

Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 8 September 2020 at 5.30 pm
Virtual Meeting

Next ordinary meeting
Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 5.30 pm

Important - this meeting will be conducted and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Phoenix House. The attached Protocol for Remote Meetings explains how this will work.

To join this meeting, please click the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/93656676904?pwd=YjFUV0doUm9ab01FZzdLSGh2bUdQUt09>

Meeting ID: 936 5667 6904

Passcode: 264754

One tap mobile

08003582817,,93656676904#,,,,,0#,,264754# United Kingdom Toll-free

08000315717,,93656676904#,,,,,0#,,264754# United Kingdom Toll-free

Dial by your location

0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free

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0 800 260 5801 United Kingdom Toll-free

Meeting ID: 936 5667 6904

Passcode: 264754

Membership

Cllr B G J Warren

Cllr E J Berry

Cllr W Burke

Cllr D R Coren

Cllr B Holdman

Cllr Miss J Norton

Cllr R F Radford

Cllr R L Stanley

Cllr J Wright

AGENDA

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 **Remote Meetings Protocol** (*Pages 5 - 10*)
Members to note the remote meetings protocol
- 3 **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.
- 4 **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.
- 5 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 11 - 16*)
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th July 2020 as a correct record.
- 6 **Chairman's Announcements**
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 7 **Connecting the Culm Project**
To receive an update from Stephen Johnson from the Blackdown Hills ANOB on the Connecting the Culm Project.
- 8 **Climate Strategy and Action Plan** (*Pages 17 - 60*)
To receive the 4 yearly review of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan from the Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets
- 9 **Public Consultation on the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon** (*Pages 61 - 112*)
To inform members of the publication of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon for consultation and the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the Council.
- 10 **Financial Monitoring**
To receive a verbal update on Financial Monitoring from the Group Manager for Finance.

11 **Performance and Risk** (Pages 113 - 120)

To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2020-2021 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

12 **Waste and Recycling and Street Scene District Officer update**

To receive a verbal update regarding Waste and Recycling Services and Street Scene District Officers including:

- Third Party Enforcement
- Equipment used by District Officers

13 **Identification of Items for Future Meetings**

Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

- Cabinet Member for Climate Change
- Performance and Risk
- Financial Monitoring

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

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Friday 28th August 2020

Covid-19 and meetings

The Council will be holding some meetings in the next few weeks, but these will not be in person at Phoenix House until the Covid-19 crisis eases. Instead, the meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and you will be able to join these meetings via the internet. Please see the instructions on each agenda and read the Protocol on Remote Meetings before you join.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by **no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting**. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed – as you can imagine, it is easier to see and manage public speaking when everyone is physically present in the same room. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

If you require any further information please contact Sally Gabriel on:

E-Mail: sgabriel@middevon.gov.uk

Mid Devon District Council - Remote Meetings Protocol

1. Introduction

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations permit remote attendance in Local Authority meetings.

Remote attendance is permitted as long as certain conditions are satisfied. These include that the Member is able to hear and be heard by the other Members in attendance. Also, being able to hear and be heard by any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting (in line with the public participation scheme). A visual solution is preferred, but audio is sufficient.

This also relates to members of the public attending the meeting also being heard. The regulations are clear that a meeting is not limited to those present in the same place, but includes electronic, digital or virtual locations (internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers).

2. Zoom

Zoom is the system the Council will be using for the time-being to host remote / virtual meetings. It has functionality for audio, video, and screen sharing and you do not need to be a member of the Council or have a Zoom account to join a Zoom meeting.

3. Access to documents

Member Services will publish the agenda and reports for committee meetings on the Council's website in line with usual practice. Paper copies of agendas will only be made available to those who have previously requested this and also the Chair of a virtual meeting.

If any other Member wishes to have a paper copy, they must notify the Member Services before the agenda is published, so they can arrange to post directly – it may take longer to organise printing, so as much notice as possible is appreciated. Printed copies will not be available for inspection at the Council's offices and this requirement was removed by the Regulations.

4. Setting up the Meeting

This will be done by Member Services. They will send a meeting request via Outlook which will appear in Members' Outlook calendar. Members will receive a URL link to click on to join the meeting.

5. Public Access

Members of the public will be able to use a weblink and standard internet browser. This will be displayed on the front of the agenda.

6. Joining the Meeting

Councillors must join the meeting early (i.e. at least five minutes before the scheduled start time) in order to avoid disrupting or delaying the meeting. Councillors should remember that they may be visible and heard by others, including the public, during this time.

7. Starting the Meeting

At the start of the meeting, the Member Services Officer will check all required attendees are present (viewing the participant list) and that there is a quorum. If there is no quorum, the meeting will be adjourned. This applies if, during the meeting, it becomes inquorate for whatever reason.

The Chair will remind all Members, Officers and the Public that **all microphones will be automatically muted**, unless and until they are speaking. This prevents background noise, coughing etc. which is intrusive and disruptive during the meeting. The Hosting Officer will enforce this and will be able to turn off participant mics when they are not in use. Members would then need to turn their microphones back on when they wish to speak.

8. Public Participation

Participation by members of the public will continue in line with the Council's current arrangements as far as is practicable. However, to ensure that the meeting runs smoothly and that no member of the public is missed, all those who wish to speak must register **by 4pm on the day before the meeting**. They should email their full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk. If they wish to circulate their question in advance, that would be helpful.

At public question time, the Chair will invite the public by name to speak at the appropriate time. At that point, all public microphones will be enabled. This means that, to avoid private conversations being overheard, no member of the public should speak until it is their turn and they should then refrain from speaking until the end of public question time, when all microphones will be muted again. In the normal way, the public should state their full name, the agenda item they wish to speak to **before** they proceed with their question.

Unless they have registered, a member of the public will not be called to speak.

If a member of the public wishes to ask a question but cannot attend the meeting for whatever reason, there is nothing to prevent them from emailing members of the Committee with their question, views or concern in advance. However, if they do so, it would be helpful if a copy could be sent to Committee@middevon.gov.uk as well.

9. Declaration of Interests

Councillors should declare their interests in the usual way. A councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest is required to leave the room. For remote meetings, this means that they will be moved to a break-out room for the duration

of this item and will only be invited back into the meeting when discussion on the relevant item has finished.

10. The Meeting and Debate

The Council will not be using the Chat function.

The Chair will call each member of the Committee to speak - the Chair can choose to do this either by calling (i) each member in turn and continuing in this way until no member has anything more to add, or (ii) only those members who indicate a wish to speak using the 'raise hand' function within Zoom. This choice will be left entirely to the Chair's discretion depending on how they wish to manage the meeting and how comfortable they are using the one or the other approach.

Members are discouraged from physically raising their hand in the video to indicate a wish to speak – it can be distracting and easily missed/misinterpreted. No decision or outcome will be invalidated by a failure of the Chair to call a member to speak – the remote management of meetings is intensive and it is reasonable to expect that some requests will be inadvertently missed from time to time.

When referring to reports or making specific comments, Councillors should refer to the report and page number, so that all Members of the Committee have a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

11. Voting

On a recommendation or motion being put to the vote, the Chair will go round the virtual room and ask each member entitled to vote to say whether they are for or against or whether they abstain. The Member Services Officer will announce the numerical result of the vote.

12. Meeting Etiquette Reminder

- Mute your microphone – you will still be able to hear what is being said.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly and please state your name each time you speak
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.

13. Part 2 Reports and Debate

There are times when council meetings are not open to the public, when confidential, or "exempt" issues – as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – are under consideration. It is important to ensure that there are no members of the public at remote locations able to hear or see the proceedings during such meetings.

Any Councillor in remote attendance must ensure that there is no other person present – a failure to do so could be in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Member Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, remove them to a break-out room for the duration of that item. They can then be invited back in when the business returns to Part 1.

Please turn off smart speakers such as Amazon Echo (Alexa), Google Home or smart music devices. These could inadvertently record phone or video conversations, which would not be appropriate during the consideration of confidential items.

14. Interpretation of standing orders

Where the Chair is required to interpret the Council's Constitution and procedural rules in light of the requirements of remote participation, they may take advice from the Member Services Officer or Monitoring Officer prior to making a ruling. However, the Chair's decision shall be final.

15. Disorderly Conduct by Members

If a Member behaves in the manner as outlined in the Constitution (persistently ignoring or disobeying the ruling of the Chair or behaving irregularly, improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs the business of the meeting), any other Member may move 'That the member named be not further heard' which, if seconded, must be put to the vote without discussion.

If the same behaviour persists and a Motion is approved 'that the member named do leave the meeting', then they will be removed as a participant by the Member Services Officer.

16. Disturbance from Members of the Public

If any member of the public interrupts a meeting the Chair will warn them accordingly. If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair will ask the Member Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

17. After the meeting

Please ensure you leave the meeting promptly by clicking on the red phone button to hang up.

18. Technical issues – meeting management

If the Chair, the Hosting Officer or the Member Services Officer identifies a problem with the systems from the Council's side, the Chair should either declare a recess while the fault is addressed or, if the fault is minor (e.g. unable to bring up a presentation), it may be appropriate to move onto the next item of business in order to progress through the agenda. If it is not possible to address the fault and the meeting becomes inquorate through this fault, the meeting will be adjourned until such time as it can be reconvened.

If the meeting was due to determine an urgent matter or one which is time-limited and it has not been possible to continue because of technical difficulties, the Chief Executive, Leader and relevant Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, shall explore such other means of taking the decision as may be permitted by the Council's constitution.

For members of the public and press who experience problems during the course of a meeting e.g. through internet connectivity or otherwise, the meeting will not be suspended or adjourned.

19. Technical issues – Individual Responsibility (Members and Officers)

Many members and officers live in places where broadband speeds are poor, but technical issues can arise at any time for a number of reasons. The following guidelines, if followed, should help reduce disruption. Separate guidance will be issued on how to manage connectivity – this paragraph focusses on the procedural steps. Joining early will help identify problems – see paragraph 6.

- Join public Zoom meetings by telephone if there is a problem with the internet. Before all meetings, note down or take a photograph of the front page of the agenda which has the necessary telephone numbers. Annex 1 to this protocol contains a brief step-by-step guide to what to expect
- Consider an alternative location from which to join the meeting, but staying safe and keeping confidential information secure. For officers, this may mean considering whether to come into the office, subject to this being safe and practicable (childcare etc.)
- If hosting a meeting via Zoom (briefings etc.), consider creating an additional host when setting up the meeting. The additional host can step in if the main host has problems – remember that without a host, the meeting cannot close and any information on the screens will remain on view
- Have to hand the telephone number of another member or officer expected in the meeting – and contact them if necessary to explain the problem in connecting
- Officers should have an 'understudy' or deputy briefed and on standby to attend and present as needed (and their telephone numbers to hand)
- For informal meetings and as a last resort, members and officers may be able to call another member or officer in the meeting who can put the 'phone on loudspeaker for all to hear – not ideal, but it ensures some degree of participation and continuity
- Member Services will hold a list of contact details for all senior officers

Phone only access to zoom meetings

(Before you start **make sure you know the Meeting ID and the Meeting Password**) – Both of these are available on the agenda for the meeting

Call the toll free number either on the meeting agenda or on the Outlook appointment (this will start with 0800 --- ----)

(Ensure your phone is on 'speaker' if you can)

A message will sound saying *"Welcome to Zoom, enter your meeting ID followed by the hash button"*

- **Enter Meeting ID followed by #**

Wait for next message which will say *"If you are a participant, please press hash to continue"*

- **Press #**

Wait for next message which will say *"Enter Meeting Password followed by hash"*

- **Enter 6 digit Meeting Password followed by #**

Wait for the following two messages:

"You are currently being held in a waiting room, the Host will release you from 'hold' in a minute"

Wait.....

"You have now entered the meeting"

Important notes for participating in meetings

Press ***6** to toggle between **'mute' and 'unmute'** (you should always ensure you are muted until you are called upon to speak)

If you wish to speak you can **'raise your hand'** by pressing ***9**. Wait for the Chairman to call you to speak. The Host will lower your hand after you have spoken. Make sure you mute yourself afterwards.

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
held on 14 July 2020 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors

B G J Warren (Chairman)
E J Berry, W Burke, D R Coren, B Holdman,
Miss J Norton, R F Radford, R L Stanley
and J Wright

Also Present

Councillor(s)

L J Cruwys, R M Deed, R Evans, L D Taylor,
Ms E J Wainwright and A White

Also Present

Officer(s):

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Andrew Busby (Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets), Ian Chilver (Group Manager for Financial Services), Stuart Noyce (Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces), Catherine Yandle (Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security), Clare Robathan (Scrutiny Officer) and Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL IN THE CHAIR) (00.00.15)

Cllr B G J Warren was duly elected Chairman of Environment PDG for the municipal year 2020-2021

(Proposed by Cllr E J Berry and seconded by Cllr D R Coren)

2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (00.01.00)

Cllr J Wright was duly elected Vice Chairman of Environment PDG for the municipal year 2020-2021

(Proposed by Cllr B Holdman seconded by Cllr D R Coren)

3 VIRTUAL MEETING PROTOCOL (00.01.53)

The Group had before it and **NOTED** the *Virtual Meeting Protocol.

Note: *Virtual Meeting Protocol previously circulated and attached to the minutes

4 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (00.02.09)

There were no apologies or substitute members.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (00.06.13)**

Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests when appropriate.

6 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00.06.33)**

There were no members of the public present.

7 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (00.06.40)**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th March 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

8 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00.10.08)**

The Chairman announced that Stuart Noyce, Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces was leaving the authority after 6 years and the Group thanked him for his support and wished him well for the future.

9 **REVENUE AND OUTTURN REPORT (00.12.32)**

The Group had before it and **NOTED** the *Outturn report for 2019-2020 from the Group Manager for Finance who explained that the report had previously been presented to the Cabinet on 9th July 2020.

The Chairman expressed a view that the PDG could add little to the report as it had been previously seen and approved by the Cabinet. The Leader stated that he would investigate the timing of the report being sent to the PDG.

In response to concerns raised with regard to the £0.5m variance in the budgeted and actual Planning income for 2019/2020 the Cabinet Member for Finance stated that the Cabinet were constantly looking at the revenue streams for Planning but the current crisis would have an effect on the current years projections.

The Chief Executive explained that the shortfall in the 2019/2020 Planning service figures was due to the number of smaller planning applications which had come forward and a downward trend in the number of medium and large scale applications received which generated the most income.

The Group discussed the impact of the current crisis on the financial year 2020-2021.

Note: *Outturn report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

10 **CONTRACTED OUT ENFORCEMENT DUTIES (00.24.16)**

The Group received a verbal update from the Group Manager for Street Scene and Open spaces who explained that he had been investigating the PDG's request to explore a trial of contracted out enforcement duties for littering and dog fouling. He stated that negotiations prior to lockdown had been ongoing with a local authority company who provided this service for 8 other local authorities and that a meeting

had been scheduled with the company to meet with himself and the Councils Legal Services Team to discuss the options available.

He explained that traditional contracted out enforcement used by other Authorities had resulted in low payment rates and increases in their Legal Services time as more people were handed fines but more people had challenged them. The company who had been approached claimed an 87% pay rate and as it was a local authority company the Council would not need to go out to tender for the trial. The company did have concerns that the MDDC District may not be financially viable for them to operate in as it had a relatively low number of instances and was very rural.

Members discussed the increase in the amount of litter which appeared to be affecting many rural parishes as people had been home for longer periods during the lockdown and had been using the countryside for leisure pursuits and not taking their litter home.

In response to a question about how using an external company for enforcement would increase the number of enforcement officers the Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that by using an external company it could increase the number of officers by 2-4. He explained that there would have to be a dialogue with the company about where it operated within the district and include a caveat that our rural parishes would be included. He explained that even with more officers patrolling the service would continue to rely on intelligence from members of the public who witnessed littering and dog fouling.

Members then discussed the possibility of catching fly tippers from take away receipts but the Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that this would not meet the evidence level set and would unlikely lead to a successful prosecution.

The Group discussed the possibility of putting up signs on the main trunk roads within the district which encouraged people to take their litter home. The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that the Council worked in partnership with other groups such as Highways England, Clean Devon Group and DCC Highways. He explained that there were currently a few vacant spots on sponsored roundabouts in the district and that anti littering signs could be erected on them whilst new sponsors were found. He stated he would provide costings for signs to be erected at suitable roundabouts.

The Group discussed the potential to have wildlife camera's installed on fly tipping or dog fouling hotspots once the use of CCTV Camera's Policy and Guidance had been investigated by the Community PDG.

In response to a question asked about trade waste the Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces explained that trade waste generated an income for the Council. Trials had been conducted of food waste from schools and that if that led to reduced costs of disposing of the residual trade waste it could be something to consider but as the Council would be in direct competition with other waste providers it would need to be competitive.

11 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE (00.48.18)

The Group had before it and **NOTED** the *Climate Handbook presented by the Group Manager for Corporate Property and Commercial Assets who explained that it had been rolled out to support the Climate Change Action Plan.

He explained that the Council had identified various work streams and that the Renewal Energy Fund would be tracked via the action plan. He stated that a decision making tool was in development and that the Councils housing policy would play a major part in the reduction of Climate Change.

Consideration was given to:

- Whether the power network infrastructure was able to support the installation of more domestic solar panels on council houses
- If future open spaces designated to the Council from ongoing local developments could be turned into wild flower meadows
- Whether the plan would get the Council to Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Other Councils and if they had more assertive plans
- Did current budget schemes support the Council to 'go green'

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change explained that currently there was no budget for officer support but that they were looking at other funding streams to support the work including the recently announced Government Green Homes Bonus. She explained that public meetings would feed into the plan and that communication with the local population was important and that the Handbook would help with this. She encouraged Members to share ideas and learning.

The Group Manager for Street Scene and Open Spaces reminded the Group that all reports produced by Officers were required to state the impact on climate change and that the Council were hosting an electric vehicle day so that neighbouring authorities could come and see what commercial electric vehicles including refuse lorries were currently available.

Note: *Climate Handbook previously circulated and attached to the minutes

12 PERFORMANCE AND RISK (01.16.12)

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a *report of the Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security presenting Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2020-2021 as well as providing an update on key business risks.

She outlined the contents of the report stating that this was the first report against the new corporate plan.

The Groups expressed its thanks to the Waste and Recycling teams for they way in which they had coped with the impact of Covid 19 which had increased the amount of household waste by 2.53% compared to the same period last year.

In response to a question asked, the Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security confirmed that no enforcement had been conducted at the beginning of the lockdown as staff had been moved to other duties.

Note: *Report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

13 **START TIME OF MEETINGS (01.23.00)**

The Group **AGREED** that the start time of the meetings should remain at 5.30pm for the remainder of the municipal year.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

14 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (01.27.20)**

The following items were identified:

- Members requested whether commercial and trade waste could be added to the performance and risk register.
- Members wanted to look at the figures for trade waste and compostable waste, to see if there were opportunities to increase the rates of trade waste (and therefore the Councils income)
- Members requested an external enforcement update
- Members requested a review into the current equipment used by district officers and to look at additional equipment being supplied such as bodycams

(The meeting ended at 7.11 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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ENVIRONMENT PDG 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Elizabeth Wainwright, Cabinet Portfolio Member, Climate Change

Responsible Officer: Andrew Busby, Group Manager Corporate Property and Commercial Assets.

Reason for Report: To provide Members with the final draft of the Climate Strategy/ Handbook and action plan.

Recommendation: For the Environment PDG to recommend to Cabinet to endorse the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Financial Implications: All actions within the Action Plan are subject to the budget available for the 2020/21 financial year. Future financial years will be subject to budget approval.

Budget and Policy Framework: The Council declared a Climate Emergency on the 26 June 2019, but there has been no dedicated budget set to date. Any projects or workstreams which are likely to incur more than negligible costs outside budget will need formal approval through Cabinet and Council. It is therefore important that some thought is given to the costs of projects and how/when these are reflected in the budget/capital programme.

Legal Implications: None directly arising, but there will be implications arising from planned projects and decisions brought forward to deliver progress on cutting our carbon footprint, those implications and whole life carbon costings will be considered as part of those projects

Risk Assessment: The Climate Change risk assessment will be reviewed and managed via the Council's SPAR system and will be regularly reported to the Audit Committee

Equality Impact Assessment: The impact on equality will be considered for each action within the plan and reported to the relevant Policy Development Group, as attached to this report

Relationship to Corporate Plan: A Sustainable Planet - Environment

Impact on Climate Change: The Full Council declared a Climate Emergency and as part of that commitment, the Council agreed to produce a Carbon footprint baseline. This document will be the Council's strategy document for tackling climate change within its own estate and how we can influence reduction of CO2 throughout the District

1.0 Introduction

1.1. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and aims to become carbon neutral by 2030. Carbon neutrality is a term used to describe the actions that organisations, businesses and individuals can take to remove as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as each puts in to it. The overall goal of carbon neutrality is to achieve a zero carbon footprint. To become carbon neutral we needed to accurately measure our carbon footprint and create a baseline against which future changes can be measured. The assessment needed to establish a baseline from which to measure the reductions that we plan to make via our action plan and make informed recommendations to Members.

1.2. Following the recent climate change declaration by councils across Devon, there are now two emerging work streams; 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. Clearly, the first of these is much more of a process that a) the Council can manage/monitor/influence; and b) can control to a significant degree, as it relates to our own assets and operational base. For the wider piece linked to the whole of the Mid Devon area achieving net zero emissions, this is work that DCC will be initiating linked to baselining work being undertaken for the whole county. However, as a District we will work as a partner with local businesses, organisations, community groups and other residents to support the District's journey to net zero. As we learn figures for the whole District's CO₂ footprint, we will be able to do this more effectively.

- 1.3. The definition of a carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organisation, or community. A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) and CO₂e is calculated by multiplying the emissions of each of the greenhouse gases (GHG) by its 100 year global warming potential (GWP).
- 1.4. Having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal (often through carbon offsetting) or ideally, by eliminating carbon emissions altogether (the transition to a post-carbon economy). It is used in the context of carbon dioxide releasing processes associated with transportation, energy production, agriculture and commercial/industrial processes.

2.0 Achievements from the previous Corporate Plan and the 2016-2020 Climate Change Action Plan

- 2.1 In support of the Climate Emergency, the measures that we've already taken within, our own district to reduce carbon footprint include:
 - Installation of over 1,170 Solar Photovoltaic (PV) systems to our housing stock in 2012, which has since been recognised at the 2019 South West Energy Efficiency Awards (income received from this scheme is being used to fund energy efficiency projects, specifically aimed at providing renewable energy and technologies, and reducing the carbon output from our tenanted residential properties)
 - Installation of Solar PV systems at our main offices at Phoenix House, Tiverton and all three of our leisure/sports centres, which provide a total of 278.32 kWp (kilowatt-peak) of electricity, in turn, saving 150 carbon tonnes per annum, thereby reducing our baseline budget for electricity by around £60k per annum
 - Low voltage lighting upgrades at all three of our leisure/sports centres and the multi-storey car park in Tiverton
 - Installation of Variable Speed Drives (VSDs) for large motors in our air handling units, pool pumps, etc., at Lords Meadow and Exe Valley leisure centres to conserve energy and reduce consumption
 - Implementation of vending machine controls at all three of our leisure/sports centres to reduce energy consumption
 - Optimisation of the boilers at all three of our leisure/sports centres using dynamic control measures
 - Application of pipe lagging on our business properties to reduce heat loss
 - Installation of two Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points at each of our leisure/sports centres, (so far recording nearly 3,000 charges saving over 12,000 litres of fuel) and

two twin outlet chargers at the multi-storey car park in Tiverton, with the aim of increasing availability as part of a future roll-out across Mid Devon

- Installation of a Biomass Boiler at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre to reduce gas consumption as part of the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme

- Entering into a joint fleet contract provided by Specialist Fleet Services (SFS) in partnership with Exeter City Council on 7 March 2019, with the flexibility of trialling and using vehicles with ever lower emissions (technology pending), over the life of the contract

- Our kerbside waste collection rounds are constantly under review to ensure the most efficient use of our fleet

- Almost all the recycling we collect is reprocessed in the UK with the remainder in the EU - none of the waste we collect is exported to developing countries

- All the food waste we collect is sent to Anaerobic Digestion plants to be used as a source of renewable energy

- We ceased sending non-recyclable black sack waste to landfill in 2017, instead utilising this waste stream as feedstock for Energy from Waste Plants

3.0 Working across service areas

3.1 A series of meetings are taking place with key officers from various services to explore opportunities, connections, ideas and challenges from different perspectives and service areas within the council. We see each team representative who joins the meeting acting as a 'Climate Connector' for the Council, with the intention of building a joined-up approach in our journey to be net zero by 2030

4.0 District-wide community engagement

4.1. Devon-wide Citizens Assemblies to discuss the climate crisis and seek input from residents were planned, but the Covid19 crisis has pushed these back to 2021. At a more local level, Cllr Wainwright had hoped to host in-person 'Mid Devon Climate Conversations' with town, parish, community group and business representatives, to encourage networking and collaboration, and to listen to ideas, questions and information. The Covid19 crisis has meant we have had to put in-person meetings on hold, but in the meantime, we have been hosting online discussions. Content from these discussions will be documented and considered as the Council moves forward with this work, and as part of the Net Zero Advisory Group. This agenda is one that many people are interested in and have expertise in, which the council can benefit from. It is also a good opportunity to improve community engagement.

4.2. We are mapping district-wide groups and initiatives that are working on the net zero carbon agenda, to support residents to connect and learn more. We will put this on our website.

4.3. Members are of course invited to be part of the Climate Conversations mentioned above. In addition, please feel free to share articles, ideas and suggestions as we move forward with this work. It is a topic that goes beyond any one political party, and a collaborative approach will help us tackle this complex issue at a local level.

5.0 The Climate Strategy 2020 with Action Plan

5.1. Our Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan is attached to this report as Annex A and B . The strategy sets out our approach to tackling emissions and draws on input from various reports, research, case studies and conversations, and is a work in progress. The Action Plan includes details of actions with a red/amber/green status marker to identify which proposed actions and schemes have a high, medium or low impact on reducing our carbon footprint and includes estimated emission savings so we can track performance. There are current projects within our Capital Medium Term Financial Plan that present opportunities for reducing our carbon footprint. For example, replacing end of life boilers and reviewing the Combined Heat Plant at Exe Valley Leisure Centre, the plan will also include strategic and larger projects such as the Hydroelectricity scheme in Tiverton that will have a high impact on our carbon emission reduction, as well as plans that would need budget and capacity to deliver. We have taken into account the feedback from Members to date from the Environment Policy Development Group, Scrutiny and Audit meetings. The plan will be shared with the Net Zero Advisory Group for review.

6.0 Mid Devon Updated and New Related Policy, Plans and Strategies.

- Corporate Plan 2020-2024
- Mid Devon Core Strategy 2007-2026
- Local Plan 2013 - 2033
- Forward Planning/Local Plan documents
- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Housing Strategy
- Asset Management Plan

7.0 Devon Climate Emergency

7.1 The Council are part of the tactical group for the Devon-wide carbon plan. The group met most recently on 5 August 2020. DCC are also business planning for the offer of a local power purchase agreement between large energy consumers in Devon and community-owned renewable energy, and we are talking to DCC about this.

7.2 More widely, the tactical group is a key link for the synchronising of MDDC's climate plans with Devon-wide plans. The Devon Climate Emergency put out a call for evidence to contribute to the Devon Carbon Plan -- the group received almost 900 submissions, mostly from individuals, and a summary of submissions by theme can be viewed here: <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/devon-carbon-plan/call-for-evidence/>

7.3 Some of the suggestions have been reviewed and incorporated into our own plan, and others will need to be discussed as part of our NZAG and Mid Devon Climate Conversations.

8.0 Central Government Position

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

8.2 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.

9.0 Solar Together Devon Project

- 9.1 The Council will be part of the Solar Together Devon project. To support the region's energy and climate strategies DCC is looking to incentivise a solar PV collective purchasing scheme for the residential 'able-to-pay' sector. The project will be called 'Solar Together Devon' and delivered by iChoosr. DCC will manage the project and cover all costs. The procurement process and implications post the Covid-19 crisis are being considered.
- 9.2 iChoosr estimate the project will deliver a 20% reduction in installation prices for residents and achieve 800+ installations, 793 tonnes of CO2 saved in the first year and 3MWh total generation capacity. In the UK they have run successful schemes with the Greater London Authority, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Essex, Norfolk and Sussex councils. Local installers will be encouraged to bid for the works.
- 9.3 Where needed, external funding will always be considered before the use of internal Council funds, and Property Services and the Corporate Management Team will work together to help facilitate and maximise the funds available to the Council from our existing Capital programme. Some projects may be suitable for funding from climate/energy efficiency grants that are created to help the transition to a low carbon economy.
- 9.4 The action plan now includes a visual to show the impact of our actions on our carbon emissions, and travel towards our 2030 target. The actual carbon saved will be verified as part of the annual review exercise that will be carried out independently.

10.0 Biodiversity

- 10.1 Impacts of climate change on our wider ecosystem also needs to be considered as part of our climate change journey (i.e. availability of water, changing natural habitats and landscapes). Taking one example the Council prepared and consulted upon a draft Green Infrastructure Plan (GIP) in 2011, the Green Infrastructure Assessment (Section 2 of the GIP) was then revised to take account of comments from residents and other stakeholders. Other planning policies have links to Biodiversity and these will be listed and signposted on an updated web page for Climate Change.
- 10.2 The Council needs to consider the issues of safeguarding the environment and promoting biodiversity and bring forward a report to the Environment PDG to establish what our approach to managing road verges on our own estate should be to encourage and protect biodiversity, some of our residents may wish to see our verges cut and any implications on other internal services will need to be considered. One result of the lockdown has been that verges across our estate have been left to grow and in some areas, this has resulted in steep banks and verges having wildflowers. It is suggested that we should continue to leave these particular verges this season in order to assess the full impact that will inform a future report. This resource from Plantlife provides good background information.
<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/road-verge-management-guide>
- 10.3 The existing design principles allow us to review and designate areas for wildflowers or naturalisation. Naturalising areas is very different to planting wildflower seeds and allowing them to grow in areas that have been prepared for this. A trial took place in 2016-2017 and at the time we did receive complaints regarding the appearance in these areas.

- 10.4 We have also sowed wildflowers in some areas over the last couple of years; including Tiverton and Crediton. This has been viable, as the seeds have been predominantly sown in areas that previously contained bedding, we have also trialled areas within Crediton and Tiverton to ascertain response and viability, and that has been well received.
- 10.5 There is an additional cost associated with maintenance and sowing, however we are also looking at our own grass banks that we can naturalise with very limited maintenance once flowered and self-seeded, such as Linear Park in Cullompton.

List of Background Papers:

- Cabinet report 19 December 2019 Update on carbon baseline.

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/planning-policy/adopted-local-plan-evidence/green-infrastructure-assessment/>

- A vision for green infrastructure was then produced that can be reviewed as part of our journey: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/114235/vision-and-strategic-objectives.pdf>
- As part of our Local Plan review on sustainability appraisal dated January 2017 can be found here: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/342723/sustainability-appraisal-update-2017.pdf> this also links into biodiversity across the District.

****DRAFT****

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL'S

Climate
strategy
&
handbook

2020-2024

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Introduction

The concept of sustainable development was described by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainable development weaves together societal, environmental, cultural and economic goals. One threat to all of these goals is the climate crisis.

In June 2019, Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) signed up to the Devon Climate Declaration. MDDC acknowledges the evidence that shows that our climate is changing fast, and will have far-reaching effects on the UK’s people, places, economy, society and environment.

MDDC members unanimously agreed to a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and is seeking to address the challenge through our services, as well as by enabling the wider district. The Council can make a positive impact through the quality of housing, energy supply, planning decisions, choice of transport, tree planting, education and more. As a large partner in the area, we can influence wider decision making.

Climate knowledge, actions and case studies are evolving, and so this strategy, as well as the action plan itself, are living documents which will be reviewed frequently. In addition, MDDC is setting up a Mid Devon Climate website, which will showcase local initiatives, events, resources, actions, targets and progress.

The aim of this document is to lay out the background to our work, as well as the areas that will need attention if we are to achieve net zero by 2030. We hope it can be used in these ways:

- For **Council staff** seeking guidance on opportunities for collaboration, efficiencies and change.
- For **elected Councillors** who want to familiarise themselves with MDDC efforts to tackle the climate crisis, and to support their communities.
- For **residents** who want to understand and input to MDDC’s approach, and to find resources and opportunities to support their efforts to reach net zero.

The past few months have presented another crisis – Covid19. Many communities, organisations and others have faced unprecedented challenges. In this time, we’ve learned lessons, too – like how Mid Devon can adapt quickly; that we can partner with communities to achieve more together; that the air has become cleaner; that there is an opportunity to rebuild in a way that supports the present as well as the future. Making decisions about MDDC’s work through the lens of the climate crisis will be part of our responsibility to build back better. Our plan is a first iteration, and not perfect – we welcome your input on the journey to net zero.

Cllr Elizabeth Wainwright
Portfolio holder for Climate Change

Background

The climate is changing

In the last century our climate has started to change rapidly. There is overwhelming evidence that most of the warming we have seen is due to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. Human activities have directly increased the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and some other greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide and methane are the GHGs which have the greatest impact on our changing climate. Methane has a stronger greenhouse effect, but there is less of it. Carbon dioxide is more abundant in the atmosphere and remains much longer, having a greater cumulative effect on our climate. By the start of the 20th century, the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere had exceeded the highest levels of the past 800,000 years. Ice cores show that in the time that human beings have roamed the planet, CO₂ levels have stayed well below 300 parts per million (ppm). This threshold was crossed in 1910. As of January 2020, it stood at 414ppm. Globally, three quarters of GHG emissions come from fossil fuels and industrial processes such as cement-making. Agricultural practices like forest felling and peatland destruction account for much of the rest. As we emit more GHGs they continue to build up.

The average temperature of the world has increased by at least 1degC since the pre-industrial era. Two thirds of that warming has taken place since 1980. A single degree might not sound like a lot – but life survives in a 'Goldilocks zone' of not too hot, not too cold.

(During the last ice age, the global average temperature was only about 5decC below what it is now).

On top of this we have seen more extreme weather events like heatwaves and heavy rainfall, and there is increasing attribution of this to increased GHGs in the atmosphere. And 16 of the 17 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001, with 2016 being the warmest yet.

References:

- 'Carbon Dioxide: vital signs of the planet', NASA, 2020
- 'Global GHG Emissions (by economic sector)', EPA, 2014
- '800,000 years of Carbon Dioxide', Climate Central, 1 May 2019
- 'What are Climate Change and Global Warming?' WWF, <https://www.wwf.org.uk/climate-change-and-global-warming>

If we are to prevent the worst effects of climate change, there is global agreement that temperature rises need to be kept well below 2°C from the pre-industrial era, with an ambition to keep it below 1.5°C.

Assessments suggest that we are currently on course for temperature rises of up to as much as 4°C or higher.

Globally...

A warming planet increases the risk of coastal flooding and population displacement. More than half of the world's population now lives within 60 kilometres of shorelines. As well as injury or death, floods increase risks of infection from water-borne diseases. Population displacement could increase tensions and the risk of conflict.

More variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise health, e.g. an increased risk of diarrhoea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year, and other illnesses.

Malnutrition already causes millions of deaths each year, from a lack of sufficient nutrients to sustain life and a resulting vulnerability to infectious diseases like malaria, diarrhoea, and respiratory illnesses. Increasing temperatures and more variable rainfalls are reducing crop yields in many regions, where food security is already a problem.

In the South West...

Sea levels are likely to be 26–29 cm higher by the 2050s than they were in 1991.

Between 1961 and 2006, winter precipitation increased by 15.9%. By the 2050s, winter precipitation is likely to increase by a further 17%.

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%).

These figures have been taken from the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCPO9) and are based on 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 South West hosted a workshop to bring together partners in order to identify the climate impacts which are most pertinent for the South West. The following key themes emerged:

Critical Infrastructure – Disruption to infrastructure and transport links from flooding and 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.

UK regulations & legislation

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

The Paris Agreement followed the 2015 United Nations Conference on Climate Change of 195 countries, and aimed to hold 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 for an emissions reduction path. At the time, 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:

1. A **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.
2. **Carbon Budgets**. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'Carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of GHGs 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 (see table opposite).
3. 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.

4. 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

UK carbon budgets:

Year	Million tonnes of CO2 equivalent
2008-12	3,018 MtCO2e
2013-17	2,782 MtCO2e
2018-22	2,544 MtCO2e
2023-27	1,950 MtCO2e
2028-32	1,765 MtCO2e

See appendix for details of:

- The Energy Act 2011
- The Green Deal
- Housing Assistance Policy 2019-22

National indicators

On 31 January 2011, the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) requested views from local authorities on a way forward on sharing information on GHG emissions from local authority owned estates and operations.

DECC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Association (LGA, formerly the Local Government Group) in 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 an 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 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 split into various 'scopes' as outlined below:-

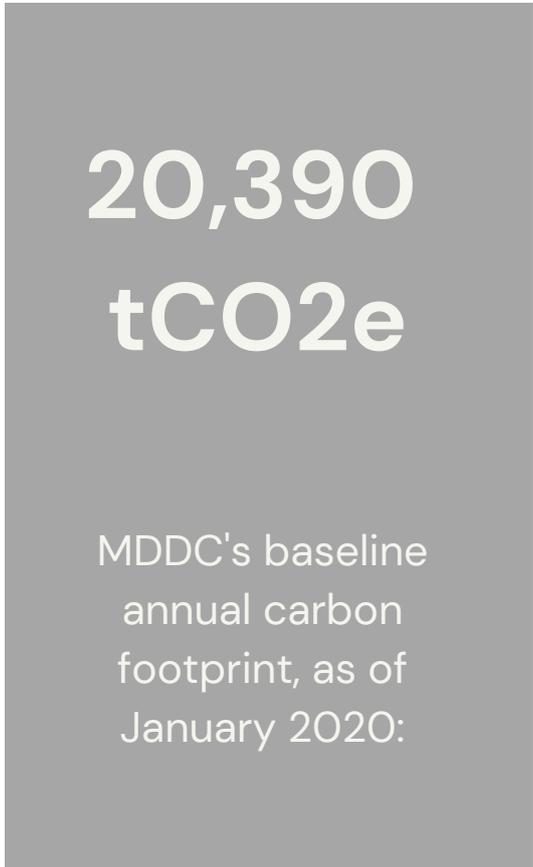
SCOPE	DETAILS
1 (direct emissions)	Activities owned or controlled by MDDC that release emissions straight into the atmosphere. Examples include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, owned or controlled vehicles.
2 (energy indirect)	Emissions being released into the atmosphere associated with the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling. These are indirect emissions that are a consequence of MDDC's activities but which occur at sources we do not own or control, e.g. electricity purchased for own consumption from the National Grid or a third party.
3 (other indirect)	Emissions that are a consequence of MDDC actions, which occur at sources which we do not own or control, e.g. business travel not owned or controlled by MDDC (eg. use of public transport), commuting, use of 'grey fleet' (use of employees' own cars for which fuel costs are claimed back), emissions from contractors, and supply chain procurement.
4 (other not categorised in other scopes)	Emissions produced by secondary sources such as businesses and Farms (see action plan for details)

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

Scope	Emissions for 2018-19 (tCO2)
1	6500.8
2	3550.6
3	10350
4	Refer to Action Plan

In MDDC's climate action plan, we have determined a figure for the impact of each scope's actions on carbon emissions. This will provide a way to visually track the reduction in emissions over the years, and will give a quick-glance sense of impact of the various actions we plan to undertake.

****Add graphic here to show breakdown of Mid Devon's carbon emissions****



MDDC context

Corporate Plan 2020–24

MDDC states in its Corporate Plan that its aims with respect to the Environment are:

- Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.
- Encourage “green” sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.
- Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.
- Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.
- Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated.
- Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.
- Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management and animal husbandry.
- Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.
- Support community activities that improve the environment such as litter-picks, guerrilla gardening, or community adoption of assets.
- Work with developers to secure our ambitious plans for the J27 ‘Devon Gateway’.

Local Plan

The Local Plan was adopted on the 29th July 2020. It includes policies to achieve sustainable design and reduce carbon emissions and pollution in accordance with the latest national policy and guidance.

However MDDC is keen to begin work on the next version of the local plan imminently, to create a plan that more ambitiously supports our aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Climate Action plan

Building on previous work, our Climate Action Plan was created in 2020, and runs to 2030 and beyond. This is a tool and a guide for reducing our carbon emissions to net zero.

The plan was created in a context of years of reduced funding for local government, and more recently, the Covid19 global pandemic. Recognising these challenges, alongside the ever-worsening climate crisis, our plan starts by identifying actions that will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our existing work in reducing emissions. The plan will become more ambitious as new funds, capacities and projects are identified. The unanimous Council commitment to the climate agenda in 2019 also promised to take all future Council decisions through the lens of the climate emergency. So, rather than seeing our climate plan as a separate 'project', it should be seen as a curator of workstreams that -- with some support, training and climate friendly decision-making -- will support council services and our residents in a climate neutral way.

How is MDDC strategically addressing the climate crisis?

- Play our part in helping to deliver local targets on climate change.
- Implementing adopted planning policies that require new development to mitigate and adapt to climate change through sustainable materials.
- Allowing 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 the concept of 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 the climate crisis, 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.

Mitigation – this refers to actions that reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing our emissions of GHGs like carbon dioxide (CO₂), 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 GHG emissions that we will 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 inclusive 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 climate change. This stems from our historic greenhouse gas emissions and the persistence of these gases in the atmosphere.

See appendix for details of MDDC's:

- Planning Strategy policies
- Development management policies
- Procurement sustainability policy
- Enforcement policy 2019
- Energy projects

What is MDDC doing already to tackle the climate crisis?

This section provides an insight into a number of schemes introduced by Mid Devon District Council that directly benefit its corporate aim to reduce its carbon footprint.

1. Solar PV to Housing Stock – In 2012 the Council signed an agreement to allow over 1,170 Solar PV systems to be fitted to the Council's housing stock
2. Across the non-housing stock property portfolio, the Council has implemented the following measures:
 - Low voltage lighting upgrades.
 - Air handling unit upgrades.
 - Variable Speed drives for large motors in air handling units / pool pumps etc. In order to reduce energy consumption.
 - Vending machine controls at three leisure centres.
 - Boiler optimisation at three leisure centres
 - Valve Insulation
3. Solar PV panels have been installed on the roofs of our main offices at Phoenix House and our leisure/sports centres.
4. Individual home owners have benefitted from energy saving council initiatives such as the energy tariff switching scheme, the Eco Flex Scheme and referrals to the LEAP scheme.
5. Two Electric Car charging points have been installed at each of the Councils three Leisure Centres.
6. Biomass Boiler has been installed at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre. This is fuelled by locally sourced woodchip and heats water for the whole building.

7. Waste and recycling – No waste is sent to landfill – all waste collected by Mid Devon is either recycled or used as feedstock for a recovery process

8. Fleet Contract – The new fleet contract for Mid Devon, in partnership with Exeter City Council, was awarded on 7th March 2019. This allows the council to trial new Eco-friendly vehicle types as technology emerges over the life of the contract which will make an impact on decisions regarding fleet replacement.

Devon-wide collaboration

Across Devon, there are processes and plans to support the County to become net zero in its carbon emissions by 2030. Mid Devon is collaborating with these processes, including with the following groups and processes: :

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group (DCERG):

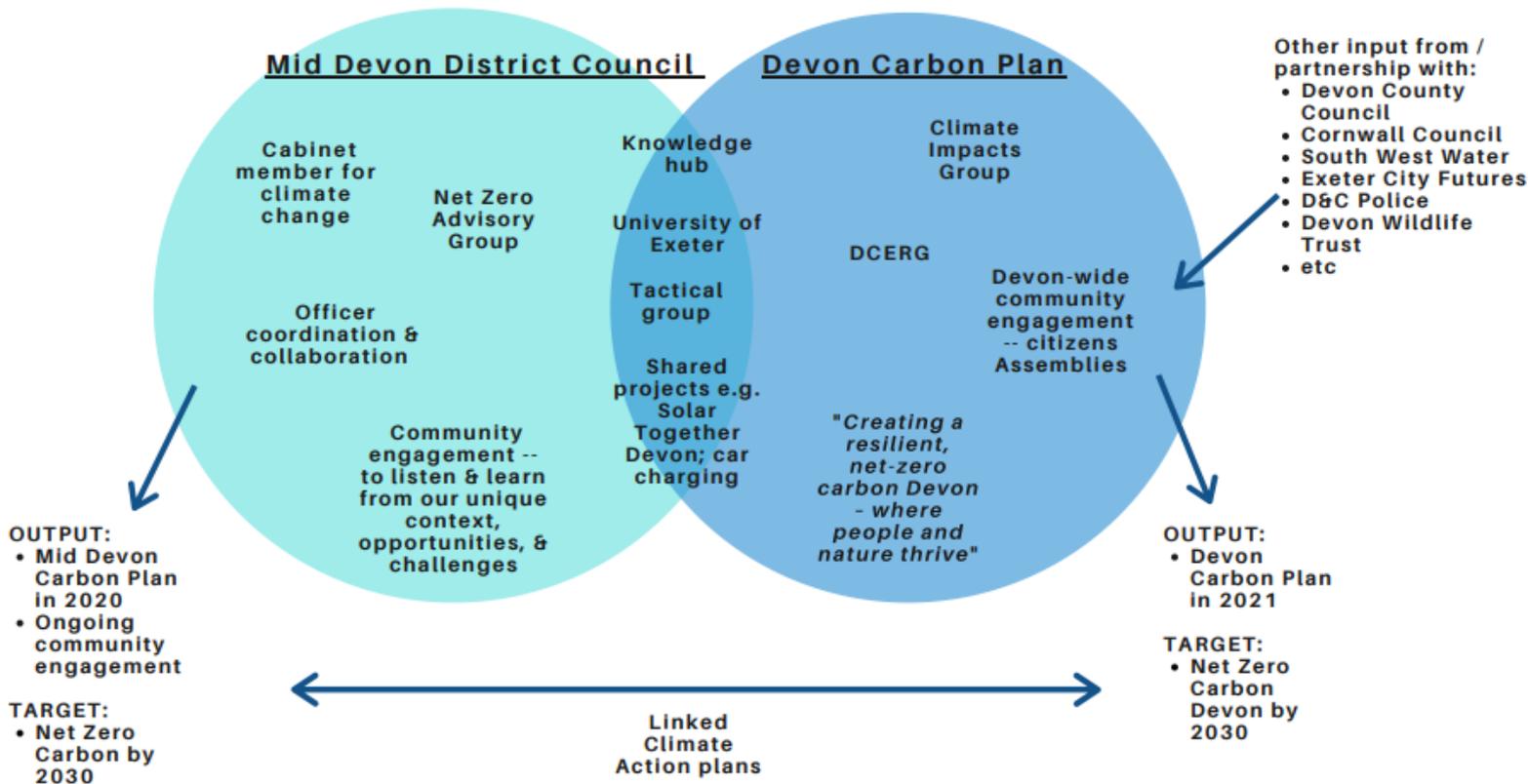
Responsible for coordinating a Devon-wide response to the Climate Emergency. In 2019, the DCERG put out a call for ideas from the public on how to get Devon to net zero. Almost 900 responses were received.

Knowledge Hub

A platform that brings together various neighbouring authorities to discuss initiatives, share resources, and prioritise shared work.

Devon Carbon Plan

A Devon-wide plan being coordinated by the DCERG. A Citizens Assembly to inform the plan was planned for 2020 will now happen in 2021 because of the Covid19 pandemic. MDDC is working with the DCERG to apply relevant parts of the Devon Carbon Plan to our own work.



Connection & conversation

The climate agenda is not one that will be tackled without discussion, connection and conversation. Understanding different priorities and perspectives will help us identify opportunities, challenges and priorities.

With this in mind, in 2020 the Cabinet member for Climate Change set up two platforms to enable this:

Internal 'climate connector' meetings

An opportunity for staff within different service areas of the council to meet together and discuss current priorities, challenges and decisions through the lens of the climate agenda. The aim is to reduce siloed thinking and increase the opportunities for sharing knowledge, resources and capacity.

If you are an MDDC staff member (or elected member) and would like to join these meetings, please get in touch.

External 'Mid Devon Climate Conversations'

The Climate Conversations were set up to enable connections and collaboration between community members, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and MDDC.

There are various organisations, businesses and community groups that are also working on the climate agenda, and working to reduce their carbon footprint. There is much expertise and experience in the community, and MDDC would like to learn from and work with this.

The Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG)

This is a group of Councillors who meet to discuss, advise and support the rest of Council on climate priorities, bringing in external expertise where needed. The NZAG reports to the Environment Policy Development Group.

Feedback after the first 'Mid Devon Climate Conversation':

"It was very interesting and so useful to connect with like minded people. I now have a lot to think about!"

"I would like to say how much I enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the discussion about the Net Zero action plan. You laid out an interesting programme of topics which generated much sensible discussion."

"Thank you for organising and leading the meeting today which I thought was very interesting."

Our Climate Action Plan

Our plan broadly breaks down into actions that will 1) directly reduce MDDC's own emissions, and 2) enable the wider district to reduce its emissions. Our target is for MDDC to be carbon neutral by 2030, but we will also work to support the wider district to become carbon neutral.

You can view the plan by clicking here ****MAKE THIS A HYPERLINK****

Directly reducing MDDC's emissions

Theme	To include
Internal structures and processes	Internal process that support our climate plan, e.g. through procurement; communications; decision-making guidance; home-working; remote meetings
Training	Climate literacy training for Officers and Councillors, plus key thematic briefings
Housing, energy, assets	Tree-planting; hydro electric scheme up and running; energy efficient homes
Planning	Update our Local Plan to include ambitious climate policies; lobby government for powers and finances
Transport	Replace vehicles with hybrids / electric; car charging points; training for taxi drivers

Enabling the wider District

Theme	To include
Tree planting & biodiversity	Partnering with residents to provide sites and trees for planting; support community-led biodiversity projects; review and revise verge-cutting policies to promote greater biodiversity
Food and farming	Promoting local farmers and suppliers through food hubs; supporting farmers to adapt and lead on climate crisis
Business	Create business toolkit; raise business awareness of the Devon Climate Declaration
Transport	Promote and improve walking, cycling and public transport
Community engagement	Benefit from expertise and partnership opportunities; support community-led projects

Key 2020–24 climate priorities

1 Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at MDDC

Climate literacy training will be created and rolled out to staff and Councillors. This will take the form of:

- Basic online modules for everyone.
- More in-depth training of key staff who can act as 'champions' and internal experts on particular activities.
- In-person thematic briefings to relevant officers and Councillors.

Extra staff time will be brought in to drive and coordinate our climate work.

2 Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030

Working with partners and residents, we will identify 'big ticket' initiatives and ways of working that will keep our plan on track.

3 Get our Hydro-electric scheme running in Tiverton

This will provide renewable energy to the Council offices, making Mid Devon the first effectively 'off grid' Council.

Extra energy generated will be sold back to the grid.

4 Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'

There are many local residents and community-led organisations that, with a bit of financial support, will work to reduce carbon emissions and increase local biodiversity. We see this as part of our partnership approach.

5 Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities

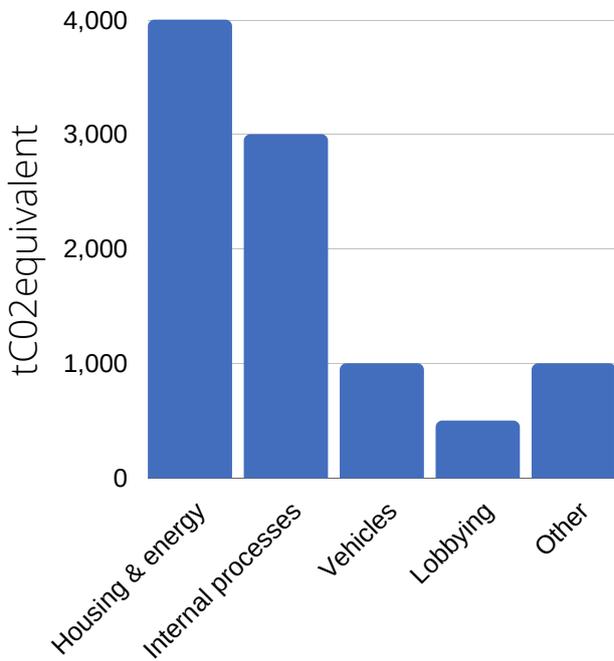
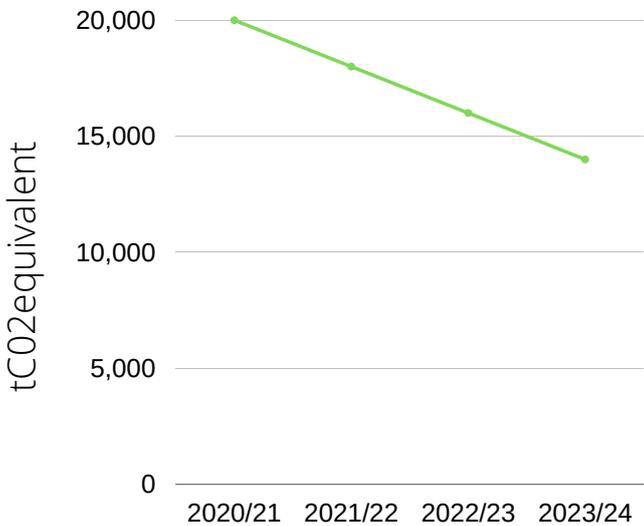
The Covid19 lockdown in the UK saw increased demand for cycling and walking infrastructure, and the Government committed funding for Active Travel schemes. Though Devon County Council is responsible for transport infrastructure, MDDC nonetheless wants to create partnerships and opportunities to improve active and public transport in Mid Devon. Transport is one of the biggest contributors to CO2 in Devon.

6 Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies

MDDC's supply chains are a significant contributor to emissions. There are various tools and frameworks that can improve the social and environmental value achievable through procurement.

Tracking the impact of our actions

Our plan will include graphs and tables to show the impact of different actions on the reduction in CO2. This will be viewable by year, by project, by Council workstream, and by category of activity, e.g. efficiencies, lobbying, upgrades, etc. (The below are for demonstration and are not accurate).



Tracking our impact this way will allow us to test and monitor the impact of our proposed activities. We have figures for MDDC's annual carbon baseline as of 2020. This figure covers MDDC property and assets, and our direct and indirect activities. It does not cover the wider District of Mid Devon e.g. businesses, farms, private households, transport.

Some Parishes are working to determine their own carbon baseline, with the help of Exeter University. This is something we will explore and encourage in Mid Devon, so we have an accurate picture of the District's entire carbon footprint, and can better support our towns and Parishes to decarbonise.

Local organisations & initiatives

****To add spreadsheet info****

****This will eventually link to a 'community map' to enable connections****

Resources & reading

****Need to update and
organise this section****

Planning:

The Centre for Sustainable Energy – support and tools for creating neighbourhood plans:
<https://www.cse.org.uk/projects/view/1343>

How Green in My Neighbourhood Plan? – <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/policy/community-energy/planning/renewables/how-green-is-my-plan-rural.pdf>

The Town and Country Planning Association – the role of the planning system in carbon reduction, and legislative underpinning – <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy-and-Regeneration/PDF/3-Town-and-Country-Planning-The-Climate-Crisis.pdf>

Letter: **tightening the Future Homes Standard** part L (Making a new home genuinely zero-carbon at the outset is around five times cheaper than retrofitting it later, and almost always will reduce residents' energy bills too. The letter proposes recommendations).
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/letter-future-homes-standard-and-proposals-for-tightening-part-l-in-2020/>

Garden Villages and Garden Towns: Visions and Reality:

<https://www.transportfornewhomes.org.uk/the-project/garden-villages-and-garden-towns/>

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) contains ambitious policies on climate change but on-the-ground delivery remains slow, largely because of a lack of practical advice and support to local councils on how to secure a radical reduction in carbon emissions. Government guidance has also been weak on adapting to climate change, particularly in relation to addressing issues such as heat waves and sea-level rises. The guide was launched in May 2018 by Caroline Lucas MP. It provides an overview of policy and legislation which can be used to address climate change at a local level, overcoming the barriers faced by many local authorities in England. The guide, '**Rising to the Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change**', has been relaunched in December 2018 following the publication of the revised NPPF. The report is here:
<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=fd66dbe5-2b88-4acf-b927-256a82db9abe>

Subsequently, the TCPA, RTPI and ClientEarth have produced a short briefing document which outlines the **key overarching legislative and policy requirements for local planning authorities on climate change**. This can be downloaded here:
<https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=4927d472-a9f0-4281-a6af-463ddc642201>

Resources & reading continued

News articles:

'Switch road cash to broadband, adviser says' – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52371140>

Are Local Plans planning for the zero carbon future we need? – <https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2484>

Environment Journal – New Plans unveiled for UK's first net-zero neighbourhood: <https://environmentjournal.online/articles/new-plans-unveiled-for-uks-first-net-zero-neighbourhood/>

Transport:

Collaborative mapping tool to understand and prioritise walking, cycling and public transport (MDDC is creating a similar tool): <https://bathnesliveablestreets.commonplace.is/>

UK Government: Creating the transport decarbonisation plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/creating-the-transport-decarbonisation-plan>

Other resources:

SCATTER – local authority focussed emissions tool – <https://scattercities.com/>

Climate Action Tracker: <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) – resources and guidance that supports Teignbridge Council, as well as local parishes and towns: <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/>

LGA support on climate work: <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/climate-change>

How Climate Friendly is Your Area? a tool to search by local authority: <https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/how-climate-friendly-your-area>

Devon Climate Emergency Response Group: <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/>

Supporting disadvantaged communities:

Climate Just is a free webtool for public service providers designed to:

1. Identify who is vulnerable to climate change and fuel poverty and why.
2. Highlight neighbourhoods where climate disadvantage is highest.
3. Explain the factors involved and help you decide what actions to take.

Resources available here: <https://www.climatejust.org.uk/resources>

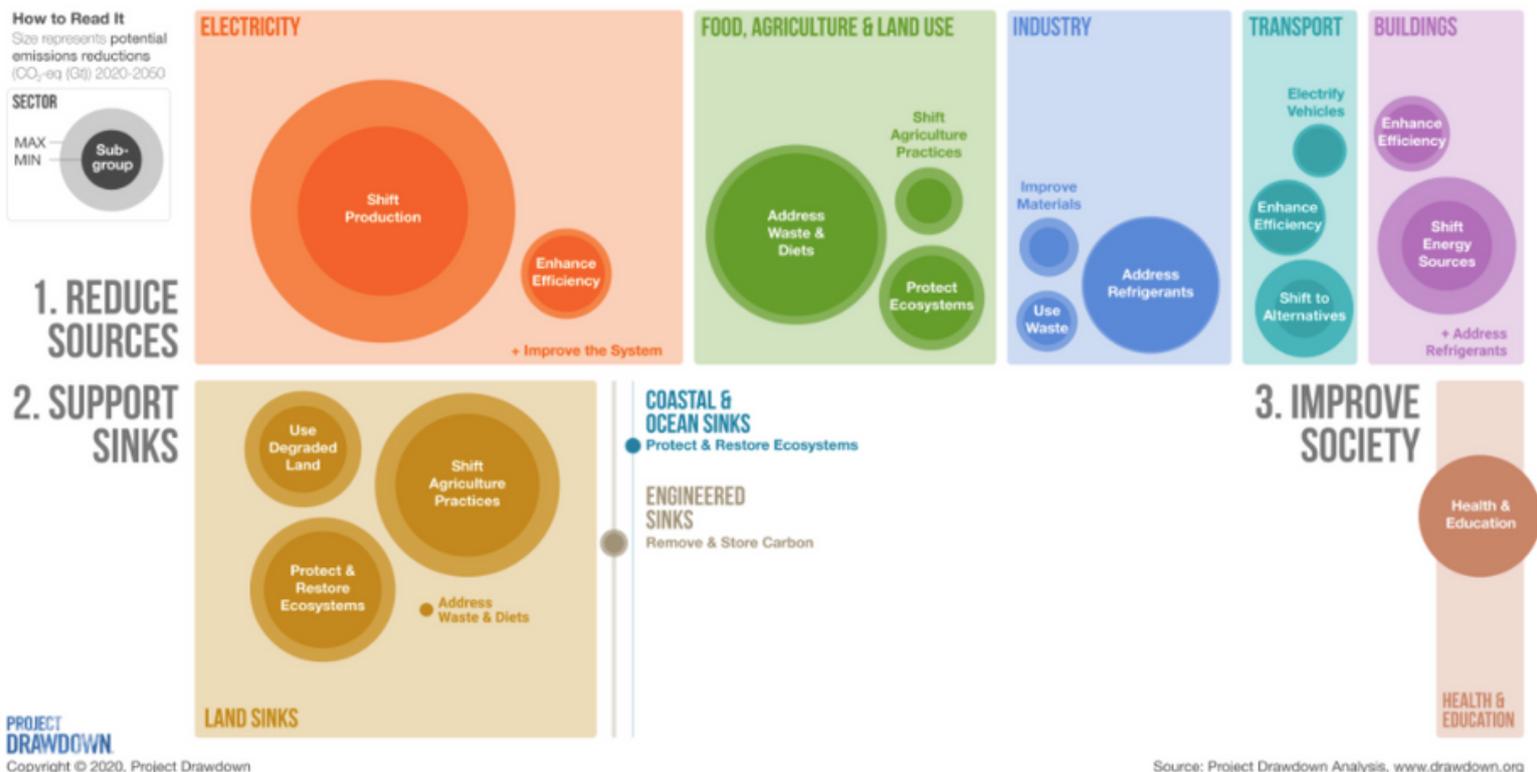
Project Drawdown – taken from <https://drawdown.org/drawdown-framework>

We must work on all aspects of the climate equation—stopping sources and supporting sinks, as well as helping society achieve broader transformations.

1. Reduce Sources – bringing emissions to zero
2. Support Sinks – uplifting nature’s carbon cycle
3. Improve Society – fostering equality for all

Nested within each area of action, there are sectors and subgroups of diverse solutions—practices and technologies that can help the world stabilize and then begin to lower greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. Together, they comprise the Drawdown Framework for climate solutions.

DRAWDOWN FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



Appendix 1: UK regulations & legislation continued

The Energy Act 2011

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 made up of 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. Including the repeal of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995.

The Green Deal

The Green Deal was initiated in 2013 under the 2011 Energy Act. It was a UK government policy initiative that gave homeowners, landlords and tenants the opportunity to pay for energy efficient home improvements through the savings on their energy bills from 2012 to 2015. At the heart of the Green Deal was the rule that savings on bills would exceed the cost of the work.

Housing Assistance Policy 2019–22

This policy covers the financial assistance that the Council may provide to help support the improvement of private sector homes within the district. The funding associated with this policy relates to the Better Care Fund (BCF) and therefore there are some restrictions on the use of the funding.

The main purpose of the policy and the BCF is to focus the funding on helping disabled people to remain safe and independent within their own homes. Alongside this, discretionary grants have been introduced to help deal with urgent repairs to homes not related to disabled adaptations, assisting with hoarding, and to help top up eco flex applications.

ECO flex 3 is a scheme that was introduced by the Government in 2018. Each of the big energy companies are required to help fund energy efficiency measures in dwellings in the private sector. ECO (Energy Company Obligation) has evolved over a number of years and been through a number of cycles. The current flexible scheme allowed each Council to develop its own Statement of Intent expanding the eligibility for ECO funding to fit with the requirements of the local area.

HHCRO (Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation) is still being provided so that households on a qualifying benefit are eligible for the energy efficiency measures to be installed for free. But the Statement of Intent increases the number of households able to apply for free measures.

In some cases the cost or extent of the measures to be installed falls outside of the ECO scheme and in these cases the Council is committed to provide a top up grant of up to £2000 to ensure the installation can go ahead and the household can take advantage of the other free measures available.

As this 'ECO Flex Top Up' grant is discretionary priority is given to helping those with a contribution that have qualified for HHCRO or have an underlying health condition.

In order to qualify under the Statement of Intent the installer or lead generating company on behalf of the installer must apply for a Local Authority Declaration (LAD). This provides a unique reference number for the household and the installer to apply for the free measures.

The LAD must be submitted to the Council for checking and signing before the installation can proceed or funding can be claimed. Between April 2018 and March 2020 730 LADs had been signed for measures within the district.

Appendix 2: Existing MDDC policies

Mid Devon Local Plan Policy S1:

Sustainable Development is now an adopted planning policy. Relevant clauses are summarised below:

All development will be expected to support the creation of sustainable communities by:

e) Promoting sustainable transport by delivering appropriate infrastructure, reducing the need to travel by car, integrating public transport and other forms of sustainable travel such as walking and cycle, and providing safe environments while recognising Mid Devon's rural locality;

h) Requiring good sustainable design that respects local character, heritage, surroundings, and materials, creates safe and accessible environments, designs out crime and establishes a strong sense of place;

j) Meeting the challenge of climate change by supporting a low carbon future, energy efficiency, increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, managing flood risk and conserving natural resources. Encourage the effective use of land, taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

l) Minimising impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity by recognising the wider benefits of ecosystems, delivering natural environment objectives, providing a net gain in biodiversity and by the protection of international, European, national and local designated wildlife sites;

Policy S9: Environment requires that development will sustain the distinctive quality, character and diversity of Mid Devon's environmental assets and minimise the impact of development on climate change through:

a) High quality sustainable design which reinforces the character and distinctiveness of Mid Devon's historic built environment, mitigates and adapts to climate and creates attractive places;

d) Renewable energy development in locations where there is an acceptable local impact, including visual, on nearby residents, landscape character and wildlife, balanced with the wider sustainability benefits of renewable energy.

Site Allocations: In relation to the strategic allocations at North West Cullompton and East Cullompton, The Local Plan includes policies on carbon reduction and Air Quality (CU5 and CU11). These policies require that the development of these strategic sites will be required to implement a Carbon Reduction and Low Emissions Strategy. This will propose measures to minimise the overall carbon footprint of the development, making provision for sources of decentralised onsite renewable or low carbon energy and ensure that impact of the site on air quality is acceptable, such as:

- a) Renewable & low carbon energy to provide a proportion of the site's energy use;
- b) Measures to ensure that residents, employees and businesses are encouraged to travel in the most sustainable fashion, including travel plans, information, car clubs, lift-sharing and infrastructure for low emission vehicles;
- c) Measures to encourage the sustainable treatment of waste;
- d) Measures to manage the impacts of construction;
- e) Offsite tree planting where sufficient cannot be accommodated onsite;
- f) Energy improvements to existing buildings;
- g) Other measures to capture or mitigate carbon emissions and air quality impacts from development.

Existing MDDC policies continued

Development Management Policies

Policy DM1: High Quality Design stipulates that designs of new development must be of high quality and based upon and demonstrating the following principles:

d) Creation of safe and accessible places that also encourage and enable sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling

Policy DM2 Renewable and low carbon energy states that the benefits of renewable and low carbon energy will be weighed against its impact. Proposals must demonstrate that impacts are or can be made acceptable in relation to:

- a) Landscape character and the character and setting of heritage assets;
- b) Environmental amenity of nearby properties and the wider locality;
- c) Quality and productivity of the best and most versatile agricultural land grade (1,2 and 3a); and
- d) Biodiversity (avoiding habitat fragmentation)

Policy DM3 Transport and Air Quality

request that development proposals that would give rise to significant levels of vehicular movement must be accompanied by an integrated Transport Assessment, Travel Plan, traffic pollution assessment and Low Emission Assessment.

Policy DM5: Parking establishes planning policy standards for the provision of EV charging points as laid out below:

Use Class	EV Infrastructure (Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton)
Residential	
C3,C4 Dwellings	1 charging point per 10 units
Non-residential	
A1 Non-food retail	
A1 Food retail	2 charging points per 200 sqm (gross)
A2 Financial and professional	
A3 Restaurants	
A4 Public houses	
B1,B2 Business and general industry	
B8 Warehousing and distribution	2 charging points per 10 parking spaces (employees/visitors)

Existing MDDC policies continued

Procurement Sustainability Policy

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

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 minimum materials.
- 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.

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 could consider areas such as:

- Direct Running Costs
- Training
- Disposal Costs
- Indirect Costs
- Recycling capabilities
- Disposal Options (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle)
- Administration Costs
- Refurbished products

Existing MDDC policies continued

Enforcement policy

In addition to the Housing Assistance Policy the council has a number of regulatory powers to improve the condition of private sector homes.

In particular the Council has a duty to take action to improve a property where it has been assessed to have a category 1 hazard under the Housing Act 2004. There are a number of hazards that are assessed by officers but the two most relevant to this strategy are the hazard of Damp and Mould and the hazard of Excess Cold. These hazards are often connected and result from poor insulation, inadequate heating provision and poor ventilation.

As well as the provisions under the Housing Act 2004, there have been various new regulations relating specifically to energy efficiency in dwellings.

The Energy Performance of Buildings (England and Wales) Regulations 2012 made it a requirement for an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) to be provided at the beginning of any rental agreement or sale of a property.

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 and amended by The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 includes provisions that enable a tenant to make reasonable requests for energy efficiency measures to be installed and a private residential landlord will be unable to refuse a reasonable request where the work is not more than the cost cap and can be wholly financed by the landlord or can be funded wholly or partly by external means.

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 also introduces power to the council to take action against landlords that rent out a residential premises with an EPC rating of less than an E. This means that the council can issue fines to landlords for renting out substandard properties and also for trying to exempt a property from the regulations without valid justification.

The Enforcement Policy provides detail on the enforcement approach to be taken in respect of these regulations and the Housing Act 2004.

Existing MDDC policies continued

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 have been 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 has also provided for powers to ensure that from April 2018, it is 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 are 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.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and vehicle emission standards will likely be reviewed during the life of the carbon reduction strategy and subject to change. To do this we need to consult with all interested parties including the trade with potential options including a review of 'grandfather rights' for existing licenced vehicles and mechanisms to accelerate the adoption of low emission or ultra-low emission vehicles licensed within the District either on a voluntary or mandatory basis

Existing MDDC policies continued

Air Quality Management

Air quality management work does not have a policy but is related to our managing the environment work and has resulted in planning policies and action measures 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. We do this through a network of monitoring locations and modelling work where required in the context of statutory LAQM technical guidance provided by Defra. The focus is on key pollutants which are harmful to health with an emphasis on transport emissions. Consequently, whilst this regime does not directly tackle carbon emissions it can have an direct impact through the reduction in transport emissions overall which also include CO₂. This work is led by the Public Health and Regulatory Service within the Council working closely with planning, transport management and other services.

Information available at <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/environment/air-quality/local-air-quality-management/> includes our latest air quality monitoring review and assessment reports and our statutory Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) required in response to our declaration of two Air Quality Management Areas in the district (Crediton and Cullompton). We also have a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Air Quality, resulting from our AQAP. The AQAP is updated regularly as measures are completed and new ones are adopted with the next update due in 2021 alongside a review and update of the Air Quality SPD.

With the new Local Plan adopted, the Council expects to continue fund air quality improvements through the planning obligations including s106 agreements and also through the new Community Infrastructure Levy going forward, details of which are available on the Council's website.

Housing Stock Reducing Fuel Poverty

Although the work MDDC has done towards addressing fuel poverty is not current policy, this work has strong links with our work towards protecting 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 into 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.

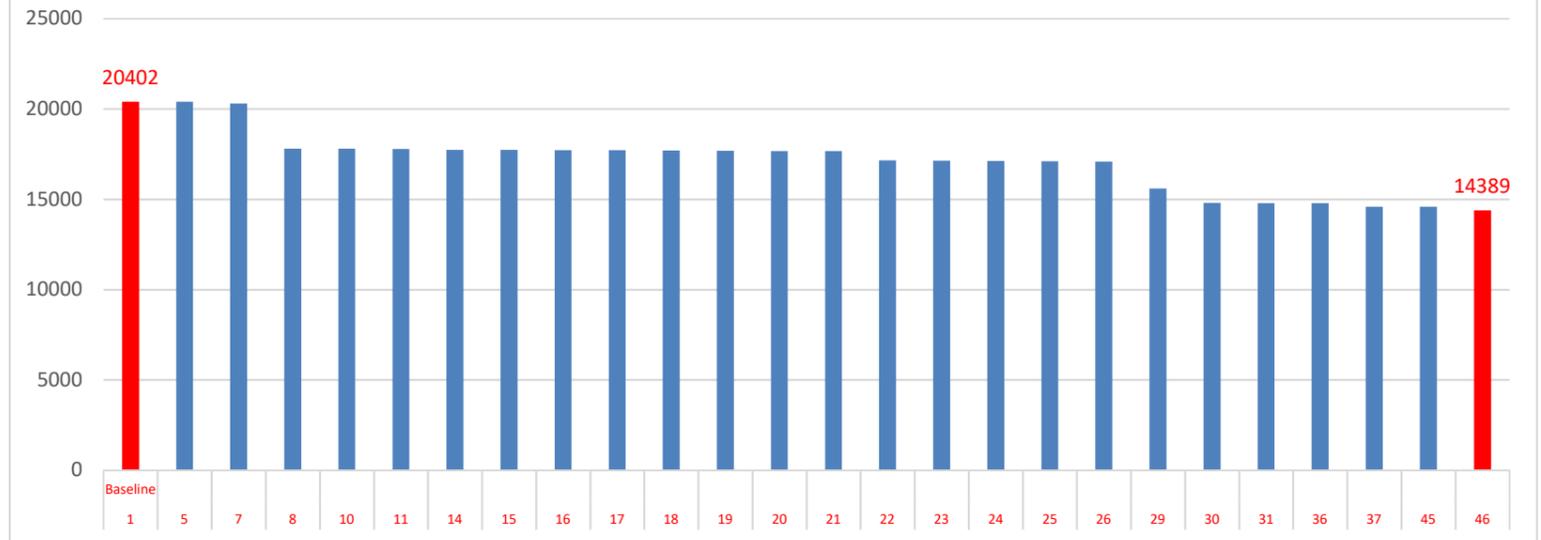
Climate Action Plan 2020-2030								Revenue Programme 2020/21	Revenue Programme 2021/22	Revenue Programme 2022/23	Revenue Programme 2023/24	Capital Programme 2020/21	Capital Programme 2021/22	Capital Programme 2022/23	Capital Programme 2023/24	Estimated Total Ek
Impact on Carbon	Progress	Scope 1, 2 or 3	Category: New Innovation, Maintenance Replacement, Lobbying, Efficiencies, Regulation, Offsetting	Estimate reduction in Co2 Tonnes	Additional Funding Required	Revenue Programme 2020/21 Ek	Revenue Programme 2021/22 Ek	Revenue Programme 2022/23 Ek	Revenue Programme 2023/24 Ek	Capital Programme 2020/21 Ek	Capital Programme 2021/22 Ek	Capital Programme 2022/23 Ek	Capital Programme 2023/24 Ek	Estimated Total Ek		
Carbon Baseline Figure 2018/19	RAG Status	4 - Other Scope(s)	Category	Co2t Impact 20402	YEAR 2019/20	Extra Funding - Yes/No										
INTERNAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES																
Impact on Climate Change considered on all Council decisions	High		1,2 and 3	Efficiencies	tbc	2020/21	No								tbc	
Cabinet Member in post for Climate Change	High		1,2 and 3	Efficiencies	tbc	2020/21	No								tbc	
Zero Carbon Working Group to be established	High		1,2 and 3	Efficiencies	tbc	2020/21	Yes								3,000	
Set up Officer Energy Champion group - basics incl lights off at night	Medium		1,2 and 3	Efficiencies	tbc	2020/21	No								1,000	
Establish and role out on line training for Officers and Members	Medium		1,2 and 3	Efficiencies	tbc	2020/21	Yes								3,000	
Procurement Review - Supply Chain	High		1,3	Efficiencies	150	2020/21	No								5,000	
Reduce energy use in own estate and add renewable energy	High		1,2	Efficiencies	500	2023/24	Yes								tbc	
Divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy projects	High		1 and 2	Offsetting	tbc	2023/24	Yes								tbc	
Reducing outgoing post	Medium		3	Efficiencies	50	2023/24	Yes								tbc	
Further reduce the usage of paper	High		3	Efficiencies	50	2023/24	Yes								tbc	
Refurbishment - Landlord responsibilities improved buildings efficiency	High		1 and 2	Maintenance Replacement	20	2023/24	Yes								15,000	
Seeking and applying for Grants as and when they come available	High		4	Efficiencies	tbc	2021/22	Yes								tbc	
Explore strategic links to the GESP	High		4	Efficiencies	tbc	2021/22	Yes								tbc	
Communications - review web page and manage content	High		4	Efficiencies	tbc	2021/22	Yes								tbc	
HOUSING, ENERGY AND ASSETS																
Review HRA structure- focus on renewables and energy management post	High		2	Efficiencies	100	2020/21	Establishment Review								45,000	
Boilers and Combined Heat and Power Unit Review	High		1	Maintenance Replacement	50	2020/21	No Capital Programme				150,000				150,000	
Water treatment - recirculation modification - reduced gas to heat water	High		2	Efficiencies	50	2020/21	No Revenue Programme								tbc	
External doors for improved energy performance	Low		2	Maintenance Replacement	15	2020/21	Yes				12,000				12,000	
Sport Halls energy efficiency - asset review	High		2	Maintenance Replacement	10	2020/21	Yes				150,000				150,000	
Boiler replacement & controls- more efficient boilers	Medium		1	Maintenance Replacement	20	2020/21	No Capital Programme			90,000					90,000	
LED- Lighting main office	High		2	Maintenance Replacement	50	2020/21	Yes								15,000	
MSCP Capital Project-LED lighting top decks	Medium		2	Maintenance Replacement	20	2020/21	No Capital Programme	7000	15000						7,000	
Motion Sensors various decks - TBC	Medium		2	Maintenance Replacement	10	2020/21	Yes								10,000	
Old Road Depot Development Options - Energy efficient asset	High		1 and 2	Maintenance Replacement	70	2020/21	Yes	10000			1,200,000				1,200,000	
Carlu Close - Solar PV main depot site	High		2	New Innovation	25	2020/21	Yes			20,000					20,000	
Market Walk - Flat roof replacement - additional insulation opportunity	Low		3	Maintenance Replacement	10	2021/22	Yes			30	30				60	
Solar PV - Retail units on pods	Medium		3	Maintenance Replacement	40	2021/22	Yes				80,000				80,000	
Energy rating review on commercial properties with action plan	Medium		3	Maintenance Replacement	50	2021/22	Yes				100,000				100,000	
Hardware replacement of Network Core Switch which provides all voice and data connectivity for PH and remote sites.	Medium		2	Maintenance Replacement	tbc	2021/22	TBC								tbc	
Hydro Electricity Project	High		2	New Innovation		2021/22	Yes			850,000					850,000	
Rationise C02 footprint housing stock on properties 181 E,F,G rating - Explore Grant	High		2	Maintenance Replacement	1810	2021/22	Yes				500,000	500,000	500,000		1,500,000	
Renewable Energy Fund- Properties solar thermal, quantum, an unvented cylinder	Medium		2	New Innovation	400	2021/22	No	250		150	250	250	250		900	
Switch street lighting to well-designed and well directed LED lights	Medium		3	Maintenance Replacement	5	2021/22	Yes								tbc	
HRA regeneration scheme 1- Additional energy efficient homes	High		2	New Innovation	tbc	2021/22	Capital Programme					3,000,000			3,000,000	
HRA regeneration scheme 2- Additional energy efficient homes	High		2	New Innovation	tbc	2021/22	Capital Programme				1,500,000				1,500,000	
HRA regeneration scheme 3- Additional energy efficient homes	High		2	New Innovation	tbc	2021/22	Capital Programme			2,000,000					2,000,000	
Mobile working Hardware	High		2 and 3	New Innovation	tbc	2021/22	Yes				25				25	
Changing our energy provider to use renewable energy	High		2	Efficiencies	tbc	2021/22	No								tbc	
Require deliveries to be by electric vehicles	High		3	Lobbying	tbc	2021/22	No								tbc	
COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT																
Clarify communication, awareness and engagement priorities	High		4	Lobbying	tbc	2021/22	No								tbc	

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Co2 reduction	(All)
Scope(s)	(All)
Category	(All)
RAG Status	(All)
High, Medium, Low	(All)
Co2t Impact	(Multiple Items)
Extra Funding - Yes/No	(All)

Sum of Co2 reduction				
Project Number	Workstream	Action(s)	YEAR	Total
1	Baseline			20402
5				20397
7				20297
8				17797
10				17792
11				17787
14				17737
15				17727
16				17722
17				17712
18				17692
19				17677
20				17669
21				17659
22				17159
23				17134
24				17124
25				17104
26				17094
29				15594
30				14794
31				14791
36				14791
37				14591
45				14589
46				14389
Grand Total				445221

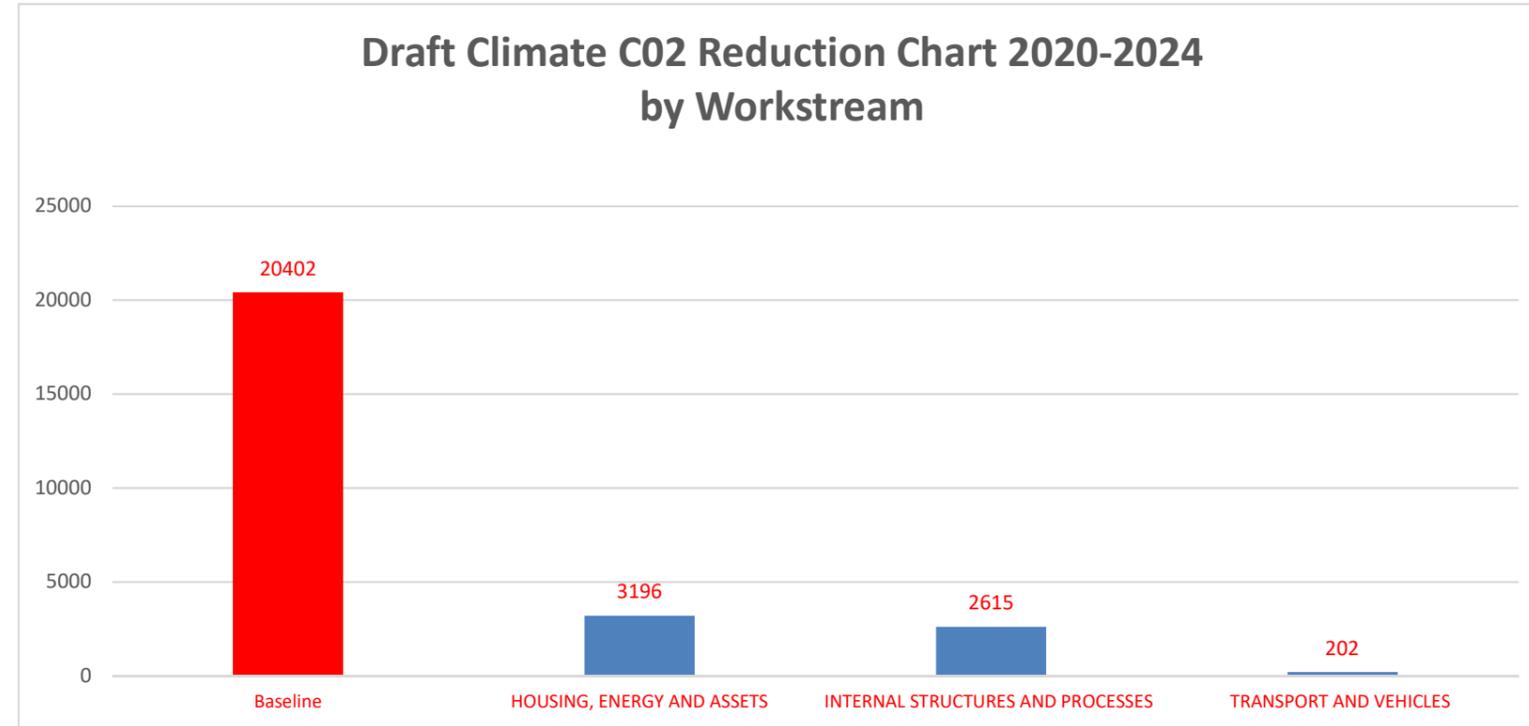
Draft Climate C02 Reduction Chart 2020-2024 by Project



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Co2 reduction	(All)
Scope(s)	(All)
Category	(All)
RAG Status	(All)
High, Medium, Low	(All)
Co2t Impact	(Multiple Items)
Extra Funding - Yes/No	(All)
Action(s)	(All)
YEAR	(All)
Project Number	(All)

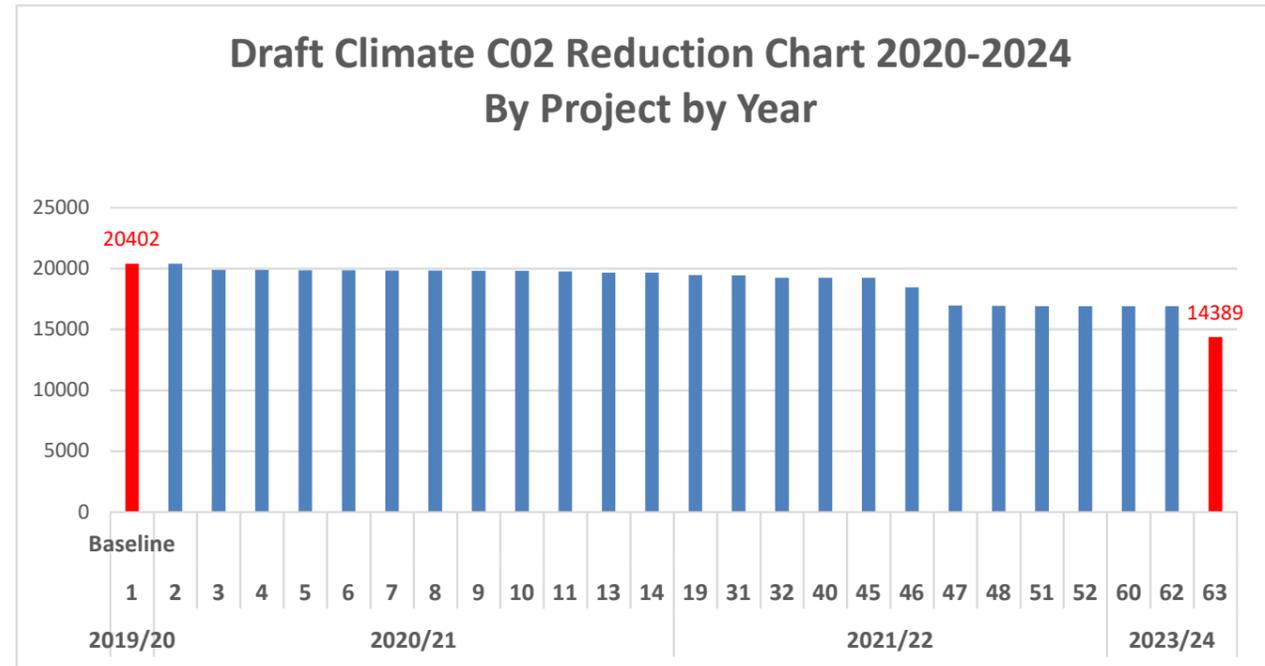
Sum of Co2t Impact	
Workstream	Total
Baseline	20402
HOUSING, ENERGY AND ASSETS	3196
INTERNAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES	2615
TRANSPORT AND VEHICLES	202
Grand Total	26415



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Scope(s)	(All)
RAG Status	(All)
High, Medium, Low	(All)
Action(s)	(All)
Extra Funding - Yes/No	(All)
Co2 reduction	(All)
Category	(All)
Co2t Impact	(Multiple Items)

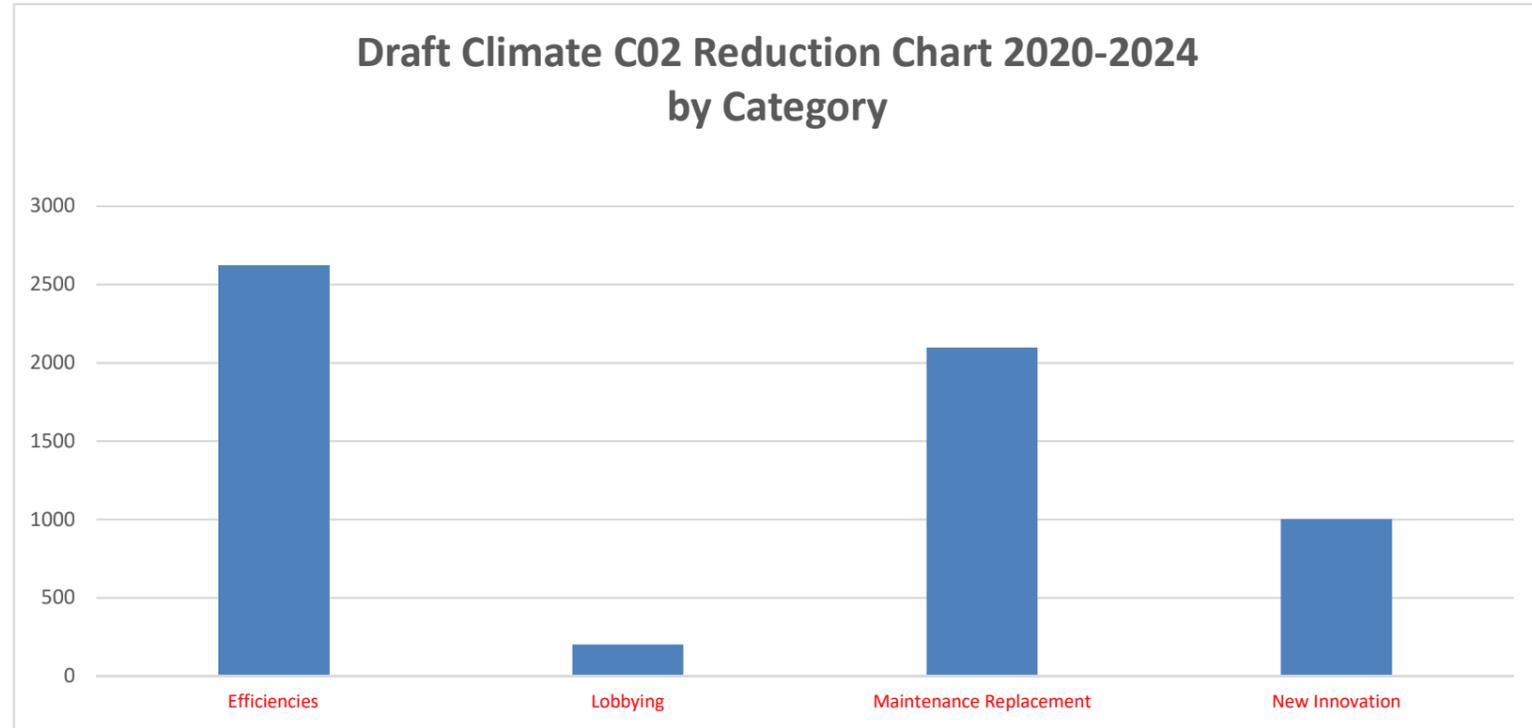
Sum of Co2 reduction				
YEAR	Project	Workstream	Total	
2019/20	1	Baseline	20402	
2020/21	2		20377	
	3		19877	
	4		19867	
	5		19859	
	6		19844	
	7		19824	
	8		19814	
	9		19809	
	10		19799	
	11		19749	
	13		19649	
	14		19644	
	2021/22	19		19444
		31		19442
32			19242	
40			19239	
45			19239	
46			18439	
47			16939	
48			16929	
2023/24	51		16909	
	52		16899	
	60		16894	
	62		16889	
	63		14389	
Grand Total			489407	



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Co2 reduction	(All)
Scope(s)	(All)
RAG Status	(All)
High, Medium, Low	(All)
Co2t Impact	(Multiple Items)
Action(s)	(All)
Extra Funding - Yes/No	(All)
Workstream	(All)
YEAR	(All)

Sum of Co2t Impact	
Category	Total
Efficiencies	2625
Lobbying	200
Maintenance Replacement	2096
New Innovation	1002
Grand Total	5923



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ENVIRONMENT PDG

8TH SEPT 2020

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE UPDATED LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR DEVON

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Luke Taylor
Responsible Officers: Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration and Simon Newcombe, Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services

Reason for Report: To inform members of the publication of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon for consultation and the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members advise of any comments that they would wish Officers to include in the consultation response to be submitted on behalf of this Council.

Financial Implications: None as a direct result of this report, but the contents of the draft document will need to be considered and responded to.

Budget and Policy Framework: None as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications: Under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Devon County Council (DCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The first Local Strategy was published in 2014 and is required to be reviewed after 6 years. This consultation document sets out in draft the updated strategy for the period 2021-2027.

Lower tier Councils have responsibility for managing flood risk arising from coastal erosion, have discretionary powers to carry out works on ordinary watercourses, manage and maintain flood defence assets under their control and as Local Planning Authority have a role to manage flood risk from all sources through appropriate planning policy and guiding development.

Risk Assessment: No direct risks to the Council have been identified from this report.

Equality Impact Assessment: None identified

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Flood risk management relates to the corporate priority of the environment

Impact upon Climate Change: The intention is to make Devon more resilient to flooding and ready to adapt to climate change by promoting sustainable flood risk management and using natural solutions where possible. In response to the climate and ecological emergency, flood risk infrastructure will play its part in achieving a

net-zero carbon Devon and protecting and enhancing the natural environment with natural flood risk management solutions will be considered before hard engineering.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon has been produced by Devon County Council and partner authorities (**Appendix 1**). It outlines how the risk of flooding to property and infrastructure will be managed and reduced over the next six years, from 2021-2027. The strategy also looks at how plans for flood alleviation schemes can be developed and how communities can increase their resilience against flooding and the impact of climate change.
- 1.2 Through partnership working and community engagement, investment is prioritised to target high risk communities. Natural and sustainable flood management measures will be promoted, where appropriate, in all flood investigations and improvement projects, to reduce the scale, or need, of hard engineering solutions.
- 1.3 Part 2 of the strategy prioritises areas and communities to be considered for investment in flood alleviation works. Although priorities are subject to change, it currently includes the Mid Devon towns of Tiverton (identified as a high priority) and Crediton (identified as a medium priority) together with Exeter, Kingsbridge, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Newton Abbot, Seaton, Kingsteignton, Totnes, Bideford, Ilfracombe, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth and Okehampton.
- 1.4 Devon's latest strategy has been produced in line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It also links in with the Flood Risk Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans for the region delivered by The Environment Agency and will help bring together funding for the investment programme over the next six years.
- 1.5 The draft document also details the responsibilities of the risk management authorities in Devon and how they must work in partnership to coordinate local flood risk management.

2.0 THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Devon County Council is consulting on the draft updated strategy from 21st August 2020 until the consultation closes on 15th October 2020. This consultation is particularly relevant to planning, drainage and emergency planning.
- 2.2 The views of Members of the PDG are sought so that their comments can be incorporated into the consultation response to be submitted on behalf of this Council. To aid Member's consideration, the following questions have been posed within the Country Council's consultation questionnaire:

- a) *Are you satisfied with the structure of the Strategy? If not, what improvements would you suggest?*

- b) *What aspects of the Strategy are you most interested in or concerned with and do you feel that this has been well addressed? If not, what improvements or changes would you suggest?*
- c) *Are the different roles and responsibilities of the Lead Local Flood Authority, Risk Management Authorities and land owners clearly defined and explained? If not, what do you think needs further clarification?*
- d) *Are there any additional stakeholders that you think should be included in the Strategy?*
- e) *Do you feel that the Strategy links in with other appropriate plans, strategies and reports? If not, what do you believe is missing?*
- f) *Do the principles throughout the document fulfil the vision and objectives? If not, what do you believe is missing?*
- g) *Part 2 lists some communities we have classed as a priority. However, we are aware of many other locations that are also at risk. Does this section adequately explain how we prioritise the at risk communities and the opportunities for flood risk interventions to other locations across Devon?*
- h) *We also welcome your general comments on the document or specific sections (please identify section headings or page numbers if appropriate)*

Contact for more Information: Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration jclifford@middevon.gov.uk

Simon Newcombe, Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services
snewcombe@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report: Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

List of Background Papers: Updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon **Appendix 1** and <https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/Planning/FloodRisk/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FPlanning%2FFloodRisk%2FStrategy%20Documents%2FStrategy%20Review%2FDCC%20Local%20FRM%20Strategy%202020%5FConsultation%20Draft%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FPlanning%2FFloodRisk%2FStrategy%20Documents%2FStrategy%20Review&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9kZXZvbmNjLnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpiOi9zL1B1YmxpY0RvY3MvUGxhbm5pbmcvRVp3MWI6am5NMnBBbk9lYmJTekxQem9CLTZNRm1td1MyR1NwWG4tTXpnTjhsUT9ydGltZT1JazhPVWtCSjJFZw>

Consultation material

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-local-flood-risk-management-strategy/>



Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027

Consultation draft

Revision Schedule

Version	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date
Consultation draft	Jessica Bishop, Senior Flood and Coastal Risk Officer	Martin Hutchings, Flood and Coastal Risk Manager	Dave Black, Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment	August 2020
Post consultation draft				
Final report				

Foreword

By Councillor Roger Croad, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services

To be completed

Executive Summary

Why Devon needs a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Devon County Council (DCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The first Local Strategy was published in 2014 and is required to be reviewed after 6 years. This document sets out our updated strategy for the period 2021-2027.

Our Vision

To be a leading authority in the management and reduction of flood risk in the County of Devon. We will work efficiently and collaboratively with our partners and engage with communities to make Devon more resilient to flooding and ready to adapt to climate change by promoting sustainable flood risk management and using natural solutions where possible. In response to the climate and ecological emergency, flood risk infrastructure will play its part in achieving a net-zero carbon Devon and protecting and enhancing the natural environment – indeed natural flood risk management solutions will be considered before hard engineering. Additionally, flood risk infrastructure will take opportunities to improve communities’ access to and enjoyment of green spaces, and to conserve and enhance local landscape and heritage assets.

Who does what?

Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have various responsibilities for flood risk management. This strategy summarises the roles and responsibilities of RMAs and LPAs under the relevant legislation and in particular, the role of Devon County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

What we will do

To achieve the vision and objectives in this strategy, we have set out a series of Principles that the Risk Management Authorities in Devon will follow:

Table 1. Devon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy principles

Principle 1: Integrated Flood Risk Management and Partnership Working

Through collaborative working, Devon Risk Management Authorities will consider opportunities for multiple benefits and the alignment of programmes to maximise funding availability, delivering effective, consistent and integrated flood risk management.

Principle 2: Addressing the Skills Gap

Where skills gaps are identified in local flood risk management, we will seek opportunities through internships, apprenticeships and graduate programmes, in addition to specialist consultants when required.

Principle 3: Improving Data Quality and Management

Devon Risk Management Authorities will keep up to date and accurate records of flood risk data and will ensure government guidance is followed on the use of geographical information and maintaining metadata, enabling efficient data use and storage, sharing with partners when appropriate.

Principle 4: Maintaining an Asset Register and Record

Devon County Council will continue to populate its asset register with flood risk features thought to have a significant impact on flood risk, ensuring that this is up to date with national developments and guidance and that the assets recorded are used as a vital part of assessing local flood risk.

Principle 5: Designating Flood Risk Features

Devon Risk Management Authorities have the powers to designate any structures and features that are considered to affect flood risk, including those which were not necessarily designed or constructed for that purpose.

Principle 6: Investing in Local Flood Risk Management

All Risk Management Authorities in Devon will work in partnership to deliver local flood management schemes and initiatives. An investment plan will be developed through collaborative working and will be outlined in our list of Priority Communities, the South West Flood Risk Management Plan and flood risk management measures outlined in Part 2 of this Strategy. Funding will be sought through the relevant opportunities such as FDGiA, Local Levy, local authority capital budgets and private contributions.

Principle 7: Sharing of Investment Programmes

The South West Flood Risk Management Plan will pull together the investment programs of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and signpost to more details on individual RMA action plans. The sharing of investment programmes and project plans will be encouraged between all of the RMAs, using the already established Devon Flood and Water Management Group as a forum to discuss and prioritise investment in local flood risk management.

Principle 8: Seeking additional funding

Devon Risk Management Authorities will seek additional funding from the national, regional and local sources and take the opportunity to obtain funding through other government initiatives, as they arise, to implement location-specific actions identified in the Action Plan.

Principle 9: Flood Risk Management Studies

Devon Risk Management Authorities will continue to work in partnership and develop studies in order to better understand and reduce flood risk and improve community resilience.

Principle 10: Encourage Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

Devon Risk Management Authorities should encourage the use of SuDS and promote the benefits, such as improving water quality, biodiversity and amenity, channeled throughout various groups, development management and through advice on Local Authority Core Strategies, development plans and policies. Devon County Council will give guidance to Planning Authorities and the development industry as a Statutory Consultee, fulfilling a duty to check and approve sustainable drainage system designs for major developments.

Principle 11: Consenting to works on Ordinary Watercourses

Devon County Council will regulate works on ordinary watercourses, ensuring that any activity will not increase flood risk and will encourage sustainable measures and methods in doing so. This will be in line with the regulation of main rivers by the Environment Agency maintaining a consistent approach across Devon.

Principle 12: Natural Flood Management

Risk Management Authorities should prioritise natural flood management measures (where appropriate) in all flood investigations and improvement projects, either as sole measures or in combination with hard engineering solutions, including supporting NFM initiatives throughout Devon. We will promote sustainable land management which seeks reduced rates and volumes of surface runoff, erosion and sediment transport by promoting education and awareness campaigns as part of community engagement projects.

Principle 13: Sustainable Management of Local Flood Risk

We will reduce the risk of flooding to property and significant infrastructure to enable resilient economic activity that provides for communities' needs whilst conserving, enhancing and providing access to Devon's natural environment, green spaces, landscapes and heritage assets and demonstrating progress towards net-zero carbon emissions from LFRMS activity by 2050 to contribute to Devon's response to the climate and environmental emergency.

Principle 14: Adapting to Climate Change

Devon Risk Management Authorities must use the latest UK Climate Projections to make resilient flood risk management decisions for the effects of climate change. This may lead to difficult choices about the future protection of property and infrastructure.

Principle 15: Raising Awareness and Improving Communication and Involvement

Through the collaboration with other Risk Management Authorities and the Devon Community Resilience Forum, all Partners will work together towards raising public awareness (including those that are most vulnerable such as the elderly, young children, those living with a disability or living in areas of deprivation) about flood risk and the roles of the Risk Management Authorities, providing clear and up to date information.

Principle 16: Property Flood Resilience

When wider flood alleviation schemes for a community or individual property are not viable or unable to be delivered in the foreseeable future, Risk Management Authorities will remain committed to making properties more resilient to flooding through the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures where possible.

Principle 17: Working with Emergency Responders

The Lead Local Flood Authority and District Councils of Devon, through their Emergency Planning services, RMAs will continue to work with Partners' emergency responders to develop plans and provide information to inform operational decisions in support of a Devon that is resilient to flooding.

Principle 18: Recording and Investigating Flood Events

Devon County Council in partnership with the Environment Agency will record local flood incidents reported through Risk Management Authorities and the public in order to build up a picture of risk for current and future work. Those that reach Devon's significance thresholds will be investigated under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act and the reports will be published online.

What we will do over the next 6 years:

Part 2 of Devon's local strategy sets out the prioritised areas to be considered within the next 6 year investment period, in line with Defra's national funding program. Here we show how communities have been prioritised and what options for investment will be considered. The annual action plan detailing specific investment will be updated each year to form Part 3 of this strategy.

To address the priority communities, a hierarchy of flood risk management measures will be used that follows the principles of promoting more sustainable natural processes in the first instance, either as sole measures or in combination with hard engineered solutions. The introduction of natural flood management measures will help to reduce the scale, or need, of hard engineered solutions. Community resilience and preparedness will always be fundamental for all communities, by managing local flood risk and preparing for future climate change impacts and adaptation.

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Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
ASA	Association of SuDS Authorities
DCC	Devon County Council
Defra	Department of Environment, Flood and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
FDGiA	Flood Defence Grant in Aid
FORT	Flood Online Reporting Tool
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
NFM	Natural Flood Management
PFR	Property Flood Resilience
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SWW	South West Water

Part 1: Strategic vision and objectives: Why we are producing this strategy

Introduction

Why Devon needs a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Devon County Council (DCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area (Figure 1). The first Local Strategy was published in 2014 and is required to be reviewed after 6 years. This document sets out our updated strategy for the period 2021-2027.

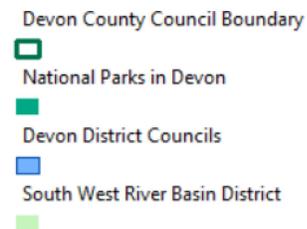


Figure 1. South West River Basin District, with Devon’s District Councils and National Parks. Devon’s LLFA area consists of the District Council areas shown.

Table 2. Historic Acts of parliament, European legislation and national policy that have influenced current flood risk policy and legislation governing this strategy.

European legislation	Acts of parliament	National Policy	Current flood risk policy
<u>EU Water Framework Directive 2000</u>		<u>The Water Environment Regulations 2017</u>	<u>River Basin Management Plans</u>
<u>EU Floods Directive 2007</u>		<u>Flood Risk Regulations 2009</u>	<u>Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments</u> <u>Flood Risk Management Plans</u>
	<u>Public Health Act 1936</u> <u>Reservoirs Act 1975</u> <u>Water Resources Act 1991</u> <u>Water Industry Act 1991</u> <u>Land Drainage Act 1991</u> <u>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</u> <u>Environment Bill 2020</u> <u>Agriculture Bill 2019-2021</u>	<u>National Planning Policy Framework 2012</u> <u>25 Year Environment Plan 2018</u> <u>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Framework</u>	Local planning policy <u>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy*</u> <u>Local Flood Risk Management Strategies*</u> *Requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 <u>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans</u>
			<u>Shoreline Management Plans</u>
	<u>Civil Contingencies Act 2004</u>		<u>Multi Agency Flood Framework</u> <u>Community Level Plans</u>

Devon County Council’s Vision for flood risk management

To be a leading authority in the management and reduction of flood risk in the County of Devon. We will work efficiently and collaboratively with our partners and engage with communities to make Devon more resilient to flooding and ready to adapt to climate change by promoting sustainable flood risk management and using natural solutions where possible. In response to the climate and ecological emergency, flood risk infrastructure will play its part in achieving a net-zero carbon Devon and protecting and enhancing the natural environment – indeed natural flood risk management solutions will be considered before hard engineering. Additionally, flood risk infrastructure will take opportunities to improve communities’ access to and enjoyment of green spaces, and to conserve and enhance local landscape and heritage assets.

Devon County Council’s objectives for flood risk management

Our objectives fall under the three high level ambitions of the [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy](#):

National Strategy Ambitions	Devon local flood risk management strategy objectives
Climate resilient places	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will reduce flood risk to properties and significant infrastructure, and enhance the local economy <i>Measured by the number of communities, properties and significant infrastructure with reduced flood risk as a result of intervention by Risk Management Authorities.</i> 2. We will co-ordinate Risk Management Authorities and encourage collaborative working <i>By the successful delivery of Devon’s Flood Risk Management Action Plan collaborated through the Devon Flood and Water Management Group</i> 3. We will protect and enhance the natural environment, landscape and heritage assets, providing opportunities for carbon storage, energy generation and access and recreation where appropriate <i>By following DCC internal environmental review processes and measuring environmental net-gain and change in the condition of heritage assets as a result of intervention by Risk Management Authorities</i> 4. We will prioritise high risk communities <i>Through our prioritisation criteria to identify at risk communities</i>
Today’s growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow’s climate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. We will influence the planning process through our role as statutory consultee <i>Measured by the volume of planning applications assessed</i> 6. We will set out a clear strategy <i>Evidenced by the production of this document</i>
A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. We will ensure the latest climate change predictions are incorporated into flood schemes and development proposals <i>By following the latest UK Climate Projections</i> 8. We will improve resilience through community engagement and education <i>Measured by the number of communities positively engaged and with emergency plans</i>

Our vision and objectives will be achieved through a series of **Devon Flood Risk Management Principles**, which can be found throughout this document. All Devon Risk Management Authorities should follow these principles

Strategic plans and assessments

25 Year Environment Plan

The government's [25 year plan to improve the environment](#) gives some direction to national and local flood risk management strategies. It recognises the implications of future climate change on flood risk and outlines sustainable measures to reduce the risk from flooding. The plan promotes expanding the use of natural flood management solutions, putting in place more sustainable drainage systems and making 'at risk' properties more resilient to flooding.

Our Local Strategy objectives align with the goals of the 25 year plan, including raising awareness of flood risk in communities and working with them to increase resilience, through increased preparedness and implementing flood alleviation schemes. It also highlights the importance of influencing decisions on land use and development, achieved through our role as a statutory consultee and through our involvement with Natural Flood Management initiatives.

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

[The National Strategy](#) has three high level, long term ambitions:

Climate resilient places; today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate and; a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change. The strategy calls for the nation to embrace a broad range of resilience actions including better protection to flooding and coastal change.

A series of medium-term strategic objectives focus on how the ambitions will be reached and a series of short-term measures outline the actions that will be taken to reach these objectives. Devon's local strategy will align with the national measures, setting out what we will aim to achieve over the next six-year investment period, as well as considering the longer-term impacts and fulfilling the national objectives and ambitions.

Climate resilient places

This high level national ambition considers ensuring places and communities are resilient to flooding now and in the future with climate change impacts. The natural, built and historic environment needs to be protected through a mix of solutions, including hard engineering, making greater use of natural flood management measures and appropriate emergency planning and adaptation plans. Innovative ways to invest in long term flood risk management are required, considering new sources of funding. Alongside these defences a wider range of actions need to take place including avoiding inappropriate development on the floodplain and following a flood event helping communities to 'build back better' so that properties are more resilient to future flooding. 'Adaptive pathways' will enable local areas to create better plans for future flooding and adapting to future climate hazards.

Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate

This considers the need for planning and development to be resilient to climate change, where strategic plans have an important role to play in long term flood resilience. This can help to protect people, infrastructure, and enhance the natural environment and local economy. Property owners should be encouraged to 'build back better' after flooding to reduce future flood damages and to enable a faster recovery in the future.

A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change

Involving individuals and communities in local decision making processes is an important part of improving resilience. Through raising awareness and ensuring the risks are better understood, communities can be better prepared for flood and coastal change and the need for possible tough decisions to be made as we adapt for the future. Devon has a role in engaging and improving communication and communities have a role to respond proactively to this engagement.

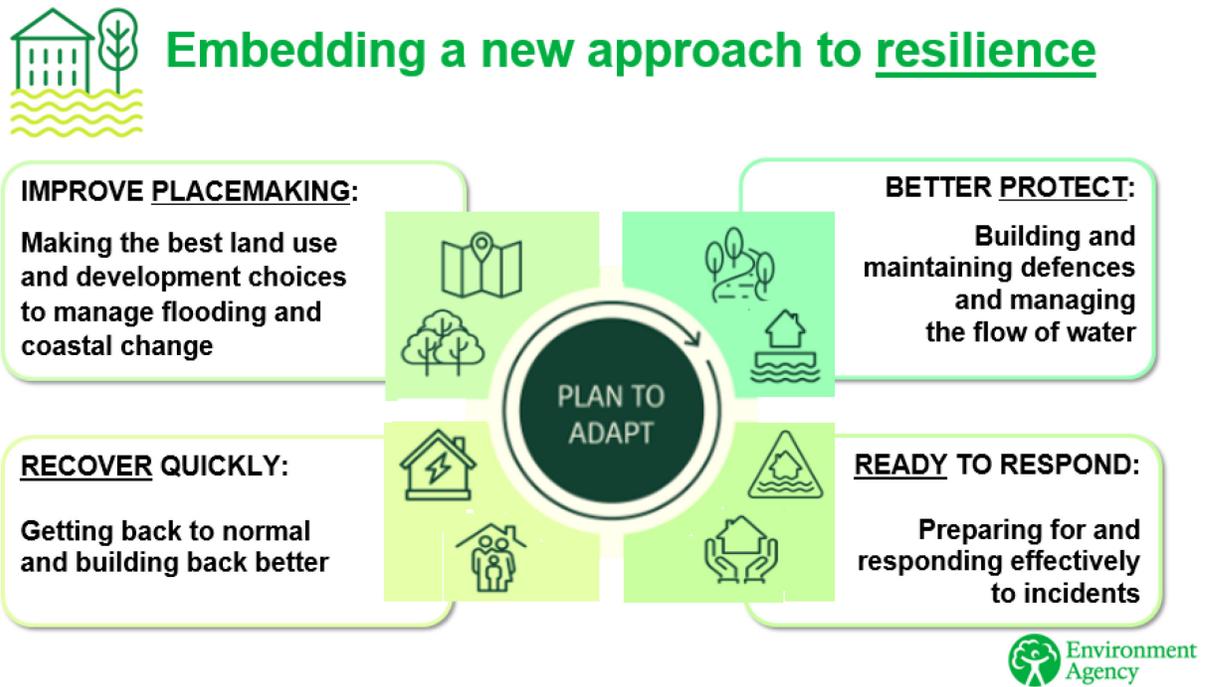


Figure 2. The different components of resilience as outlined in the national strategy

Flood Risk Management Plans

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require the production of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) to set out at a high level how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to manage flood risk. These plans are being delivered by the Environment Agency and are set at a River Basin Management Plan catchment level, of which Devon sits in the South West catchment.

The Environment Agency has delivered a series of [River Basin Management Plans](#) (RBMPs), which are a requirement of the Water Framework Directive. These plans focus on water quality and improvement, including the importance of managing flood risk, reducing pollution from runoff and increasing the use of sustainable drainage.

Devon’s local strategy will link in with the FRMP and RBMP for the South West in terms of the catchment based approach, multiple benefits to be achieved and partnership working. Devon’s High Risk Communities and annual Action Plan will be reflected in the FRMP which will bring together local investment for the South West over the 6 yearly investment programme.

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans

DWMPs provide the basis for more collaborative and integrated long-term planning by organisations that have interests and/or responsibilities relating to drainage, flooding and protection of the environment. Whilst the production of DWMPs will be led by water companies, all other Risk Management Authorities have a part to play in their creation. [Link to SWW's DWMP page]

Strategy assessments

As part of this strategy, we are required to complete a range of assessments to consider environmental, social and socio-economic impacts as options are developed for improving and managing flood risk in Devon. Therefore, this strategy is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (to ensure that this strategy will not adversely affect European protected sites) and an Equality Impact Assessment. All of which can be found in the [supporting documents](#).

Roles and Responsibilities- Who Does What?

Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) in Devon

RMAs have responsibilities for managing the risk of flooding from different sources, as summarised in Table 3 below and detailed on Devon’s Flood and Coastal Risk Management [web pages](#).

Table 3. Risk Management Authorities in Devon and flood risk source responsible for.

Risk Management Authority:	Manages flood risk from:
Lead Local Flood Authorities Devon County Council Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Councils	Ordinary Watercourses - surface water - groundwater <i>As LLFAs, Plymouth and Torbay each have their own Local Strategy</i>
District Councils of Devon East Devon District Council Exeter City Council Mid Devon District Council North Devon Council South Hams District Council Teignbridge District Council Torridge District Council West Devon Borough Council	Coastal erosion <i>Discretionary powers to carry out works on ordinary watercourses</i> <i>Managing and maintaining flood defence assets under their control</i> <i>Local Planning Authority role to manage flood risk from all sources through appropriate planning policy and guiding development (Inc National Parks for their areas)</i>
Environment Agency	Main Rivers* - the sea - reservoirs <i>Statutory advisory role for planning applications in Flood Zones for both main rivers and ordinary watercourses</i>
South West Water	Public sewers (surface water, foul and combined), manholes and covers
Highway Authorities Devon County Council Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Councils Highways England	Surface water originating on the highway
Braunton Internal Drainage Board	Ordinary Watercourses - surface water - groundwater
Others:	
Individual landowners	Surface water from own land Private sewers, drains and septic tanks <i>Watercourse maintenance/riparian responsibilities[†]</i>

*To determine if a watercourse is a Main River go to [Devon’s online Environment Viewer](#)

[†]Rights and responsibilities of land owners with watercourses can be found in Devon’s leaflet [Living With Water](#)

What DCC will do as the LLFA

- *Develop and maintain a Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management in Devon*
- *Land Drainage Consent to works on Ordinary Watercourses*
- *Enforce removal of unconsented works*
- *Maintain a freeflow of water in an Ordinary Watercourse through enforcement*
- *Develop and maintain a Register/Record of significant flood risk assets*
- *Designate structures/features with significant flood risk benefits*
- *Carry out flood investigations following significant flood events*
- *Provide comments on surface water management proposals for new major development applications as statutory consultee*

Partnership and joint working

Flood risk management in Devon involves a wide range of organisations and authorities with different roles and responsibilities, making it essential to have an effective partnership working approach. Table 4 outlines the governance structure in Devon.

Principle 1: Integrated Flood Risk Management and Partnership Working

Through collaborative working, Devon Risk Management Authorities will consider opportunities for multiple benefits and the alignment of programmes to maximise funding availability, delivering effective, consistent and integrated flood risk management.

Principle 2: Addressing the Skills Gap

Where skills gaps are identified in local flood risk management, we will seek opportunities through internships, apprenticeships and graduate programmes, in addition to specialist consultants when required.

[South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee](#) covers the LLFA areas of Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly, Torbay and Plymouth and provides a link between RMAs to understand flood and coastal erosion risks across the region and to encourage efficient, targeted risk based investment to benefit local communities. It also sets direction for the regions drainage and coastal groups.

The Devon Flood and Water Management Group provides a forum, attended by officers from all Risk Management Authorities and key stakeholders in Devon, to discuss current and future affairs and share best practice to aid the delivery of efficient and high-quality flood risk management services in Devon.

Members of the group include representatives from:

- Devon County Council (LLFA and Highway Authority representatives)
- Devon District and Unitary Councils
- Cornwall Council
- Environment Agency
- South West Water
- Highways England
- Network Rail

[Devon Community Resilience Forum](#) is supported by the Environment Agency, Devon County Council, Emergency Services and community members. It promotes and supports community resilience in Devon. More information about this valuable resource is provided under the [Community resilience and engagement](#) section.

[Association of SuDS Authorities \(ASA\)](#) is a member organisation for Local Authorities, to promote and provide national consistency on SuDS. ASAs aim is to promote and develop the use of sustainable drainage within all new developments, including:

- To share and promote good practice to enhance the effectiveness of sustainable drainage.
- To own and develop the guidance for the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- To engage with Government in developing policy and regulation for surface water management.

Table 4. Governance structure for local flood risk management in Devon.

Project board
<p>Senior users: South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee County Council Members Senior suppliers: Head of Service for Planning, Transportation and Environment and Environment Manager Executive: Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services</p>
Delivery
<p>Project assurance: DCC Place Scrutiny Committee</p> <hr/> <p>Project support: Environment Agency; District Councils; South West Water; Braunton Internal Drainage Board; Devon County Council; National Farmers Union; Planning Authorities; Emergency Planning; Highway Authority; Natural England.</p> <hr/> <p>Project manager: Flood and Coastal Risk Manager</p> <p>Flood and Coastal Risk Management Team, Linking in with specialist sub-groups and partnerships</p> <p>Specialist sub-groups: Devon Flood and Water Management Group; Devon Community Resilience Forum; External Consultants; Other project support groups</p> <p>Partnerships and informative groups: Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport Flood and Water Management Group; Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group; Association of SuDS Authorities; South West Coastal Group; South West Flood Risk Managers; Catchment Partnerships (East Devon, North Devon, Tamar and South Devon); Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Blackdown Hills, East Devon, North Devon, Tamar and South Devon).</p>

Flood risk management in Devon- What do we do?

Table 5. Processes followed in local flood risk management issues

Flood Risk Management Issue	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
Identified flood risk	Consider the source of flooding. Liaise with relevant Risk Management Authority in <u>Table 3</u>	Consider appropriate opportunities and measures for delivering flood risk management, following <u>hierarchy</u> in Part 2	Prioritise community as detailed in <u>Part 2</u> and <u>Table 7</u>	Create annual Action Plan <u>Part 3</u>
Flood event <i><u>Responding to flood events</u></i>	Understand what has happened. Does it reach the threshold for investigation? <u>Significance thresholds</u>	If yes, produce S.19 Investigation Report and recommend actions <u>Investigating flood events</u>	If no, keep details on record to feed into prioritisation in <u>Table 7</u>	Run through steps above for 'identified flood risk' in this table to consider further actions
Land drainage	Consider if the issue can be resolved by liaising with Risk Management Authority and/or landowner direct	If yes, take <u>enforcement</u> action if appropriate	If no, site visit, letter or appropriate advice to be given	If intervention required then run through steps above for 'identified flood risk' in this table
<u>Watercourse regulation</u>	Receive <u>Land Drainage Consent</u> application, enquiry or notification of activity in a watercourse.	Consider if the proposal or activity requires <u>Land Drainage Consent</u> or an <u>Environmental Permit</u>	Consult with any relevant parties, such as the Environment Agency fisheries and biodiversity experts	Process the application within 2 months or take appropriate <u>enforcement</u> action against activities contravening the Land Drainage Act 1991
Planning <i><u>Planning, development and infrastructure</u></i>	Receive consultation request from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) or direct from developer if Pre-App Request	Review surface water management proposals and provide consultation response to LPA or advice to Pre-App requestor	Have all statutory bodies required commented on flood risk aspects?	LPA to consider responses and set out any specific conditions required to satisfy flood risk and surface water management

Flood risk data

Sharing accurate and up to date flood risk information between RMAs enables us to work efficiently in assessing flood risk, developing investigation reports and creating solutions to reduce flood risk. All Devon RMAs should follow a data management plan [\(insert link when available\)](#) to ensure that data records are collected, stored and maintained appropriately, updating metadata as necessary when using Geographical Information System (GIS) data sets.

Principle 3: Improving Data Quality and Management

Devon Risk Management Authorities will keep up to date and accurate records of flood risk data and will ensure government guidance is followed on the use of geographical information and maintaining metadata, enabling efficient data use and storage, sharing with partners when appropriate.

We analyse all available flood risk data to assess specific areas for their vulnerability to flooding. This can be from individual properties up to whole Parish and Town areas. [Part 2](#) of this strategy details how this assessment process is used to prioritise the investment of flood risk management in Devon. When assessing the vulnerability of communities, future climate change impacts are also considered to ensure the level of flood protection is maintained for the design life of any improvements that are delivered.

Flood incident data

[FORT](#), the Flood Online Reporting Tool enables the collation of flooding information from the public and RMAs during and post flood event. Access is available via an open website enabling anyone affected or concerned about a current or recent flood event to report an incident. This will not generate an immediate response but will feed into our internal records that may lead to future investigation and potential investment. More information about how we use FORT can be found in [post flood event community engagement](#).

Flood risk management asset data

DCC must maintain a register of structures or features which, in the opinion of DCC are likely to have a significant effect on flood risk in its area. In addition to this a record must be kept about each of these assets, including ownership and state of repair. The register is available to view on the [Environment Viewer](#), our online mapping service, alongside other publicly available local flood risk and environmental data. This register will also record any structures or features designated, under Schedule 1 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, as a Flood Risk Feature, meaning permissions from the designating authority would then be required to carry out any works or alterations to that feature.

LLFA'S must develop and maintain a Register and Record of significant flood risk assets. They also have powers to designate structures or features with significant flood risk benefits

Principle 4: Maintaining an Asset Register and Record

Devon County Council will continue to populate its asset register with flood risk features thought to have a significant impact on flood risk, ensuring that this is up to date with national developments and guidance and that the assets recorded are used as a vital part of assessing local flood risk.

Principle 5: Designating Flood Risk Features

Devon Risk Management Authorities have the powers to designate any structures and features that are considered to affect flood risk, including those which were not necessarily designed or constructed for that purpose.

Investment and funding

Investment in flood risk management

All Risk Management Authorities in Devon have a responsibility to investigate and promote opportunities to deliver flood risk management activities that will aim to reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding. There is one main source of funding available to RMAs from the government to deliver all flood and coastal erosion risk management projects, therefore, in line with the system for national allocation of capital funding, all RMAs are encouraged to prioritise those activities using a risk-based approach. Details of how we prioritise our communities for investment and our current Action Plan is covered in [part 2](#) and [part 3](#) of this strategy.

Principle 6: Investing in Local Flood Risk Management

All Risk Management Authorities in Devon will work in partnership to deliver local flood management schemes and initiatives. An investment plan will be developed through collaborative working and will be outlined in our list of Priority Communities, the South West Flood Risk Management Plan and flood risk management measures outlined in Part 2 of this Strategy. Funding will be sought through the relevant opportunities such as FDGiA, Local Levy, local authority capital budgets and private contributions.

Principle 7: Sharing of Investment Programmes

The South West Flood Risk Management Plan will pull together the investment programs of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and signpost to more details on individual RMA action plans. The sharing of investment programmes and project plans will be encouraged between all of the RMAs, using the already established Devon Flood and Water Management Group as a forum to discuss and prioritise investment in local flood risk management.

Flood risk management funding

The main source of funding for all flood and coastal erosion risk management activity is through Defra's Flood Defence Grant in aid (FDGiA) and in most cases this requires additional partnership contributions to achieve the required funds. These can be gained from various sources including Devon County Council's allocated budget toward flood improvement measures, Local Levy which is administered by the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, contributions from other Risk Management Authorities or private contributions from local businesses or property owners benefitting from the scheme. As part of the role DCC perform, we will approach affected stakeholders in order to coordinate contributions and produce business case documents to support flood defence scheme applications.

The Defra document [Central Government Funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in England](#) provides further details on funding routes for flood risk management. **Table 6** summarises the main funding pathways.

Principle 8: Seeking additional funding

Devon Risk Management Authorities will seek additional funding from national, regional and local sources and take the opportunity to obtain funding through other government initiatives, as they arise, to implement location-specific measures identified in the Action Plan.

Table 6. Funding mechanisms available to support flood risk management works and schemes.

Main source of funding:	Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA)
Can be 'topped up' by Partnership funding:	<p>Risk Management Authorities</p> <p>Other local funding sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents Businesses Parish/Town Councils Local Enterprise Partnerships <p>Planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Infrastructure Levy Section 106 agreements
Can be supported by:	Local levy
Funding provides:	Flood risk management works and studies

Flood risk assessments and studies

Flood investigations, risk assessments and studies are the first steps in understanding the risks associated with problem areas and determining potential solutions. These should be used as tools to implement this Local Strategy and support the Annual Action Plan for flood risk management works and measures.

High level assessments feeding into the flood risk prioritisation for Devon and the South West Flood Risk Management Plan:

[Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Devon, 2011](#)

[Strategic Surface Water Management Plan for Devon, 2012](#)

Further and more detailed location specific Surface Water Management Plans and studies have subsequently been carried out in areas of Devon, identified in the above assessments as being at a high risk of flooding or as a result of major flooding incidents. These studies aim to determine hydrological and hydraulic characteristics, the main causes of flooding, and also identify any possible solutions to reduce the risk of further flooding. We will try to work to resolve all sources of flooding wherever possible and integrate the design of our schemes to minimise impact on communities and the environment. All published reports are available on our [web pages](#).

Principle 9: Flood Risk Management Studies

Devon Risk Management Authorities will continue to work in partnership and develop studies in order to better understand and reduce flood risk and improve community resilience.

Development control and infrastructure

Planning, development & infrastructure

Historically, planning regulation and building control has not always considered the impact of development on flood risk in urban and rural areas of Devon. Therefore, we are now faced with resolving some of these historic flood risk issues, such as the culverting of many rivers and ditches to allow for buildings and roads; which can restrict the flow of water and can become blocked with silt and debris. The increase in impermeable surfaces over the years has contributed to additional surface water runoff, increasing the catchment response to rainfall. Legislation is now in place to ensure that flood risk is managed as a result of new development and to provide betterment where possible.

The government's 25 year Environment Plan highlights the commitment to building more homes whilst supporting the environment, with the principle that new development should result in net environmental gain.

With the impacts of climate change, these existing issues will be exacerbated. Adaptation is essential here so that development and infrastructure planning regimes can help ensure our communities are more resilient for the future. [Current climate change predictions](#) should always be considered as part of any development proposals.

Sustainable drainage

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) manage surface water on, or as is practicably close to the ground surface, in a way that mimics natural hydrological processes. Managing surface water in this way controls the rate and quantity of surface water runoff, and importantly improves its quality, provides visual amenity and biodiversity benefits too.

The [CIRIA SuDS Manual](#) and Defra's [non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems](#) are available for guidance when designing SuDS. At Devon County Council we also promote our own [guidance](#) to developers to incorporate the multiple benefits of SuDS.

Principle 10: Encourage Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

All Risk Management Authorities in Devon will encourage the use of SuDS and promote the benefits, such as improving water quality, biodiversity and amenity, channeled throughout various groups, development management and through advice on Local Authority Core Strategies, development plans and policies. Devon County Council will give guidance to Planning Authorities and the development industry as a Statutory Consultee, fulfilling a duty to check and approve sustainable drainage system designs for major developments.

Devon Case study: Sustainable Drainage Systems – Redhayes Tithebarn Green Corridor

This residential development in East Devon is drained into a series of cascading attenuation basins which form a green corridor dissecting the development. During rainfall events, the basins fill up and provide storage for runoff from the roads and houses at the development. The basins are designed to be multi-functional as they provide habitat creation benefitting local wildlife and biodiversity. Furthermore, they provide benefits to water quality with the runoff being treated as it passes through the cascading system. This example of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) also provides amenity value to the residents as seating areas have been installed so people can admire the open space. The green corridor cascading basins clearly fulfil all the four pillars of SuDS: water quality, water quantity, amenity and biodiversity. In addition, signage adjacent to the basins provides engagement with the local community and opportunities for education.



Community signage explaining the functionality of the basins



Detention basin with planting



Inlet at detention basin

National planning policy for flood risk management

[The National Planning Policy Framework](#) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. [The Flood risk and coastal change planning practice guidance](#) should be followed to achieve the national policies.

The duty of local authorities and risk management authorities to cooperate in relation to the planning of sustainable development and the exercise of their flood risk management functions appears across several acts of parliament and legislation. As stated in the National Planning Policy Framework, public bodies have a duty to cooperate on planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. This particularly highlights strategic priorities such as infrastructure for flood risk and climate change mitigation. Devon has its own [Duty to Cooperate Protocol](#).

Local planning roles in flood risk management

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) determine minor developments where the LLFA and Environment Agency are not statutory consultees. The cumulative flood risk impact of these developments is an important consideration. They must also ensure sequential development to help steer it towards areas

with low risk of flooding, as well as considering safe access and egress from sites with flood evacuation and warning plans. Online guidance is available on [flood risk emergency plans for new development](#).

LPAs also prepare Local Plans to provide a strategic vision for development, addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities. Sustainable drainage is a requirement of Local Plans in Devon and should be considered at the earliest opportunity in any development, so there is space for water and that SuDS are appropriately integrated at individual sites and strategically.

Neighbourhood planning is led by Town or Parish Councils and gives communities direct power to help shape development in their local area through a Neighbourhood Plan. This should meet local needs whilst aligning with strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area, including flood risk considerations.

The Environment Agency is a statutory consultee on all planning applications within Flood Zones 2 and 3. They provide detailed flood risk technical advice on applications and associated Flood Risk Assessments, so that the LPA can make informed decisions. They support the LPA on the application of the national planning policy framework guidance on flood risk, coastal change and climate change. They also ensure that developments do not negatively impact Flood Defences, Main Rivers and the wider environment through the planning and permitting systems. They also provide a pre application service to developers to help avoid delays at the planning application stage.

Through their Strategic Overview role, they contribute to the product of sustainable Local Plans and development management policies, ensuring they are compatible with national flood risk strategies (e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans & Shoreline Management Plans).

Devon County Council is a statutory consultee for all major planning applications in Devon regarding the provision of surface water management and we promote our own [guidance](#) for developers to follow, in addition to providing technical advice to LPAs to help them make informed decisions. Outside of our statutory role, we offer a [pre-application advice](#) service, designed to streamline the application process for everyone involved.

As the LLFA, Devon County Council also contributes to the preparation of strategic planning policy, helping to embed sustainable flood risk management considerations from the start of the planning process (such as Local Plans) and that there is a consistent flood risk message across Devon. This also includes influencing policy and development management to support DCCs role as a Minerals & Waste Planning Authority.

Water and sewerage companies are not statutory consultees. However, the Codes for Adoption are outlined in the [Water UK's new Sewer Sector Guidance](#). English water and sewerage companies will be able to adopt a wide range of sewer types, including those with sustainable elements. Only certain types

As a LLFA, DCC provides comments on surface water management proposals for new major development applications as a statutory consultee

of SuDS components are sewers and are therefore adoptable, and so early consultation between developers and the sewerage company is recommended. In Devon this will be South West Water

Green Infrastructure

Devon County Council promotes its own [Green infrastructure Strategy](#) (as do many individual District Councils). The guiding principles promotes a joined-up approach to planning and delivery of green infrastructure across local authority boundaries as part of sustainable development delivery. Flood risk management and green infrastructure should be considered together as part of a greater emphasis on place making and design in developments, achieving multiple benefits (e.g. Garden Communities agenda).

Highway infrastructure

The Highway Authorities (Devon County Council and Highways England) must ensure that roads are maintained in such a way so as to ensure the risk associated with surface water on the highway is kept to an acceptable level.

With an extensive network of roads and drainage within the County, Devon County Council's highway gully cleaning strategy is based on increased frequencies for rural gullies over urban locations. In addition those locations with known problems are also visited more frequently.

See the responsibility of Highway Authorities for surface water flooding on the highway in Table 3.

New highway developments

As with all developments, new highway developments and schemes must adhere to planning regulation and ensure that any extra surface water generated will not increase flood risk, by providing sufficient and sustainable drainage systems.

Transport planning and networks

To meet the needs of the people now and in the future, the transport system must support and assist economic development and growth and enable safe, sustainable travel. The transport network must also be resilient to the future impacts of climate change at the local and strategic levels. This requires flood risk from all sources to be taken into account so that transport networks can be planned appropriately to be resilient to the increasing flood risk and key links maintained during flood conditions.

Devon County Council Highways operates a resilient network, a high priority highway network regularly reviewed to ensure connectivity across the County is maintained and resilient to impacts such as adverse weather and the increasing severity with future climate change.

Railway infrastructure

Network Rail is responsible for maintaining the railway network across Devon and owns many flood risk assets, such as culverts, sea defences and storage lagoons. As the landowner where structures and watercourses are located, Network Rail has the responsibility to maintain these as any other riparian landowner would, keeping culverts and ditches clear so as not to increase flood risk and enable flow to freely pass through the railway embankments.

Network Rail is also a key stakeholder in the development of major flood improvements, particularly where the current and future flood risk has an impact on the railway.

Regulation of works on watercourses

Works in, or close to watercourses designated as a Main River are regulated by the Environment Agency through the [Flood Risk Activities Environmental Permits](#) process. All other watercourses are classified as ordinary watercourses and these are regulated by Devon County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority through [Land Drainage Consents](#). Failure to obtain the relevant consent may involve a notice being served for the removal of any structure if it is deemed to increase flood risk and the legislation does not provide the opportunity for retrospective consent. Enforcement powers are also available to ensure that obstructions are removed in order to maintain a freeflow of water. These regulations under the [Land Drainage Act 1991](#) are in place to ensure that there is no increase in flood risk and to minimise impacts on people and the environment.

As LLFA, DCC provide Land Drainage Consent to works on ordinary watercourses and have powers to maintain a free flow of water in an ordinary watercourse through enforcement



Devon County Council (as do the Environment Agency) has a strict [culverting policy](#), where they are permitted for essential access purposes only. Devon County Council has also made available good practice guidance for when working on watercourses, available as [supporting documents](#) to this strategy.

Riparian landowners, i.e. where a watercourse flows through or adjacent to their land, have duties and responsibilities to receive and pass on a flow of water in its natural state without undue interference in quantity or quality. More information is available on [owning a watercourse](#) and DCCs [Living with Water](#) leaflet. Landowners are also responsible for the drainage of surface water on their land in such a way so as to not cause nuisance to others and must accept natural land drainage from higher land.

Principle 11: Consenting to works on Ordinary Watercourses

Devon County Council will regulate works on ordinary watercourses, ensuring that any activity will not increase flood risk and will encourage sustainable measures and methods in doing so. This will be in line with the regulation of main rivers by the Environment Agency maintaining a consistent approach across Devon.

Climate change, adaptation and natural, sustainable solutions

Natural Flood Management and sustainability

Natural Flood Management (NFM) is the implementation of nature based solutions which help to alleviate the risk of flooding. To support this strategy DCC has produced a guidance document [\(insert link when available\)](#) for Devon, to guide and inform landowners engaged with managing flood risk. Further guidance is available online, providing information on the evidence behind NFM: [Working with Natural Processes – Evidence Directory](#) and where to find opportunities for maximising the benefits of NFM through the [Working With Natural Processes mapping tool](#).

This strategy document not only sets out the strategy for reducing flood risk in Devon, but encourages it is done in a sustainable way that will minimise the negative impacts on the natural, built and historic environment. It also seeks to achieve wider improvements where possible, taking into account mitigation against the effects of climate change. Through NFM, sustainable land management, investment in natural capital and opportunities for net gain and biodiversity enhancements should be sought and delivered to achieve multiple benefits for Devon’s communities and natural environment. This is an essential part of a resilient future, as hard defences alone cannot protect us from the changes we will face this century.

Principle 12: Natural Flood Management

Risk Management Authorities should prioritise natural flood management measures (where appropriate) in all flood investigations and improvement projects, either as sole measures or in combination with hard engineering solutions, including supporting NFM initiatives throughout Devon. We will promote sustainable land management which seeks reduced rates and volumes of surface runoff, erosion and sediment transport by promoting education and awareness campaigns as part of community engagement projects.

To achieve sustainable flood risk management, an internal DCC environmental review process is followed. This will identify the likely negative and positive effects of any flood alleviation works, schemes and studies so that appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures can be incorporated into the design at an early stage. By following this process we will enhance Devon’s valuable agricultural land and incorporate its exceptional landscapes, biodiversity, cultural and historic environment and natural resources.

Devon Case study: Natural flood management – Ottery St. Mary

Working with the East Devon Catchment Partnership, DCC investigated the significant surface water flow paths that exacerbated the existing surface water and Main River flood risk within the town.

Given the significant investment by the Environment Agency in previous years to mitigate the risk from Main River flooding, the decision was made that DCC should instead focus on an approach that utilised Natural Flood Management techniques to reduce peak flow heading into the catchment.

Multiple interventions were identified ranging from improvements soil husbandry, installations of leaky woody dams and re-establishing a wooded pond to not only give flood risk benefits, but also biodiversity and amenity value. The works were completed in March 2020.



Surface water entering Ottery St Mary



Pond area post clearance and woody dam installation



Pond area in flood

Principle 13: Sustainable Management of Local Flood Risk

We will reduce the risk of flooding to property and significant infrastructure to enable resilient economic activity that provides for communities' needs whilst conserving, enhancing and providing access to Devon's natural environment, green spaces, landscapes and heritage assets and demonstrating progress towards net-zero carbon emissions from LFRMS activity by 2050 to contribute to Devon's response to the climate and environmental emergency.

Climate change and adaptation

We recognise that flood risk to property and infrastructure is increasing as a result of climate change, and will seek to proactively manage this with relevant partners, in a way that is underpinned by appropriate science; in particular catchment hydrology, the latest climate change projections and local expertise and knowledge specific to our context in Devon.

[Current climate change predictions](#) are always considered in any flood risk study, catchment modelling and in our role as statutory consultee for all major planning applications.

Devon County Council (along with other Devon RMAs) has declared a climate emergency and has committed to facilitating the reduction of Devon's carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest and has collaborated with other organisations in Devon to implement a response to the [Devon Climate Emergency](#).

Principle 14: Adapting to Climate Change

Devon Risk Management Authorities must use the latest UK Climate Projections to make resilient flood risk management decisions for the effects of climate change. This may lead to difficult choices about the future protection of property and infrastructure.

Increasing community resilience and awareness

Community resilience and engagement

With increasing flood risk and climate change predictions for the future, it is important that our communities are resilient to the resulting impacts. A resilient community should be aware of the risks and be prepared, with precautionary measures in place to limit potential damages. In terms of flood risk this could include any flood warnings or emergency plans in place. Communities can help to improve their resilience by setting up local flood groups and becoming flood wardens. They must also be prepared for adapting their way of life to accommodate some impacts of future climate change and understand where tough decisions may have to be made. The Environment Agency, Devon County Council and District level Emergency Planning also have a role to support communities in raising awareness, becoming resilient and adapting for the future.

Help and guidance is available for local communities from the [Devon Community Resilience Forum](#), which is supported by the Environment Agency, Devon County Council, Emergency Services and community members. Facilitated by the charity Devon Communities Together, the forum supports communities to build their resilience. It provides a platform for professional and peer to peer and support online and through regular forum events. Help is also available to develop community emergency plans; a document that guides community response in an emergency and helps communities to prepare.



Community emergency plans are not only invaluable to local residents and groups but can also be uploaded to a secure website where they can be viewed by the emergency services. If there is an emergency in your community they will be able to view your plan and understand how the community may already be responding, where there is high risk, and what resources the community has. View a map of current [Devon communities with completed plans](#).

The Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly [Multi Agency Flood Framework](#) sets out the principles that govern the multi-agency response to a significant flood incident. The purpose of the Framework should not be confused with the purpose of this strategy and should be used in conjunction with this document as it contains important and relevant information for an emergency flooding situation.

Devon Case study: Community Resilience – Lymptone Flood Resilience Group

Lymptone Village is situated in East Devon on the eastern shore of the Exe Estuary. With a long history of flooding, Lymptone Flood Resilience Group was formed by existing flood wardens in 2017 due to growing concerns about the combined risk of tidal, fluvial and surface water flooding.

The Group established the *Lymptone Flood Risk Management Project* in 2018 with the support of the Environment Agency. The project has a Steering Group including representatives of all of the flood risk management authorities and the Parish Council, with objectives to gain a more accurate understanding of the flood risk, and ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to minimise the risk - using a combination of prevention, protection and preparedness measures.

Progress to date includes:

- Development of an integrated hydraulic model for Lymptone (funded by the Environment Agency), completion 2021
- Investigation of surface water runoff from the rural catchment and NFM opportunities (funded by DCC and East Devon District Council's Parishes Together and Communities Together Funds)
- Investigation of flood hotspots and working with partners to tackle the priorities
- Review of existing flood defences to strengthen them where feasible
- Increase in the number of flood wardens (now totalling 24), and strengthening of the preparedness and response procedures
- Promoting awareness among local property developers

Key success factors of the project:

- Strong partnership approach
- Holistic strategy with a strong project plan to drive and monitor practical action.



Exe Estuary



Lymptone flood warden operating flood gate



River level monitoring

Principle 15: Raising Awareness and Improving Communication and Involvement

Through the collaboration with other Risk Management Authorities and the Devon Community Resilience Forum, all Partners will work together towards raising public awareness (including those that are most vulnerable such as the elderly, young children, those living with a disability or living in areas of deprivation) about flood risk and the roles of the Risk Management Authorities, providing clear and up to date information.

Flood forecasting and warnings



Flood forecasting is undertaken by the Flood Forecasting Centre, a partnership between the Met Office and the Environment Agency. Flood guidance statements are regularly sent out to Risk Management Authorities when the risk of flooding is increased. [The Multi-Agency Flood Framework](#) details sources of flooding and how the risk of these are communicated.

In England and Wales the Environment Agency operates a flood warning service in areas at risk of flooding generally from Main Rivers or the sea. Using the latest available technology, Environment Agency staff monitor rainfall, river levels and sea conditions 24 hours a day and use this information to forecast the possibility of flooding. [Find out more and sign up for flood warnings in the Devon area.](#)

Self help measures

In the event of a flood warning or imminent flood, property owners may find themselves in a position where action must be taken by them to defend their property. Help will not always be immediately available from the authorities and residents at risk must be prepared to put resilience measures in place to protect their homes and businesses. View [flood risk maps](#) to find out if you are at risk of flooding.

Sandbags

No authorities are responsible for the provision of sandbags, however, some District Councils and Parish or Town Councils do provide sandbags to protect homes and property. This level of service differs across the County. Details of the service available in specific areas can be found on the [Devon County Council website](#) and on individual authority websites.

It should also be noted that the Fire and Rescue Service do not have a statutory responsibility to protect property from flooding; **it is the responsibility of the property owner to prepare their properties with the necessary flood resilience measures in advance of any storm event.**

Further guidance is available on the [use of sandbags](#).

Property Flood Resilience (PFR)

Property owners need to be proactive in obtaining resilience measures and where appropriate more robust products such as flood gates and flood doors. There are many types of these alternative products available depending on the nature of the flooding and requirements of temporary defences. Further information on these products is available from the [National Flood Forum](#) and the [Blue Pages](#) directory.

For support with obtaining PFR measures on your home, DCC's bespoke [Property Flood Resilience funding scheme](#) is available for those living in properties at risk of flooding. This scope of funding will include an initial survey of the property to identify the required resilience measures that can then be procured and installed.



Principle 16: Property Flood Resilience

When wider flood alleviation schemes for a community or individual property are not viable or able to be delivered in the foreseeable future, Risk Management Authorities will remain committed to making properties more resilient to flooding through the installation of Property Flood Resilience measures where possible.

Who to contact about flooding

Your guide on who to call

If it is an **emergency** and there is danger to life as a result of flooding you should not hesitate to call **999**

To report flooding of the highway and blocked drains contact Devon County Council's Highway Customer Service Centre on **0345 155 1004** or [report a problem online](#). Office hours are Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturdays 9am – 1pm. For emergencies outside of these hours call **0345 155 1008**

For any flooding on major trunk roads (the M5 A30, A38, A35 and A303) contact the Highways Agency on **0300 123 5000** (24 hour service)

To report flooding from sewers and water pipes contact South West Water on **0344 346 2020** (24 hour service)

For enquiries about flood warnings contact the Environment Agency's Floodline on **0345 988 1188** (24 hour service)

For general queries about Main River or flooding from the sea contact the Environment Agency on **03708 506 506**, email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk or visit www.gov.uk/environment-agency

For all other flooding queries contact Devon County Council Flood Risk Management Team on **01392 383000** (ask for 'flood risk'), email floodrisk@devon.gov.uk or visit www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement

Preparing for a flood

Please refer to Devon County Council and Environment Agency web pages for advice on what to do before, during and after a flood.

In the first instance of local flooding and sandbag requests contact your local District Council or Parish Council to determine the availability of sandbags in your area.

Responding to flood events

When a flood event occurs, it is immediately followed by an emergency response and then recovery phase. There are many roles involved in this process, covered by the Emergency services, Environment Agency and local authorities. Details of this are included in the [Multi-Agency Flood Framework](#). As LLFA,

DCC's Flood & Coastal Risk Management team becomes involved at the recovery phase, through recovery coordination, community engagement and investigation.

The response phase encompasses the decisions and actions taken to deal with the immediate effects of an emergency. At a high level the response will be to protect life, contain and mitigate the impacts of the emergency and create the conditions for a return to normality. In many scenarios it is likely to be relatively short and to last for a matter of hours or days.

LLFA's must carry out flood investigations following significant flood events

The recovery phase can start at or shortly after the declaration of a major incident and may take months or even years to complete. It should be an integral part of the response from the beginning, as actions taken during the response phase can influence the longer-term outcomes for a community.

The Devon Flood Recovery Coordination Group may be formed during a major flood event. Once there is no longer threat to life and property and the response phase is complete, the responsibility for

Principle 17: Working with Emergency Responders

The Lead Local Flood Authority and District Councils of Devon, through their Emergency Planning services, will continue to work with Partners' emergency responders to develop plans and provide information to inform operational decisions in support of a Devon that is resilient to flooding.

coordination of multi-agency recovery will transfer from the Police to a local authority. This process is detailed in the [Multi-Agency Flood Framework](#) and the [Combined Agency Emergency Response Protocol](#). Typical members of this group are the Environment Agency, emergency services, District Councils, South West Water, Network Rail and Highways England (when disruption to the trunk road and rail network) and other utilities when appropriate. Devon County Council also has a role on the recovery group as a [Category 1 Responder](#), Lead Local Flood Authority and Highways Authority.

Post flood event community engagement

Following any flood event, we will engage with relevant District Councils, Risk Management Authorities, local Parish and Town Councils and community members to gather information. This information is shared with other agencies to determine the extent of impact.



Information is sometimes gathered through local community events where members of the public can 'drop in' to supply details on flooded properties.

Details of flood events can be submitted anytime via the [Flood Online Reporting Tool](#).

Investigating flood events

Gathering information on flood events is important so that we can build up a picture of flood risk in Devon and determine the causes and possible solutions. As an LLFA DCC have a duty to investigate significant flood events. For those flood events that reach our significance thresholds in **Table 6** investigation reports and recommended actions will be published on our [website](#). These reports together with an accurate database of flood events across Devon assists us with prioritising and investing in flood risk management measures. See [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) of this strategy for more details.

Principle 18: Recording and Investigating Flood Events

Devon County Council in partnership with the Environment Agency will record local flood incidents reported through Risk Management Authorities and the public in order to build up a picture of risk for current and future work. Those that reach Devon’s significance thresholds will be investigated under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act and the reports will be published online.

Table 7. Flooding significance thresholds

Investigation reports under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act will be considered by DCC for events with a significance threshold level of:

- 5 or more residential properties internally flooded (in one area, e.g. one street)
- 2 or more commercial properties internally flooded.
- Critical infrastructure affected (e.g. roads or rail links closed).
- Critical services affected.

OR if the above criteria are not met:

- History of repeated flooding. The frequency of flooding greater than 3 occurrences of internal property flooding within 5 years or similar frequency felt to be significant.
- The incident is part of a widespread flood event.
- The vulnerable are particularly at risk, such as the elderly, young children, those living with a disability or living in areas of deprivation.
- Significant negative impact on the natural environment.

Reviewing the strategy

Parts 1 and 2 of this strategy document will be reviewed in line with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and 6 year investment cycle. Therefore, it is anticipated that this document will be reviewed in 2027. We will maintain this strategy throughout the 6 year period to

ensure the embedded links and signposting are to the most up to date and relevant guidance/policies. Part 3 of this strategy, the Action Plan will be continually updated as priorities and funding opportunities change and improvements are delivered, most likely on an annual basis.

Performance evaluation

In order to measure the performance of flood risk management in Devon and the effectiveness of this Strategy, the Action Plan will be monitored. Progress can be measured by monitoring the number of properties that are no longer in areas classed as at high risk or those that are at lower risk than before, as a result of flood alleviation measures put in place as recommended in the Action Plan.

Since the first publication of our Local Strategy in 2014, flood risk management measures implemented as a result of our investment program and action plan, have resulted in the reduction in flood risk to over 750 properties from schemes delivered by DCC and a further 6124 properties where DCC have provided significant financial contributions towards schemes delivered by others. In addition to this, over 80 community emergency plans have been registered and uploaded to the Devon Community Resilience Forum.

Part 2: Priority Communities and Investment- What will we do and how?

Part 2 of Devon’s local strategy looks ahead over the next investment period of 2021-2027, in line with the national funding program. Here we show how this work is prioritised, including the current priority communities.

How communities are prioritised

Prioritising communities at risk of flooding for investment is a challenging task for Devon. There are a number of factors that must be considered, which need to be carefully balanced with potential opportunities, such as working in partnership with others to realign programmes and maximise funding sources.

We use a GIS tool (**Figure 3**) to analyse our spatial flood risk data and assess the vulnerability to flooding of Parish and Town areas, following the prioritisation criteria in **Table 7**. This high level analysis provides an indicative level of risk, which can then be considered by DCCs Flood and Coastal Risk Management team alongside local knowledge and ‘quick win’ opportunities.

This process drives the compilation of the priority communities identified in this part of the strategy and furthermore to the action plan in Part 3.

Figure 3. Example output from DCCs GIS flood risk analysis tool

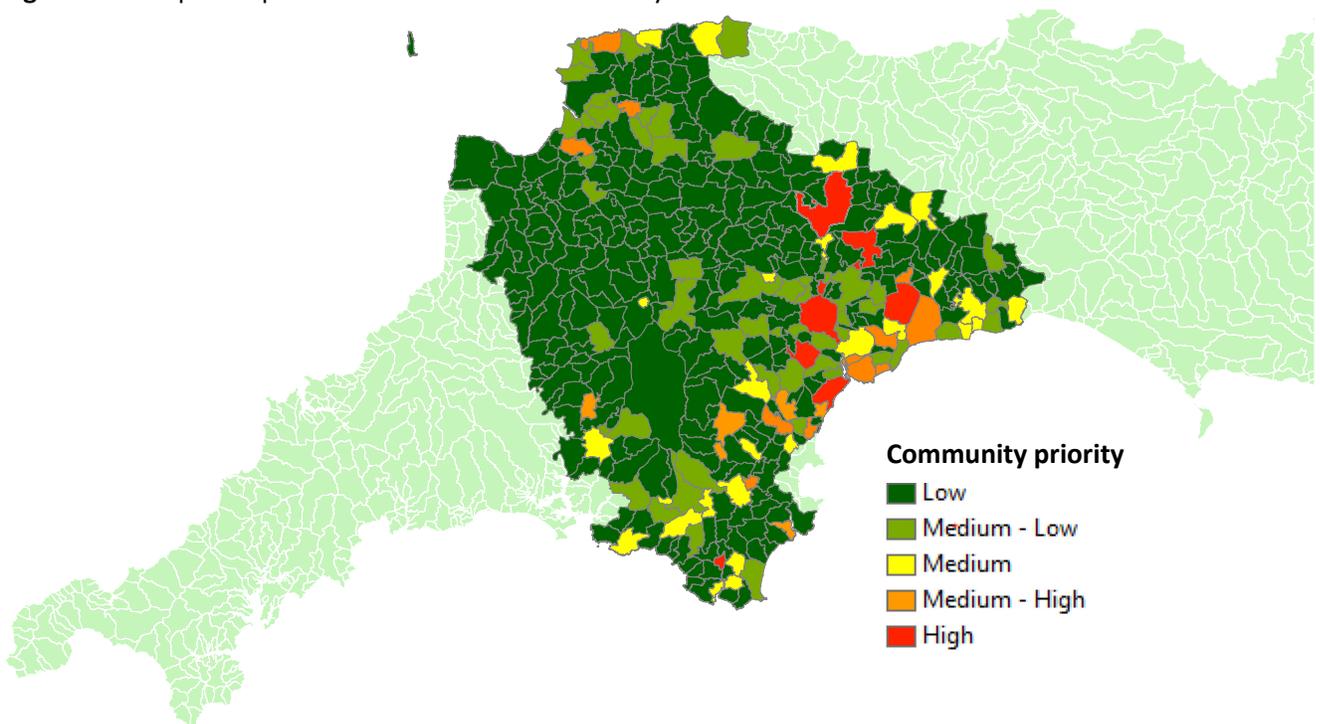


Table 8. Criteria used for GIS analysis to prioritise communities and Devon’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan

- Number of properties affected or at high risk in any one community
- Frequency of flooding to that community
- Depth/Severity of flooding experienced or at high risk
- Risk to life (particularly the vulnerable such as the elderly, young children, those living with a disability or in areas of deprivation)
- Impact on, or high risk of disruption to critical infrastructure
- Impact on, or high risk of disruption to businesses and services, especially essential services such as health, education, emergency services
- Impact on, or high risk of impact on the Environment
- Sufficient Cost-Benefit ratio and robust business case.

The specific order of the criteria does not reflect the weighting attached to each. In particular, the risk to life is shown beneath three other criteria, as it is directly influenced by them.

Prioritisation is subject to change as a result of any new data on flooding events.

This is an ongoing assessment and will always consider the most up to date climate change allowances as part of supporting modelling information

Devon’s priority communities

Devon’s priority communities, listed in Table 9 below and on our [online map](#), are to be considered for investigation and potential investment over the next 6 years. The annual action plan of investment is covered in Part 3 of this strategy. This prioritised list however, will be subject to change, depending on further flood events and changes in funding levels and opportunities for aligning with other Risk Management Authority or key stakeholder programmes and/or other funding initiatives.

It should also be noted that other Devon communities not included here may be known to have significant flood risk but from a source managed by another RMA. For example, the Environment Agency would carry out investigations and improvement works for a community at risk of flooding from the sea or a main river, such as Barnstaple or Bishop’s Tawton.

These priority communities are Devon’s highest priorities as the LLFA and this section needs to be read in conjunction with the South West Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) which will outline the priorities of all other RMAs in the South West. Our priority community list will inform the FRMP and database which sits at a River Basin Management Plan level.

Table 9. Devon’s priority community list*

Priority	Community	Source of flood risk to be addressed	Potential partner authorities	Flood Risk Area in South West Flood Risk Management Plan
High	Exeter	surface water	Exeter City Council, South West Water (SWW), Network Rail (NR), Environment Agency (EA)	Flood Risk Area
High	Kingsbridge	surface water	South Hams District Council (SHDC), SWW, EA	
High	Tiverton	surface water	Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), SWW, EA	Flood Risk Area
High	Dawlish	surface water	Teignbridge DC, SWW, EA	Flood Risk Area
Medium high	Teignmouth	surface water	Teignbridge DC, SWW, NR, EA	
Medium high	Exmouth	surface water	East Devon District Council (EDDC), SWW, EA	Flood Risk Area
Medium high	Newton Abbot	surface water	Teignbridge DC, SWW, EA	Flood Risk Area
Medium high	Seaton	surface water	EDDC, EA	
Medium high	Kingsteignton	surface water	Teignbridge DC, SWW	
Medium high	Totnes	surface water	SHDC, SWW, EA	
Medium high	Bideford	surface water	Torrige DC, SWW, EA	
Medium high	Ilfracombe	surface water	North Devon Council, SWW, EA	Flood Risk Area
Medium high	Budleigh Salterton	surface water ordinary watercourse	EDDC, EA	
Medium high	Sidmouth	surface water	EDDC, SWW	
Medium	Crediton	surface water	MDDC, SWW	
Medium	Okehampton	surface water	West Devon Borough Council, SWW	

* This list is not exhaustive and only shows the high level priorities within the LLFA’s remit of flooding from groundwater, surface water and ordinary watercourse. Other sources of flooding will be managed and prioritised by the relevant authority Small scale works and flood schemes may be taken forward in other communities where opportunities arise.

Economic analysis of Devon's priority communities

Following the review undertaken in our GIS flood risk analysis tool and the resulting priority communities currently identified in Table 8, we will then undertake a high level economic analysis to identify the potential level of economic damages that would result from a flood event, as well as the potential level of central government funding that could be sought from Defra's Flood Defence Grant in Aid fund to help develop and deliver the works.

The outcomes of this will determine the level of investigation that can be justified as part of a potential scheme whilst considering cost benefit implications and management of expectations within the community at risk.

For example; if its determined that a specific location is unlikely to generate significant levels of central government funding, then we may decide to undertake a smaller desktop study with the potential of maximizing local funding opportunities to progress the scheme delivery in-house to ensure that costs are kept to an acceptable level as to not negatively impact the cost benefit of the potential works.

If it is decided through the initial economic analysis that significant external funding could be made available to support a larger scheme, then we will engage with specialist consultants to investigate and model the source of risk, as well as identify potential options to mitigate the risk, with the process being project managed by FRM staff.

Once a viable, cost effective and beneficial solution has been identified a business case is produced and submitted in line with Treasury and [Defra requirements for RMA business case templates](#). Success at this stage will result in the project being progressed to construction and delivery.

Measures for delivering local flood risk management

For our priority communities, a wide range of measures should be considered that best manage the risk in the short, medium and longer term. Collaborative working should be encouraged between Risk Management Authorities, aligning programmes to maximise funding opportunities.

Possible flood risk management measures will generally fall into one of the categories below in Table 10, where the general hierarchy listed shows how these measures should be approached. The hierarchy follows the principles of starting with increasing a community's preparedness for flooding and increasing resilience, through to implementing physical flood defence measures.

Resilience is fundamental for all communities, to manage local flood risk and be prepared for future climate change impacts. The physical measures should prioritise more sustainable natural processes in the first instance, either as sole measures or in combination with hard engineered solutions. Hard engineering measures should be considered when natural solutions alone will not adequately protect a community to the required level. All these measures combined will seek to enhance the natural environment and local economy and help build community resilience.

Table 10. Flood risk management measures hierarchy	
<p>Being prepared and increasing resilience</p> <p><i>For all Devon communities</i></p>	<p>Community resilience measures: Engaging with communities directly and through the Devon Community Resilience Forum to raise awareness of flood risk and encourage the setting up of local flood action groups and development of emergency plans to increase resilience. These measures should always be a part of any community at risk, even when other interventions are in place.</p> <p>Emergency planning measures: Flood warnings and flood action plans can be used to improve community preparedness and resilience to flooding. Support from the Devon Community Resilience Forum is available for communities.</p> <p>Riparian landowner maintenance: Members of the public who own land adjacent to watercourses have riparian responsibilities and therefore a duty to maintain their section of watercourse to ensure there is no impediment of flow. See DCC’s guide ‘Living with Water’</p> <p>Making Policy: Policies can be made to direct spatial planning or to set standards for development that will help reduce further flood risk.</p>
<p>Measures and actions</p> <p><i>In Devon’s high risk communities</i></p>	<p>Natural Flood Management measures: Implementation of natural measures which help to alleviate the risk of flooding to property and significant infrastructure, either as sole measures or in combination with hard engineering solutions. Managing water in the upper catchments will help to reduce and slow the flows downstream minimising the risk to property and the level of any hard engineering defences that may be required.</p> <p>Retrofitting Sustainable Drainage Systems: Installation of sustainable drainage systems in urban areas to manage surface water and remove it from traditional piped drainage systems.</p> <p>Delivery of early intervention schemes: A solution that can be implemented relatively quickly by the Risk Management Authorities or Local Authority at relatively low cost.</p> <p>Community action: Some cases can be successful when community groups join forces and deliver and maintain their own local schemes. In some cases this may generate further contributions from local levy or the Lead Local Flood Authority.</p> <p>Further investigation/research: Further investigations such as catchment studies and hydrological/hydraulic assessments to understand the flow rates and directional paths and evaluate the extent of flooding. These would provide evidence for future capital investment.</p> <p>Development of future schemes: Where immediate action is not financially viable or a solution not readily available then a larger scale flood alleviation scheme may be required. In such cases national funding would need to be secured together with additional contributions from others, such as local levy, local authorities and other third parties. This is likely to require hard engineered improvements, however Natural Flood Management measures must also be considered and delivered where possible.</p> <p>Property Flood Resilience: Resilience measures at a property level such as flood doors, gates and air bricks can be installed to increase the resilience of individual homes and businesses. This option is often chosen as the last line of defence where any potential for a larger flood alleviation scheme will not be viable or delivered in the foreseeable future.</p>

Devon Case study: Modbury flood alleviation scheme

Following significant flooding of Modbury in 2012, DCC set out to investigate the sources of flooding and subsequently identifying solutions to reduce the flood risk. Working with our strategic partner South West Water, an hydraulic model was produced to investigate the risk of surface water, watercourse and sewer flooding.



Completed earth dam upstream of Modbury

Working within Defra’s Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding formula, DCC developed a scheme that would benefit the community from all three sources of flood risk. The scheme consisted of three large earth dams, interception ditches and improvements to the highway drainage network.

The scheme constructed in 2018/19 is now fully operational and gives a standard of protection to 80 residential and commercial properties against the 1 in 100 year flood event.



July 2012 flooding in Modbury (Robin Chambers)



July 2012 flooding in Modbury (Robin Chambers)

Part 3: Annual action plan: What, when and where?

Once communities are prioritised and funding is either secured or being sourced, areas of investment, such as investigation, design or scheme delivery that are to be progressed will be recorded on Devon's Action Plan which accompanies this Strategy, thus providing a holistic view of the current and ongoing investment programme for Devon.

The strategy's annual Action Plan will be continually developed to highlight the improvement works currently being progressed by DCC. It will consider measures listed in Part 2, from catchment wide schemes and studies down to individual property flood resilience measures.

View Devon's Annual Action Plan [tables](#) and [map](#)

Part 4 –Supporting documents

In addition to this main strategy document, there are several supporting documents which provide more information, including Devon’s priority communities and action plan for Part’s 2 and 3, statutory assessments to go alongside this strategy and Devon County Council best practice guidance and policies for flood risk management activities.

[Action plan](#)

[Devon’s priority communities](#) (interactive map)

[SEA](#) (Consultation draft available on consultation web pages)

HRA (Not yet available)

Equality impact assessment (Not yet available)

Natural flood management guidance (Not yet available)

[Land management guidance](#)

[Managing land to reduce flood risk – guidance leaflet](#)

[Sustainable Drainage Systems: Guidance for Devon](#)

[Devon County Council culvert policy](#)

Working on ordinary watercourses good practice guidance:

[Bank works guidance](#)

[Bridges on watercourses guidance](#)

[Culverts guidance](#)

[Surface water outfalls guidance](#)

Data Management Plan (Not yet available)

ENVIRONMENT PDG 8 SEPTEMBER 2020:

PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

Cabinet Members Cllr Luke Taylor and Cllr Elizabeth Wainwright
Responsible Officer Catherine Yandle, Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security

Reason for Report: To provide Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2020-21 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 2020-21 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

Environment

- 2.1 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste**; Covid 19 has had an impact on the amount of waste created by households, the increase per household was 5.4% compared to the same period last year. The recycling rate is also slightly below target. These figures have yet to be verified by DCC as is usual.
- 2.2 Mid Devon District Council's fleet of recycling vehicles, which were scheduled to be replaced in 2020, have started to be delivered from the manufacturers. The new vehicles have been designed to accommodate a greater range and weight in the materials put out by residents.

Climate Change

- 2.3 The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan are a separate item on this agenda. Work has been taking place with services to populate the Action Plan.
- 2.4 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 with the Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy. (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 and Leadership Team and updated as required.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 4.1 That the PDG reviews the performance indicators and risks for 2020-21 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 Members

Corporate Plan PI Report Environment

Monthly report for 2020-2021
 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
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* 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)	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>	123.35 (4/12)	362	35	64	97	130									Stuart Noyce	(April - July) Covid-19 'Stay at Home' guidance impacted on the amount of waste created by households during the first quarter. The % increase per household for the year so far is 5.39 compared to the same period in the previous year (LD)
<u>Number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) Issued (Environment)</u>	8 (4/12)	No Target	0	0	4	4									Stuart Noyce	(July) Due to carrying one vacancy in the team and the remaining team assisting with other critical services such as waste during covid enforcement has been minimal during the 1st quarter and into the 2nd quarter (LD)
<u>% of Household Waste Reused, Recycled and Composted</u>	54.14% (4/12)	54.5%	52.5%	53.7%	54.1%	54.1%									Stuart Noyce	(July) The rate is very slightly below target. Most dry

Corporate Plan PI Report Environment																
Priorities: Environment																
Aims: Increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste																
Performance Indicators																
Title	Prev Year (Period)	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>(figures have to be verified by DCC)</u>																recycling materials have increased during the first quarter due to the 'stay at home' guidance; an increase in GW customers has been seen. However there has also been an increase in residual waste so recycling rates are similar to the same period last year. (LD)
<u>Number of Households on Chargeable Garden Waste</u>	10,195 (4/12)		10,007	10,837	10,928	11,088									Stuart Noyce	(July) An increase of 893 customers compared to July 2019 (LD)
<u>% of missed collections reported (refuse and organic waste)</u>	0.01% (4/12)	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%									Stuart Noyce	(July) Remaining within target (LD)
<u>% of Missed Collections logged (recycling)</u>	0.02% (4/12)	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%									Stuart Noyce	(July) Remaining on target for the year (LD)

Environment PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

**Report for 2020-2021
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:

Milestone Missed	Behind schedule	In progress	Completed and evaluated	No Data available
-------------------------	------------------------	--------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------

Risks: No Data (0+) High (15+) Medium (6+) Low (1+)

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. Impact of climate change on the financial viability of the Council.

Service: Governance

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
Completed and evaluated	Cabinet Member for Climate Change	Was appointed in January 2020 with specific responsibility for the climate change agenda.	Catherine Yandle	17/02/2020	18/05/2020	Fully effective(1)
In progress	Consideration by the Environment PDG	This PDG has been tasked with considering the Council's own policy response(s) to the Climate Change Declaration	Catherine Yandle	19/07/2019	18/05/2020	Positive(2)

Environment PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2						
Mitigating Action records						
Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
		made at Full Council on 26 June 2019.				
In progress	Devon Climate Emergency – Tactical Group	MDDC are part of the tactical group for the climate emergency that has strategic links to our own plans.	Catherine Yandle	18/05/2020	18/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Net Zero Advisory Group	This was approved by Cabinet on 23 April terms of reference to be progressed for the group, membership confirmed and a date of the first meeting to be scheduled.	Catherine Yandle	18/05/2020	18/05/2020	Positive(2)
Current Status: No Data		Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very High		Current Risk Likelihood: 4 - High		
Service Manager: Catherine Yandle						

Printed by: Catherine Yandle

SPAR.net

Print Date: 20 August 2020
17:33

Risk Matrix Environment Appendix 3

Report

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

Risk Likelihood	5 - Very High	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks
	4 - High	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks
	3 - Medium	No Risks	No Risks	2 Risks	No Risks	No Risks
	2 - Low	No Risks	1 Risk	4 Risks	5 Risks	No Risks
	1 - Very Low	No Risks	4 Risks	3 Risks	3 Risks	1 Risk
		1 - Very Low	2 - Low	3 - Medium	4 - High	5 - Very High
		Risk Severity				

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Print Date: 17 August 2020 16:55

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