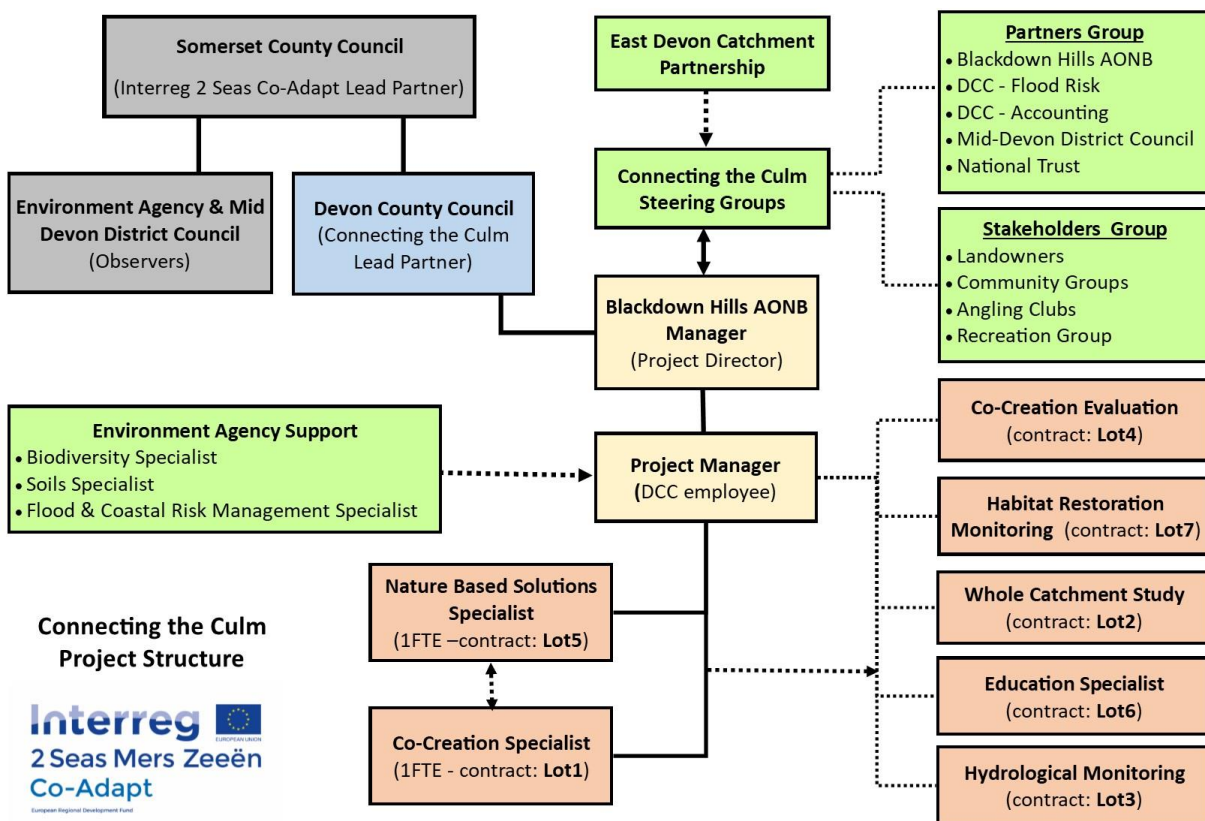
## Areas of discussion for the Killerton site visit (Culm catchment) on 16 May 2019

1. How would adaptive pathways apply in this landscape? for example in the context of the West Coast mainline and the M5 motorway
2. At what granular scale could scenario planning be applied?
3. Our local interpretation of a transition roadmap and local spatial vision is a co-created 25 year Blueprint for the river Culm catchment, underpinned by a Whole Catchment Study (hydrological model). We are trying to ascertain ways of making sure this is 'adopted' by decision makers and stakeholders.
4. Top tips for co-creating with diverse stakeholders - from local community/ interest groups to Network Rail.
5. Evidence gathering and showing change in people's perceptions
6. How to follow the 'general project approach' (see below) for delivering nature-based solutions
7. Historic Landscape Characterisation- a co-creation and nature based solution tool





# Project structure



# Connecting the Culm

A programme to tackle the effects of climate change through co-creation.

**The problem:** 650 homes on the Culm, and 5,000 homes downstream in Exeter and the strategic rail network into the South-West are at risk of flooding.

**Why is this?** The reasons are complex. It's partly because climate change is bringing more and heavier rainfall—and partly because natural systems that should slow the water down aren't working properly.

**What are these natural systems?**

Healthy soils absorb lots of the water that falls on them.

Healthy streams store water in pools, marshes and bogs.

Healthy rivers on the floodplain have space to spill out onto farmland before the water reaches people's homes.

Connecting the Culm is a project that aims to get these natural systems working better—using **Natural Flood Management (NFM)** techniques

NFM includes changing the way farmers manage land, planting more trees, creating marshland and building leaky dams.

Key to our project is the principle of **"Co-creation"**. This means people work together to design solutions that are right for their community.

We'll bring **landowners, farmers, homeowners, community groups, statutory organisations and specialists** together to make long-term plans to restore natural systems that reduce flood risk.

Each community's plan will connect with the plans that others make, both upstream and downstream; together these will make a **25-year Blueprint for the Culm**.

**The results:**



Reduced flood risk along the Culm and downstream



Farmland soils are protected



Cost savings for everyone



Better water quality



A better environment for wildlife and fish stocks



A more enjoyable and attractive place to live



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## MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP 6 AUGUST 2019

### Play Area Risk Assessment and Safety Inspection Review

- Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Luke Taylor – Cabinet Member for Environment
- Responsible Officer:** Andrew Busby – Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets
- Reason for Report:** **To review the way in which the Council manages its play area risk assessments and safety inspections.**

#### RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Cabinet note that the current risk assessments and proposed reduction in safety inspections are considered adequate to meet the Council's responsibilities and for individual pieces of play equipment to be identified on the Risk Assessment forms.**
- 2. Cabinet note that digital transformation of the current inspection method would make the task more efficient and that implementation of a process will be expedited.**

**Financial Implications:** The cost of litigation should the Council be found negligent with regards to inspection and maintenance of its play areas.

**Legal Implications:** The Council must have an inspection and maintenance regime for its play areas as stated within the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

**Risk Assessment:** There is a potential cost of litigation should the Council be found negligent with regards to inspection and maintenance of its play areas.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** Regular inspection ensures the safe availability of play facilities for all elements of the community in the Councils play areas throughout the District.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Ensures equipment in play areas and parks is fit for purpose to encourage active play and recreation for children and young people.

**Impact on Climate Change:** None.

#### 1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The previous review of risk assessments and safety inspections of the Council's play areas was carried out in 2016.
- 1.2 Mid Devon have 94 play areas (including skate parks and BMX track) in its direct control. The number of Play Area leased to Parish and Town Council is 12, there are a further 5 pending and the lease-in of land for 3 further sites are to be taken over by the Parish Councils. There are 2 closed sites with no equipment. The total will reduce to 86 during the current year and further as

the process to transfer to Town and Parishes (and other organisations) continues.

- 1.3 There shall also inevitably be a reduction in the number of pieces of equipment within play areas to inspect due to the managed decline of equipment and the lack of funding to replace it; un-equipped play areas shall still require inspections.
- 1.4 The District Council has a legal responsibility for the safety of those using their playgrounds. Both criminal and civil aspects of the law are relevant.
- 1.5 Under sections 3 and 4 of the Health and safety at Work Act 1974 there is a clear duty on playground providers to ensure so far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of those who use the facility. Failure to comply with the duties under these sections of this act may result in legal enforcement action being taken. An improvement or prohibition notice could be served and/ or the appropriate enforcing authority could bring a prosecution.
- 1.6 Inspections are carried out by two qualified members of staff within Property Services. The FTE is 0.7 at a cost of £34,235 for inspection of equipment and supervision of £45,580 (2018/19) essential operational maintenance works (excluding Capital).
- 1.7 Income from Parish Councils for the provision of an inspection service was £1,289 (2018/19). The recharge rate for this work is subject to review to better reflect the actual cost and will increase as further play areas are transferred.

## 2.0 **Inspection Regime**

- 2.1 The publication “Best Play” states that play provision should aim to manage the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm.
- 2.2 There is a legal requirement to carry out risk assessments on all play areas, the Health and Safety Executive has endorsed the use of risk versus benefit assessments, for children’s play area provision.
- 2.3 Although the number of play areas that Mid Devon are responsible for have reduced there is still a need to ensure that play areas that pose the highest potential risk receive the highest level of inspections. This has been determined by carrying out a play area Risk Assessment that awards scores to each site depending on the type of equipment installed and the inherent risk that it poses. The higher the score the more frequent the inspection regime, see annex 1 and 2.
- 2.4 Inspections are categorised as Routine, Operational and Annual, with a reduced schedule operating during the autumn and winter; Daily, Twice Weekly and Saturday inspections are classed as Routine. Currently each of our play areas receives an annual and a monthly inspection as a minimum. The higher scoring sites receive additional routine inspections to a maximum of 6 per week; Monday to Saturday there are no inspections on Sundays.



- 2.5 Around 3000 inspections are undertaken annually.
- 2.6 Inspections are classified as:
- a) Routine Inspection - this is a basic safety check and will identify hazards resulting from vandalism and wear and tear from normal use.
  - b) Monthly Inspections - are more detailed and include the condition of both static and moving parts, such as chains, seats and bearings.
  - c) Annual Inspection - this examines the integrity of the structures and takes an overview of the play area as a whole.
- 2.6 Inspection frequency is under constant review depending on condition of equipment, behaviour of users and weather. Reduced inspection frequencies during autumn/ winter are off-set with increased emphasis on land drainage and flood-defence assets.
- 2.7 All inspections are entered into a database and the results can be interrogated to ensure identified repairs are carried out.
- 2.8 In addition to the in-house inspections as detailed above an annual independent inspection is carried out by RoSPA.
- 2.9 Routine Inspections carried out daily (excepting Sunday) are at the three larger park sites, skate parks and BMX track. It should be noted that these Inspections especially during school holiday periods are more often than not a litter picking exercise. Litter accumulating at the skate parks, BMX track and shelters in the larger parks
- 3.0 **Safety Record**
- 3.1 The safety record is very good. There has been a single claim in the previous review period. This was concluded to be no blame to the Council. This endorses the thoroughness of inspection regime and quality of new installation – although shouldn't lead to complacency.
- 4.0 **Recommendations**
- 4.1 That the current play area risk assessment and inspection regime generally continues as it is.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the Daily Routine Inspections are reduced to three-times weekly and exclude Saturday. Routine Inspection of higher risk play areas for safety defects will continue to be carried out on a Friday in advance of the weekend. All play areas contain signs advising of how to report damage should that be necessary at any time, At no-time have safety defects other than litter (broken glass) been found during a Saturday inspection. Effective alternative arrangements will need to be made for litter collection at these sites. While these sites might be on a litter collection round for later in the day the Inspectors visiting earlier are unable to leave the sites with litter esp.

broken glass. The timing of litter collections may need adjusting to ensure early attendance.

- 4.2 The number of inspections will be reduced by around 156 (not significant in the whole). Time gained will be utilised to secure income providing a further inspection service for the Parish and Town Councils. Time will also be utilised where possible to undertake repairs to reduce the dependence on contractors.
- 4.3 To implement a cost effective means of directly entering inspection records into a database via handheld or portable devices. Discussion with ICT indicates that this is achievable with existing devices and software with a little development and training of inspectors.

**Contact for more Information:** [Andrew Busby, Group Manager Corporate Property and Commercial Property- Email [abusby@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:abusby@middevon.gov.uk) – Telephone 01884234948]

**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet Member seen and approved Leadership Team seen and approved

**List of Background Papers:** Environment PDG -Safety Inspection 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

## Site 1815 Crediton Monks Close

### Criteria

#### Likelihood of an accident

After considering the generic assessment of the equipment the figure is derived from a scale 1 - 3  
1 = Possible 2 = Likely 3 = Very Possible

#### Number of items on site

This refers to fixed pieces of equipment and includes fencing and goal posts.  
For multi-play equipment the number is derived from the number of modules including link modules  
For fencing the following is used 1 = not easily climbed 2 = can be climbed 3 = Easily climbed

#### Seriousness of injury

This refers to the type of ground below the equipment which could reduce the seriousness of the injury and is considered along with the generic assessment.  
1 = Rubber 2 = Woodchip 3 = Other

#### Additional Weightings

Additional weightings cover hazards such as closeness of rivers, roads and railways and the presence of paddling pools, old equipment and the high incidence of vandalism.  
The number used is achieved by allocating two points per hazard.

Equipment type	Likelihood of accident	Number of Items	Seriousness of injury	Additional Weighting	
Rotating					0
Rocking					0
Swinging					0
Balance	1	2	1	1	2
Slide					0
Hanging					0
Climbing					0
Crawling					0
Fencing	1	1	1	1	1
Multi Item	2	2	1	1	4
Other					0



# Play Areas Risk Assessment in Parish order

Annex 2

Site No.	Town Village	Site	Score	Summer (existing)	Summer (proposed)	Winter
301	Bow	Godfrey Gardens	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
302	Bow	St.Martins Close	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
303	Bow	Village Hall	29	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
304	Bow	Iter Park	25	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
401	Bradninch	Townlands	20	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
402	Bradninch	Barnes Close	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
601	Burlescombe	Brays Close	20	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
602	Westleigh	Westleigh	30	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1101	Cheriton Bishop	Glebelands	16	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1701	Coleford	Coleford	18	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1801	Crediton	Greenway	5	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1802	Crediton	Beech Park	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1803	Crediton	Newcombes	50	Daily	Three times weekly	Twice Weekly
1804	Crediton	Barnfield	20	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1805	Crediton	Tuckers Meadow	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1806	Crediton	Lords Meadow	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1807	Crediton	Walnut Drive	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1808	Crediton	Spinningpath Gardens	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1809	Crediton	Queen Elizabeth Drive (1)	11	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1810	Crediton	Beacon Park	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1811	Crediton	Lords Meadow "In Line Skating"	38	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
1812	Crediton	Fulda Crescent	4	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1813	Crediton	Queen Elizabeth Drive (2)	6	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1814	Crediton	Monks Close	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1815	Crediton	Cromwells Meadow	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1816	Crediton	Kirton Rise	30	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
1901	Copplestone	Sunnymead	39	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
1902	Copplestone	Fernworthy Park	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2101	Cullompton	Knightswood	38	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
2102	Cullompton	Rivermead	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2103	Cullompton	Ash Drive	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2104	Cullompton	Conifer Close	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2105	Cullompton	Linden Road	17	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2106	Cullompton	Headweir Road	17	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2107	Cullompton	Ploudal Road	14	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2108	Cullompton	Stoneyford	21	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2109	Cullompton	Tufty Park	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2110	Cullompton	Bockland Close	15	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2111	Cullompton	Meadow Lane "In Line Skating"	36	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
2112	Cullompton	Clover Drive	5	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2113	Cullompton	Spindlebury	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly

# Play Areas Risk Assessment in Parish order

Annex 2

2114	Cullompton	Siskin Chase	6	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2115	Cullompton	Starlings Roost	14	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2116	Cullompton	Water Meadow	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2117	Cullompton	Haymans Close	6	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2118	Cullompton	Haymans Green	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2119	Cullompton	Chaffinch Drive	20	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2120	Cullompton	Dove Close	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2121	Cullompton	Crossparks	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2122	Cullompton	Bullfinch	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2123	Cullompton	Linear Park	14	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2124	Cullompton	Saxon Way	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2125	Cullompton	Windsor Close	5	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2126	Cullompton	Hanover Gardens	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2601	Hemyock	Hollingarh Way	5	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2602	Hemyock	Logan Way	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2603	Hemyock	Millhayes	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
2901	Holcombe Rogus	Holcombe Rogus	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
3301	Lapford	Church Close	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
3501	Morchard Bishop	Greenaway	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
4101	Puddington	Puddington	21	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
4201	Sampford Peverell	Cornlands	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
4301	New Buildings	New Buildings	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
4302	Sandford	Town Barton	6	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
4501	Ellerhayes	Ellerhayes	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5201	Tiverton	Trickey Close	16	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5202	Tiverton	Palmerston Park	14	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5203	Tiverton	Amory Park	32	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
5204	Tiverton	Colesmead	6	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5205	Tiverton	Cotteylands	27	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5207	Tiverton	Peoples Park	73	Daily	Three times weekly	Twice Weekly
5208	Tiverton	Westexe Rec	41	Daily	Three times weekly	Twice Weekly
5209	Tiverton	Wilcombe	35	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly	Twice Weekly
5210	Tiverton	Lowman Priory	15	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5211	Tiverton	Margurite Road	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5212	Tiverton	Hawthorn Road	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5213	Tiverton	Halsbury Road	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5214	Tiverton	Ashley Rise	11	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5215	Tiverton	Cudmore Park	9	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5216	Tiverton	Starkey Close	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5217	Tiverton	Orchard Leigh	16	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5218	Tiverton	Banksia Close	23	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5220	Tiverton	Everett Place (1)	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5221	Tiverton	Everett Place (2)	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5222	Tiverton	Bolham Road Skatepark	49	Daily	Three times weekly	Twice Weekly
5224	Tiverton	Waylands	15	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5225	Tiverton	Spencer Drive	11	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5226	Tiverton	Popham Close	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly

## Play Areas Risk Assessment in Parish order

Annex 2

5227	Tiverton	Marley Close	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5228	Tiverton	Amory BMX	43	Daily	Three times weekly	Twice Weekly
5301	Uffculme	Pippins Field	5	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5302	Uffculme	Pathfields	18	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5303	Uffculme	Culm Valley Way	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5801	Wembworthy	Wembworthy	18	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5901	Willand	South View	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5902	Willand	The Orchards	8	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5904	Willand	Harpitt Close	12	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5905	Willand	Gables Lea	7	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5906	Willand	Chestnut Drive	13	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5907	Willand	Victoria Close	18	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5908	Willand	Worcester Crescent	10	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5909	Willand	Mallow Court	11	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
5910	Willand	Buttercup Road	15	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
6201	Yeoford	Yeo View	14	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly

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## ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

6 AUGUST 2019

### UPDATE ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor Simon Clist  
**Responsible Officer:** Mr Andrew Busby, Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets

**Reason for Report:** To provide an overview of measures introduced by the Council which support the intent behind the declaration of a Climate Emergency.

#### **RECOMMENDATION: Members to note the report**

**Financial Implications:** There are no direct implications associated with this report as it is a position statement highlighting schemes already implemented by Mid Devon District Council. The support function to track and respond to the Climate Emergency declaration is not currently funded or resourced. It sits outside the extant Council budget.

**Legal Implications:** Each scheme identified in this report was subject to a legal review at point of implementation.

**Risk Assessment:** Each scheme identified in this report was subject to a risk assessment at point of implementation.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** Each scheme identified in this report was subject to an equality impact assessment at point of implementation.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Environment – Reducing our carbon footprint.

**Impact on Climate Change:** This report identifies some of the schemes already implemented by Mid Devon District Council to reduce its carbon footprint, reduce dependency on fossil fuels and utilise renewable energy sources where sustainable.

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report aims to provide a brief insight into a number of schemes introduced by Mid Devon District Council that directly benefit its corporate aim to reduce its carbon footprint.

#### **2. Carbon Reduction Measures**

##### **2.1 Solar PV – Housing Revenue Account Stock**

2.1.1 In 2012 the Council signed an agreement to allow over 1,170 Solar PV systems to be fitted to the Council's housing stock. The income received from the scheme is being used to fund energy efficiency projects specifically aimed at providing renewables and reducing the carbon output from our Council's stock.

2.1.2 Each property that has Solar PV saves the resident, on average, £180 pa on their electricity bills

2.1.3 Mid Devon District Council was recently recognised at a South West Energy Efficiency Awards; the award press release is attached at Annex A.

## 2.2 Solar PV – General Fund Property

2.2.1 Across the non-housing stock property portfolio the Council has implemented the following measures:

- Low voltage lighting upgrades at the three leisure centres and the multi storey car park in Tiverton.
- Air handling unit upgrades at Lords Meadow and Exe Valley leisure centres
- Variable Speed drives (in essence a switch which acts like a light dimmer that can alter motor speed and conserve energy) – for large motors in air handling units / pool pumps etc. In order to reduce energy consumption
- Vending machine controls at three leisure centres (reduce energy consumption)
- Boiler optimisation at three leisure centres – dynamic control measures.
- Valve Insulation (ensuring all pipes which emit heat are lagged to reduce heat loss)

2.2.2 Solar PV panels have been installed on the roofs of our main offices at Phoenix House, Tiverton and our leisure/sports centres at Exe Valley, Tiverton; Culm Valley, Cullompton and Lords Meadow, Crediton. A total of 278.32 Kwp (kilowatt peak) of electricity will be produced that, in turn, saves 150 carbon tonnes per annum and reduced our baseline budget for electricity by circa £60k per annum.

2.2.3 Individual home owners have benefitted from energy saving council initiatives. Last year 36 households switched their energy supplier to get cheaper tariffs through the Council's switching scheme. In addition 176 households have made use of the ECO flex grant scheme to improve the energy efficiency; the Council also made 168 referrals to the LEAP scheme resulting in the installation of around 860 small energy saving measures in people's homes.

## 2.3 Electric Vehicle Charging Points

2.3.1 Mid Devon District Council has an agreement with InstaVolt that has delivered two (2) electric charging points at each of the Council's three leisure centres. The ambition is to increase this and roll-out availability across Mid Devon.

2.3.2 The Instavolt Rapid car charging systems has a generic plug that fits the vast majority of cars, but not for all models of electric vehicle. To date, the usage figures are very encouraging and are a strong indication that InstaVolt chargers are regularly used and suitable. The chargers have recorded nearly three thousand (3000) charges since their installation saving over 12,000 litres of fuel. Part of the planning conditions for the Premier Inn development is to provide four car charging points at Tiverton multi-storey car park that will be met via two twin outlets chargers.

## 2.4 Biomass Boiler (Lords Meadow Leisure Centre)

2.4.1 As part of the Energy Saving Performance Contract, it was identified that the Lords Meadow Leisure Centre site had the space available to install a bio mass boiler adjacent to the plant room that holds the main gas boilers to heat hot water for the whole building; including heat for the swimming pool. The bio mass boiler uses woodchip as fuel and is sourced locally, the bio mass boiler is designed to operate as a lead boiler to hold off the two gas boilers resulting in a reduction of our gas consumption, the boiler is also registered for the Renewable Heating Incentive scheme RHI and at the end of the contracted term with our energy partner, the Council will receive those payments directly.

## 2.5 Fleet Contract.

2.5.1 The new fleet contract for Mid Devon, in partnership with Exeter City Council, was awarded on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The successful bidder was Specialist Fleet Services (SFS) and the contract started on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.

2.5.2 The contract was based on the current fleet with a like for like replacement plan over the initial seven year period of the contract. The contract has the flexibility to allow for any vehicle to be of a different type when it is due for replacement. The Council can vary its fleet size to meet the needs of the business.

2.5.3 Lower emission vehicles trials – The flexibility described above allows the Council to trial new vehicle types as technology emerges over the life of the contract. This means the Council can consider options when making fleet replacement decisions based on both cost and environmental information. This may include the use of electric commercial vehicles when that market matures to deliver a product capable of being deployed in a sustainable manner.

2.5.4 Part of the value added criteria for the contract was to allow officers to monitor its fleet more efficiently; this includes the ability to record emissions by vehicle. This will be done by linking the system with our fuel management system, which records fuel usage and mileage by vehicle. Over time we will be able to show our fleet emissions and usage as a year on year comparison.

## 2.6 Waste and Recycling

2.6.1 The performance of the waste and recycling team is reported and regular updates are provided to Environment Policy Development Group. To restate the current position:

- No waste is sent to landfill – all waste collected by Mid Devon is either recycled or used as feedstock for a recovery process.
- We track all our waste through to its final use; ensuring legislative compliance.
- Our waste is not exported
- We sell recyclable materials to reduce the cost of providing our collection service
- Food waste is used as feedstock for AD plants

- Non-recyclable waste is generally utilised as feedstock for Energy from Waste Plants.
- Collection rounds are constantly under review to ensure efficient use of transport.

### 3. Emerging Work Streams

- 3.1 Following the recent climate change declaration by councils across Devon, there are now two emerging workstreams; an internal organisation focus on reducing CO2 emissions to (net) zero; and the wider agenda looking at reducing emissions across the whole Mid Devon area.
- 3.2 Clearly, the first of these is much more of a process that a) we can manage/monitor/influence; and b) that we can control to a significant degree, as it relates to our own asset and operational base.
- 3.3 With respect to this internal focus, Devon County Council hosted a 'Carbon Footprint Workshop' on 23<sup>rd</sup> July; attended by representatives from across Devon to ensure that there was a consistent understanding of approach. It highlighted the scale of the task, confirmed methodology and contextualised the issue. The guidance to be followed is available at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/791529/Env-reporting-guidance\\_inc\\_SECR\\_31March.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/791529/Env-reporting-guidance_inc_SECR_31March.pdf)
- 3.4 Following this, it is currently the intention of officers to explore opportunities to jointly commission the necessary baselining exercise to report this back to members as soon as is practicable. Discussions on how, when, what we could then do to achieve a 'glide-path' down to net zero will then take place at the PDG and beyond before recommendations are considered.
- 3.5 For the wider piece linked to the whole of the Mid Devon area achieving net zero emissions, this is a piece of work that DCC will be initiating linked to baselining work being undertaken for the whole county. It is currently officers' intention to use that position (disaggregated down to District level) to start the conversation locally about options that could be considered to achieve the stated ambition around carbon reduction and the extent to which the necessary structural and behavioural changes might be viable/achievable. Further reports to members will be brought forward as required to update this position.

### 4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members note this report and give due consideration to how they wish to proceed in responding to the declaration of a Climate Emergency.

**Contact for more Information:** Mr Andrew Busby, Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets (abusby@middevon.gov.uk)

**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet member/Leadership Team

## ANNEX A

# Mid Devon District Council ‘Commended’ in SWEE Awards

*Duncan Banks, CEO of IU Energy*



Mid Devon District Council were nominated by IU Energy for ‘Local Authority Body of the Year, 2019’, in recognition of their sustained energy efficiency drive into their housing stock, for which they have been recognised with a ‘Commendation’ in the 2019 South West Energy Efficiency Awards.

In previous years, the Council ordered over 1,200 Solar PV systems to be fitted to their housing stock. The income they receive from the scheme is being used to fund energy efficiency projects specifically aimed at providing renewables and reducing the carbon output from the Council’s stock of 3,000 residential properties.

In recent years this fund has contributed to significant improvements across the Council’s estate, upgrading heating, water and insulation, using the most energy efficient methods and where appropriate, renewables. The upgrades include modern gas central heating, quantum heating, air source heat pumps, solar thermal, efficient electric systems, optimmersion, modern gas boilers, loft and cavity wall insulation.

Mid Devon Council have a clear strategy and aggressive targets to reduce energy costs to those who are least able to afford them. They generate an annual income of approximately £160,000 from Government renewable energy incentive schemes and save their tenants approximately £216,000 on their electric bills annually.

Mid Devon District Council works diligently to deliver energy savings and community support for the most vulnerable tenants. It has a clear strategy with strong leadership and effective delivery of solutions.

IU Energy is so impressed by their desire to help those who are least able to afford rising cost that we were proud to nominate them for this prestigious award.