

# Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

## Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 5.30 pm  
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

**Please Note:** this meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the Public and Press are able to attend via Zoom. If you are intending to attend in person please contact the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms.

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## Membership

Cllr J Wright  
Cllr E J Berry  
Cllr W Burke  
Cllr D R Coren  
Cllr Miss J Norton  
Cllr R F Radford  
Cllr R L Stanley  
Cllr L D Taylor  
Vacancy

# 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      **Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct**  
To record any interests on agenda matters.
- 3      **Public Question Time**  
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.  
Note: A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for this item.
- 4      **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (*Pages 5 - 8*)  
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- 5      **Chairman's Announcements**  
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 6      **Environment Enforcement: Quarterly performance update** (*Pages 9 - 12*)  
To receive a report from the Environment and Enforcement Manager providing an update on the quarter three performance in relation to the Environment and Enforcement service.
- 7      **Climate and Sustainability update** (*Pages 13 - 26*)  
To receive a report from the Corporate Manager for Leisure and Climate Change and the Climate and Sustainability Specialist providing an update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.
- 8      **Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/2023** (*Pages 27 - 28*)  
To receive the Chairman's Annual Report for 2022-2023.
- 9      **Identification of items for the next meeting**  
Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:
  - Election of Chairman for 2023/2024
  - Election of Vice Chairman for 2023/2024
  - Start time of meetings
  - Climate Change Action Plan update

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

**Stephen Walford**  
Chief Executive  
Monday, 6 March 2023

## Meeting Information

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Zoom.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to [Committee@middevon.gov.uk](mailto: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. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

Please note that a reasonable amount of hardcopies at the meeting will be available, however this is a limited number. If you are attending the meeting and would like a hardcopy of the agenda we encourage that you notify Member Services in advance of the meeting to ensure that a hardcopy is available. Otherwise, copies of the agenda can be found on our website.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Sarah Lees on: E-Mail: [slees@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:slees@middevon.gov.uk)

Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms

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## MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**  
held on 10 January 2023 at 5.30 pm

### **Present**

#### **Councillors**

J Wright (Chairman)  
W Burke, R F Radford, L D Taylor and  
B G J Warren

### **Apologies**

#### **Councillor(s)**

E J Berry and R L Stanley

### **Also Present**

#### **Councillor(s)**

D R Coren, Miss J Norton, C R Slade, S J Clist, L J Cruwys  
and Mrs E J Lloyd

### **Also Present**

#### **Officer(s):**

Jill May (Director of Business Improvement and Operations), Andrew Busby (Corporate Manager for Property, Leisure and Climate Change), Paul Deal (Corporate Manager for Finance), Dean Emery (Corporate Manager for Revenues, Benefits and Recovery), Matthew Page (Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste), Luke Howard (Environment and Enforcement Manager), Jan Moreland (Accountant), Carole Oliphant (Member Services Officer) and Jessica Rowe (Member Services Apprentice)

## 47 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0.02.34)**

Apologies were received from Cllrs E J Berry and R L Stanley

Cllr D R Coren and Miss J Norton attended via ZOOM.

## 48 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0.02.50)**

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations where appropriate

## 49 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0.03.03)**

There were no members of the public present

## 50 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0.03.14)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed as a true record and duly **SIGNED** by the Chairman

## 51 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0.03.40)**

The Chairman had no announcements to make

## 52 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN UPDATE (0.03.45)

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a \*report from the Climate and Sustainability Specialist providing an update on the Climate Change Action Plan.

The Corporate Manager for Property, Leisure and Climate Change explained that the plan aligned with the Council's climate emergency declarations.

Consideration was given to:

- Energy prices had increased dramatically but the installation of Air Source Heat pumps at the leisure centres would help
- There was a live bid in place to obtain funding to install Air Source Heat Pumps at Cullompton sports centre
- There was a detailed program in place to install modular housing
- Location of tree planting should be better considered and Parish Council's consulted
- A planning application for the Hydro scheme had been submitted and objections were being worked through
- Funding opportunities for the installation of solar panels on commercial buildings not owned by the council would be provided on the Council's sustainable website

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

## 53 BUDGET UPDATE (0.24.57)

The Group had before it a \*report from the Deputy Chief Executive providing the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Corporate Manager for Finance explained the current position by way of a presentation and advised Members that he was looking for a steer on higher and lower priorities.

Consideration was given to:

- Members were asked to consider any savings were district wide and not confined to individual parishes
- The figures for fuel costs were based on real time values
- Some savings would be found in Vacancy Management but that the Council were not expecting to make any redundancies
- Some Members found it difficult to make decisions on priorities when they were unsure of what each cost centre covered
- The suggestions put forward by officers on where and how savings could be achieved
- Members felt the letter sent to the Parishes asking for funding for some services was not clear on what was being requested
- The residents survey results
- Some Members would support a review into the number of grass cuts a year

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that:

1. The Weed Team should not be reinstated

(Proposed by Cllr B G J Warren and seconded by Cllr R F Radford)

2. Waste Collection/Recycling/Open Spaces should be protected from budget and service provision reductions

(Proposed by Cllr R F Radford and seconded by Cllr W Burke)

3. Property Service Staff Unit and Administration Buildings could be considered for budget and service provision reductions

(Proposed by the Chairman)

**Reason for the decisions:** As per the report

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

54 **WORK PLAN (1.35.44)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, the \*Environment PDG Work Plan for 2022-2023.

Note: \*Work Plan previously circulated and attached to the minutes

(The meeting ended at 7.18 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**

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## ENVIRONMENT PDG 14 MARCH 2023

### Environment Enforcement: Quarterly performance update

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Barry Warren, Cabinet Member for the Environment  
**Responsible Officer:** Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager

**Reason for Report:** This report provides update on the quarter three performance in relation to Environment and Enforcement service.

#### **Recommendation:**

No recommendation required. This report is solely for note only.

**Financial Implications:** There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** No additional budgetary requirements in relation to this report.

**Legal Implications:** The Authority has a statutory responsibility to fulfil investigation and enforcement into environmental crimes such as abandoned vehicles, littering, fly tipping and public space protection orders.

**Risk Assessment:** Risk assessments in relation to the role of district officer in place. No further risk assessment required

**Equality Impact Assessment:** There are no equality issues identified in this report.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The service development is designed to align with corporate plan on reducing environmental crime issues within the district.

**Impact on Climate Change:** The report is focussed on advising how the service is actively working to reducing environmental crime. This will have a positive impact on climate and the corporate strategy relating to this.

## 1.0 Introduction and Education

- 1.1 Quarter 3 has seen the team continue the consistent performance from quarter 2. There has been a particular focus on supporting the launch of Bin It 1-2-3, providing education to residents on presentation of waste. Procedural changes and application toward fly tipping earlier in the year are now coming to fruition. The team are much more confident in their approach to tackling these issues and Q3 has seen a rise in individuals invited to interview under caution for the offence of fly tipping.
- 1.2 During Q3 the service has actively engaged and participated in community groups and third partner agency working, these include the local Policing teams, DVLA, NHS and MDH. Inclusion onto Operation Filename was a success. This is a multi-agency working group, set up by Devon and Cornwall Police to engage with hard to reach community groups. A particular focus of this operation is accessing communities, which all agencies predominantly

struggle to engage with. The service, along with waste and recycling representatives attended a forum at Two Sisters factory, Willand in an attempt to engage with individuals in relation to environmental crime and waste.

- 1.3 The service has also been engaging with local primary schools to highlight the impacts of littering, fly tipping and the benefits of recycling. During December 2022, the service attended Castle Primary school, Tiverton for an assembly with year groups 4, 5 and 6. The session was really engaging and it was pleasing to see plenty of questions asked. The service will be looking to expand this to other schools in the district throughout 2023.

## 2.0 Quarter Three Performance

- 2.1 The team continue to apply a consistent approach to car parking and this is reflected in the statistics. Overall the team have been proactive in tackling contraventions and non-payment. A particular focus on issues for out of hours parking took place in October and November. The main focus being on areas which are known to be frequented regularly post 6pm.

- 2.2 Revenue from pay and display machines is consistently around the £65k (see below table for monthly breakdown) region in Q3, this includes card and Ringo payments. This has generated an income via pay and display of £205,473.25 for the quarter. The team have experienced issues with battery life on the machines but all faults have been rectified in an expedient manner.

### 2.3 PCN Statistics Q3

<b>PCN Statistics Q3 2019-2022</b>				
	<b>Q3 2019</b>	<b>Q3 2020</b>	<b>Q3 2021</b>	<b>Q3 2022</b>
<b>PCN's Issued</b>	420	387	399	738
<b>Recovery (paid before Warrant)</b>	295	271	303	457
<b>Written Off</b>	76	64	56	89
<b>Outstanding</b>	49	52	40	192
<b>Appeals</b>	No Data	No Data	No Data	95

### 2.4 Machine Income Q3

<b>Machine Income Q3 2022</b>			
	<b>Machine</b>	<b>Ringo</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>October 22</b>	£55,716,20	£15,593,55	£71,309,75
<b>November 22</b>	£53,033,65	£15,375,05	£68,408,70
<b>December 22</b>	£49,915.65	£15,839.15	£65,754.80

### **3.0 Abandoned Vehicles**

- 3.1 The team continue to tackle issues relating to abandoned vehicles. Our proactivity in tackling issues is steadily seeing numbers of reported abandoned vehicles lessen. During Q3 a total of 80 abandoned vehicles were reported, with 63 not being present upon our attendance and 17 vehicles required action by the authority. Of these 17, 10 vehicles were moved by owners after receiving a 7 day removal notice and 7 vehicles were removed by MDDC contractors.
- 3.2 Four Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been issued in Q3 relating to abandonment of vehicles.

### **4.0 Littering and PSPO**

- 4.1 During Q3 the team have conducted 80 patrols related to littering and Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). These patrols have provided a great opportunity for engagement with members of the public, aiding in the service's desire to educate. Many members of the public have praised the team when they see them out and about within towns and known dog walking areas.
- 4.2 There were 7 FPNs issued for offences during Q3. These comprised of 4 relating to PSPO breaches and 3 for littering offences.

### **5.0 Fly tipping**

- 5.1 A new found confidence within the team regarding fly tipping has seen 8 people invited to interview for fly tipping incidents. This resulted in 2 FPNs being issued, with the remainder providing sufficient explanation to account for the evidence relating to them.

### **6.0 Staffing Resource**

- 6.1 The service is currently fully staffed. The District Officer team are now well established, with a good knowledge and understanding of legislation and process. The business support team are knowledgeable and have excellent understanding when dealing with appeals.
- 6.2 Ensuring the team are sufficiently equipped for their roles is always on going. The service is investigating training towards The Police and Criminal Evidence Act in relation to interviews under caution. Additional training to support knowledge and understanding is ongoing, with individual needs reviewed and addressed at regular one to one meetings.

#### **Contact for more Information:**

Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager  
[lhoward@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:lhoward@middevon.gov.uk)

#### **Circulation of the Report:**

Cllr Barry Warren, Darren Beer, Operations Manager for Street Scene, Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste, Leadership Team

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## ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP 14 MARCH 2023

### CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Mrs Chris Daw - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Continuous Improvement.

**Responsible Officer(s):** Andrew Busby - Corporate Manager Property, Leisure & Climate Change.  
Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

**Reason for Report:** To receive an update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.

**Recommendations:** That the Environment PDG notes and accepts this report as an update on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, documenting progress with the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.

**Financial Implications:** The financial implications associated with this report are the overall costs of the Climate and Sustainability Programme, budgets linked specifically to the Council's Corporate Plan, Climate Strategy and CAP.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** Budgets specifically linked to the Council's Corporate Plan, Climate Strategy and CAP.

**Legal Implications:** [Full Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019](#). The Environment Policy Development Group (PDG) is responsible for developing relevant council policies; considering how best to implement the Council's approved policies; and for making informed recommendations to Cabinet on the matter.

**Risk Assessment:** Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) provided separately by Performance and Risk Reports. There are 2 main risks (to the Council): 1) that the Council does not take sufficient actions to enable it to meet its Climate Emergency declaration ambitions; and 2) that the financial implications of Climate Change are not adequately measured and reflected in the Council's decision making.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** There are no equality impacts associated with this report. Specific projects and policies are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty. (Assessing the equality impacts of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is not only a legal requirement, but also a positive opportunity for authorities to make better decisions based on robust evidence.)

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Please refer to **Annex A** which shows the Council's Corporate Plan aims (Table 1) and Climate Strategy priorities (Table 2).

**Impact on Climate Change:** The role of the Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Specialist in support of the corporate officer team is central to the Council's Climate and Sustainability Programme by actions such as the development of strategic positions and delivery of projects through internal, community and partnership work.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1. Report context and format

1.1.1. The Council's Corporate Plan places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability matters in all aspects of its work, linked to everything from procurement to promoting nature recovery.

1.1.2. The C&S Specialist leads development of the Council's Climate and Sustainability Programme, working inclusively with all colleagues and Councillors, particularly the Corporate Manager Property, Leisure & Climate Change; and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Continuous Improvement.

1.1.3. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and aims to be climate neutral by 2030. The term 'climate neutrality' describes a balance achieved, for any given period, for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases released into or removed from the atmosphere; related to the actions taken by organisations, businesses or individuals. The goal of climate neutrality is to achieve a net zero climate impact.

1.1.4. The Council's work to address the climate change crisis aligns with the climate emergency declaration across Devon, and the Devon Carbon Plan. Council actions with regard to **climate mitigation** (reducing greenhouse emissions) and **climate adaptation** (resilience to climate change risks) can be split into two work streams:

- an internal organisational / corporate focus for the Council;
- the wider agenda to enable actions across Mid Devon communities.

Therefore this report is divided into **corporate** and **community** items (some overlap is possible). Clearly the Council can monitor and manage matters related to our own assets and operations to a significant degree. For the wider agenda linked to the whole Mid Devon area, we will work as a partner with local businesses, organisations, community groups and residents.

1.1.5. This report emphasises activity and progress **\*updates** for brevity. For background details, please refer to previous reports, all archived online.

## 2.0 Performance

### 2.1. Aims, Priorities and Performance Indicators

2.1.1. Tables in Annex A for this report briefly summarise actions related to the Council's Corporate Plan (CP) *aims* and Climate Strategy (CS) *priorities*.

2.1.2. Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) is provided separately.

## 2.2. Audit: Climate Change

- 2.2.1. Internal Audit for 2022-2023 reported positively with 'Reasonable Assurance' and direction of travel as 'Good Progress has continued'. Now delivering on the recommendations Action Plan.
- 2.2.2. Action 1.1: Recommendations by PDG accepted at Cabinet. Consultation initiated with Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) regarding sustainability statements for decision making, etc.
- 2.2.3. Action 2.4: The C&S Specialist launched a staff Energy Champions group.
- 2.2.4. Action 4.2: Climate Adaptation emphasis added to Climate Action Plan.
- 2.2.5. Action 5.1: [Cabinet 07 February](#) approved the new **MDDC Procurement Strategy**. The strategy cites the MDDC Climate Emergency declaration and has guidance on supporting delivery of environmental and social benefit.

## 2.3. Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- 2.3.1. **\*Updates.** The C&S Specialist hosted team meetings for all Operations Managers / Service Leads and Corporate Managers; and hosts a monthly Q&A support call. Updates requested from all. Corporate projects checked against Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Totals updated below.
- 2.3.2. The CAP comprises both **Corporate** and **Community** work stream items\*\*.
- 2.3.3. Estimated costs identified thus far\*\*\* total £117,155,857 split as follows:
- For the Internal Structures and Processes strand, £643,138.
  - For the *Housing Energy and Assets* strand, £108,515,689. (This includes HRA planned works and estimates for the Council's facility buildings.)
  - For the *Transport and Vehicles* strand, £6,405,030.
  - For the *Community and Wider Context* strand, £1,511,000.
- 2.3.4. Cost estimates may be allocated within existing budgets, or may be additional; the CAP format shows where additional funding is required (or cost savings) in order to enable fundraising and budget planning.
- 2.3.5. The "estimated total tCO<sub>2e</sub> saved 2020-2030" indicates proposals could save 22,792 tCO<sub>2e</sub> in the **Corporate** work stream and 38,622 tCO<sub>2e</sub> in the **Community** work stream.
- 2.3.6. **Caveats.** Robust caveats must be provided with any CAP reporting to cover factors such as uncertainty and data gaps. Examples below.
- \*\*Analysis gap. We have not identified all the projects required for the Council to achieve Net Zero. (Corporate impact.) Therefore we do not yet have a comprehensive carbon reduction plan.
  - Data gap. The majority of the CAP items require more information. Details will be enhanced by lead officers assigned to each prioritised project.
  - \*\*\*Estimates. The majority of costs are estimates. The majority of carbon savings are estimated, and not always based on an assessment.

- Forecasting. The further ahead a project is planned, the less certain we can be about future costs.
- Scope. Many items show capital costs but do not always forecast running costs e.g. of new installations or vehicles, or disposal costs. Business cases for each project / activity must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis (do not assume projects have been approved simply by being listed as an option in the CAP).

### **3.0 Community and partnership activities**

#### **3.1. Devon Climate Emergency Partnership**

3.1.1. **\*Updates.** Partnership governance adjusted to support Devon Carbon Plan engagement and delivery. An adaptation plan will be circulated to members of this PDG for consultation.

#### **3.2. Planning Policy Statement: Climate Emergency (CS priority: none. CP aims: h01, h03, co1, c04, env01, env02, env03, env05.)**

3.2.1. **\*Update.** Being prepared for Cabinet to consider for approval (at the time of writing). Emphasises the climate change emergency is a material consideration to the planning process; promotes better, more consistent application evidence; provides guidance and tools to support planners and applicants involved in new build and retrofit.

#### **3.3. Electric Vehicle charging points. (CS priority: 3. CP aim: env02.)**

3.3.1. **\*Update.** Leases for 4 sites being finalised; delivery schedule to follow.

#### **3.4. Devon bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living - Fast Followers. (CP aim: env01, env08, ec01, ec03, ec04.)**

3.4.1. Officers have supported a joint Devon bid for a funded innovation project to address barriers to Net Zero economy / green growth.

### **4.0 Corporate activities**

#### **4.1. The Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG). (CS priority: 1. CP aim: none.)**

4.1.1. **\*Updates.** Feedback from NZAG 07 February 2023 to be noted verbally.

#### **4.2. Sustainability in Procurement Strategies. (CS Priority 6.)**

4.2.1. Environment PDG tasked NZAG with the Review of Procurement Strategies.

4.2.2. **\*Update.** [Cabinet 07 February](#) approved the new MDDC Procurement Strategy. Noted as a positive step forward, as the new strategy cites the MDDC Climate Emergency declaration and includes key guidance on supporting delivery of environmental and social benefit.

4.2.3. Next steps: Devise meaningful indicators for social and environmental impact.



### **4.3. Climate knowledge, literacy and capacity. (CS priority: 1.)**

4.3.1. **\*Update.** Carbon Literacy workshops were delivered for 4 Members in January 2023. Manager workshop dates to follow (some have already completed training with the Local Government Association).

### **4.4. Project: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). (CS priority: 1, 2. CP aim: env01, env02, ec01.)**

4.4.1. **\*Update.** The £2.8m PSDS [project](#) nears completion at Exe Valley and Lords Meadow leisure centres. Each system element being connected.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

**5.1. That the Environment PDG notes and accepts this report as an update on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, progress with the CAP and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.**

**Contact for more Information:** Andrew Busby - Corporate Manager Property, Leisure and Climate Change: Email [ABusby@MidDevon.gov.uk](mailto:ABusby@MidDevon.gov.uk) Tel: 01884 255255.  
Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist: Email: [JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk](mailto:JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01884 255255.

**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Continuous Improvement, Leadership Team.

**List of Background Papers:** The previous report was provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [10 Jan 2023](#). Link to [Report](#). Link to [Appendix A](#).

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**ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
14 MARCH 2023**

**CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE – ANNEX A**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Mrs Chris Daw - Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Continuous Improvement.

**Responsible Officer(s):** Andrew Busby - Corporate Manager Property, Leisure & Climate Change. Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

**1.0 Performance**

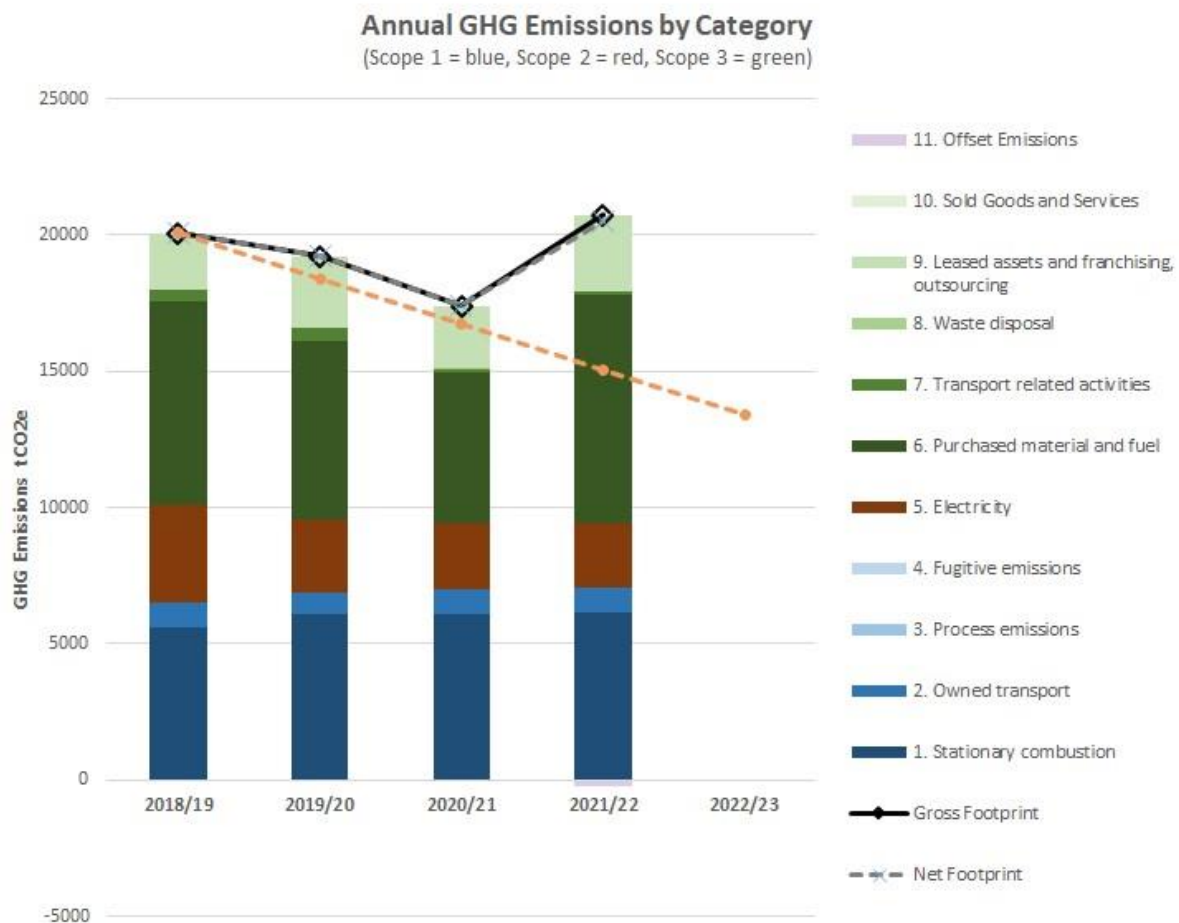
**1.1. Monitoring the Council’s Carbon Footprint.**

- 1.1.1. The Council reports its ‘Greenhouse Gas Inventory’ or ‘Carbon Footprint’ which is an assessment of its climate change impact as an organisation, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2e</sub>). The tCO<sub>2e</sub> is based on the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of different greenhouse gases over a 100-year period in comparison to carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
- 1.1.2. Carbon Footprint reports, a progress chart and headline figures are published at <https://sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan> and updated annually.
- 1.1.3. The reporting period of April 2018 to March 2019 inclusive was the ‘baseline’ year. Results for this and subsequent years are shown in Table 1 below.
- 1.1.4. Carbon Footprint assessments have been carried out by the University of Exeter using internationally accepted methodology and cover Scopes 1, 2, and 3. Methods are applied consistently to all financial years. Net emissions are calculated based on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to e.g. renewable energy generation.

**Table 1 - Carbon Footprint Figures**

<b>Mid Devon District Council - Carbon Footprint</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Gross (tCO<sub>2e</sub>)</b>	<b>Nett (tCO<sub>2e</sub>)</b>
<u>April 2018 - March 2019</u>	20,078	20,078
<u>April 2019 - March 2020</u>	19,231	19,223
<u>April 2020 - March 2021</u>	17,414	17,406

**Figure 1 - Carbon Footprint bar charts 2018-2019 to 2021-2022.**



**1.2. Performance Indicators**

1.2.1. Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) is provided separately, on the Council’s regular Performance and Risk Reports.

1.2.2. The tables below summarise actions and progress in achieving the Council’s Corporate Plan *aims* and Climate Strategy *priorities*.

**Table 2 - Corporate Plan Aims**

ref	Relevant aims in the Corporate Plan (CP)	Notes on actions taken
	<b>Environment</b>	
<b>env 01</b>	Encourage retro-fitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.	<p><b>Property.</b> Solar PV on Council facilities. A 2021 independent Heat Decarbonisation Plan was completed for Phoenix House and leisure centres funded by Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). £300k PSDS project completed 2021 replaced lighting with LED. Latest PSDS £2.8m decarbonisation project under way at Crediton and Tiverton leisure centres. New £350k PSDS bid submitted for Culm Valley.</p> <p><b>Housing.</b> Ongoing operational maintenance and improvement cycles. Roof solar PV generation.</p>
<b>env 02</b>	Encourage “green” sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.	<p><b>Property.</b> Around 50% of supply is REGO-backed renewable; delayed due to energy market volatility. The C&amp;S Specialist has encouraged Council investments in local renewable energy; also to support community renewable energy schemes.</p> <p><b>Revenues and Benefits.</b> Teams will administer green rates relief for carbon reduction measures.</p> <p><b>Housing.</b> Roof space on social housing leased to host Solar PV panels - these generate renewable power for tenants with substantial cost savings, and reduces demand on the local network. Exported surplus power adds to local flexibility.</p> <p><b>Community.</b> Solar PV for Mid Devon householders - the Council is part of the Solar Together Devon project.</p> <p>The Council promotes community support e.g. energy saving advice via Exeter Community Energy.</p> <p>Electric Vehicle chargepoints at Council car parks use renewable energy to cut emissions; leisure centres each host 2 chargepoints. Deletti concession will deliver 10 rapid chargepoints at 5 car parks.</p> <p>Liaison with National Grid  Energy Distribution to promote development of the local power infrastructure.</p>
<b>env 03</b>	Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.	<p>Outreach with stakeholders e.g. parishes and landowners to identify opportunities.</p> <p>Options for investment reports passed from Environment PDG to Cabinet.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist worked to position the Council as strategic partners to deliver tree planting via the Devon County Council’s Emergency Tree Fund, a grant provided by The Woodland Trust.</p>
<b>env 04</b>	Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	Please refer to Corporate Plan mid-term review.

<p><b>env 05</b></p>	<p>Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.</p>	<p><b>Housing.</b> Zed Pods programme on target (Regional award winner.) Plans approved for the Council’s Passivhaus design affordable housing.</p> <p><b>Growth and Economic Development.</b> Teamwork to review Plans and Strategies. Promoting teamwork on rural business, local procurement etc.</p> <p><b>Planning.</b> Drafted the Non-Statutory Interim Policy Statement: Climate Emergency. Out for consultation Oct-Dec 2022). The Council’s Net Zero Housing Assessment Tool is now available for planners and developers. The Council has published a Net Zero Toolkit as guidance on retrofit and new-build.</p> <p>The C&amp;S Specialist works with colleagues to promote sustainable development, such as the importance and benefits of Net Zero performance buildings, sustainable materials, biodiversity net gain, Natural Capital conservation, climate adaptation etc. Advising and supporting major infrastructure and development programmes such as CGV, HAZ, M5 J27, EUE e.g. input to Neighbourhood Plans, Masterplans.</p>
<p><b>env 06</b></p>	<p>Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated.</p>	<p>Systemic change to cut emissions associated with recycling and waste disposal e.g. <i>Bin It 123 is projected to save thousands of tCO<sub>2</sub>e annually.</i> Teamwork to promote sustainability messages e.g. at Mid Devon Show, Devon County Show.</p>
<p><b>env 07</b></p>	<p>Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.</p>	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist worked to position the Council as strategic partners to deliver tree planting via the Devon County Council’s Emergency Tree Fund, a grant provided by The Woodland Trust. Over 600 trees planted 2021-2022. Community Orchard created by Tiverton Tree Team. Council land assessed for potential planting. The C&amp;S Specialist proactively seeks planting proposals (ongoing) from members, staff and parishes.</p> <p>Officers seek external funding and partnership work to support nature recovery and habitat enhancements.</p>
<p><b>env 08</b></p>	<p>Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management, animal husbandry.</p>	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist has engaged with farmers and others about the Mid Devon situation and will support partnership work with land managers. Sustainable Farming report provided to Environment PDG. Farming discussed at State of the District Debate. Signposting and resources online.</p>
<p><b>env 09</b></p>	<p>Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.</p>	<p>Outside the C&amp;S Specialist role, but relevant to e.g. healthy lifestyles, green infrastructure, nature recovery, climate adaptation.</p>
<p><b>env 10</b></p>	<p>Support community activities that improve the environment</p>	<p>Ongoing outreach with groups, partnerships and at district, town and parish level to support activity. The new climate and sustainability website. The Housing team has given away free plug-in electricity monitors to social housing tenants.</p>

	<b>Homes</b>	
<b>h 01</b>	Introduce <b>zero carbon</b> policies for new development.	Emerging Policy Statement: Climate Emergency. Housing Strategy responds to Net Zero priority.
<b>h 02</b>	Encourage the piloting of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and self-build opportunities.	Zed Pod modular housing with renewable energy; delivery going well. The Council is a supporter of the National Custom and Self Build Association and continues to invite proposals for custom and self-build projects.
<b>h 03</b>	Use new development as opportunities to help communities to become increasingly sustainable and self-sustaining at neighbourhood level (district heating, energy use, recycling/reuse etc).	The C&S Specialist works with others e.g. Planning to help realise this aim. Provided input to help develop: Culm Garden Village Sustainability Strategy; Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan; Cullompton Heritage Action Zone ideas; Neighbourhood Plans.
	<b>Economy</b>	
<b>ec 01</b>	Promote zero carbon exemplar sites within commercial settings.	C&S Specialist to support Property team and colleagues in Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
<b>ec 02</b>	Use car park pricing mechanism to effectively balance the needs of vehicular access with those of reducing car use.	Potential next step after Electric Vehicle (EV) project.
<b>ec 03</b>	Promote the development of the farming economy and local food production.	Local sourcing and networks signposted on Sustainable Mid Devon website. (as above)
<b>ec 04</b>	Working in partnership with farmers to develop and grow markets on the principle of reducing carbon emissions and sustainability.	C&S Specialist can support others to seek funding, partnership work, promote good practice exemplars.
	<b>Community</b>	
<b>c 01</b>	Work with developers and DCC to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations.	Discussed at Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) at Environment PDG. Transport led at county level.
<b>c 02</b>	Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon.	C&S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
<b>c 03</b>	Work with education providers to secure appropriate post-16 provision within the district to minimise the need to commute out for A/T level studies.	C&S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
<b>c 04</b>	Promote new, more integrated approaches to promoting good health and healthier living especially in the context of planned new developments.	C&S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this.

**Table 3 - Climate Strategy Key Priorities**

	<b>Climate Strategy (CS) 2020-24 Key Priorities</b>	<b>Notes on actions taken</b>
1	<p><b>Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at Mid Devon District Council.</b></p> <p>Climate literacy training will be created and rolled out to staff and Councillors. This will take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic online modules for everyone.</li> <li>• More in-depth training of key staff who can act as internal experts on particular activities.</li> <li>• In-person thematic briefings to relevant officers and Councillors.</li> </ul> <p>Extra staff time will be brought in to drive and coordinate our climate work.</p>	<p>Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) active. C&amp;S Specialist in post.</p> <p>C&amp;S Specialist and Learning and Development Specialist trained as Carbon Literacy trainers; delivered a full Carbon Literacy course to 4 Members in Jan 2023. External training resources promoted via web and newsletters to Members and staff. Seeking online module resources.</p> <p>Themed briefings to Members have included: the need for urgent focus on Net Zero by 2030; emissions targets; the Climate and Sustainability Programme; Sustainable Development and climate considerations; setting Climate as an overarching priority for the Local Plan; Sustainable Farming; the local electricity supply network; sustainable development.</p>
2	<p><b>Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030.</b></p> <p>Working with partners and residents, we will identify new initiatives and ways of working that will develop and progress our plan. This includes working with the Devon Carbon Plan, as it emerges.</p>	<p>Ongoing work to facilitate and manage the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP). Costed items on the CAP considered by Corporate Management Team with regard to Medium term Financial Plan (MTFP), etc.</p>
3	<p><b>Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally.</b></p> <p>Including getting the hydroelectric scheme in Tiverton running to provide renewable energy to the Council offices.</p> <p>Roll out Electric Vehicle charging points - residential and commercial.</p> <p>Partner with Solar Together to support residential solar panel uptake.</p>	<p>Hydroelectric scheme Planning Application submitted; MTFP budget updated; need to address the key issues behind objections.</p> <p>Council hosting EV chargers.</p> <p>Solar Together project delivery almost completed (solar PV and battery installations).</p> <p>Regular liaison with Western Power for local infrastructure needs.</p>
4	<p><b>Create a 'Community Climate &amp; Biodiversity Support Fund'.</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>One of the options for investment passed from Environment PDG to Cabinet.</p>



5	<p><b>Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities.</b></p> <p>The Covid19 lockdown in the UK saw increased demand for cycling and walking infrastructure, and the Government committed funding for Active Travel schemes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Transport is one of the biggest contributors to CO<sub>2</sub> in Devon.</p>	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist will work with colleagues to seek funding and partnership opportunities. Must link into Devon level plans.</p>
6	<p><b>Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies.</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The C&amp;S Specialist initiated a review, ongoing.</p>

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**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Continuous Improvement, Leadership Team.

**List of Background Papers:** The previous report was provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [10 Jan 2023](#). Link to [Report](#). Link to [Appendix A](#).

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## **Chairman's Report: The Environment Policy Development Group (PDG) 2022-2023.**

Environment PDG has acted to further environmental sustainability in the round, both within the way the Council operates and across the Council's remit on behalf of Mid Devon's communities. Environment PDG has shaped, scrutinised and recommended important initiatives brought forward by officers, such as:

- the Bin-it-123 scheme; (\*already making a positive difference)
- electric vehicle rapid chargers;
- revenue reviews and spending plans.

With officer support, Environment PDG Members worked together in a joined-up manner between different groups and committees.

- Members from all PDGs participate in the Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) which has helped explore and steer activity on a wide range of topics from river pollution, to active travel, to better procurement.\*\*\*
- Our sustainable farming report has provided online guidance and fed into the Economy PDG's rural economy report.
- The PDG and NZAG held a special meeting on budgets in the autumn, and PDG successfully highlighted spend priorities to Cabinet.
- The PDG has indirectly supported the new Climate Emergency planning policy statement.

On October 10 2022 Waste and Recycling moved to three weekly bin collections, hereby becoming the second District in Devon to adopt the practice after East Devon. This followed a trial of the scheme in the summer of 2021 and a decision taken by the Cabinet to introduce the scheme in February 2022. The design and implementation of the scheme had to be carried out at the same time as continuing to collect all waste and recycling from the District and included;

- The sending out of letters and leaflets to residents to raise awareness of the scheme and give detail on how it would work.
- Distributing 37K bins and then dealing with requests for additional bins or supplementary seagull sacks from households.
- Providing site visits and education to residents on how to adapt to the new scheme.
- Increased patrolling of our town centres, car parks and other key areas of the district by our Environment Enforcement team to identify any arising issues or concerns.

Congratulations to all staff and operational management in making the transition to the new scheme work. Our thanks to our Communications, Finance, Customer First and Human Resources teams for all their contributions and support to the project management team.

Our Environment Enforcement Team have had an excellent year in both delivering best enforcement practice and reporting on our results to members. The team have dealt with a wide variety of cases including abandoned vehicles, fly typing, environment enforcement and parking. Our statistics and their follow through have become a key component of our Continuous Improvement programme as elected members have highlighted issues and concerns which affect the cleanliness of our District and protect its open spaces and parks. The work of the District Officers has also been of central

importance to us moving to three weekly bin collections by us patrolling town centres, car parks and other key areas of the District to proactively identify any arising issues or concerns.

Going forward to next year I hope to be able to serve on the Environment Committee again. Balancing the demands of tight budgets with ever increasing demands on public services and at the same time as supporting our communities to live as sustainably as possible is the greatest challenge our generation faces. I look forward to being part of the discussions and debates that help that future.

I would like to thank fellow members for their contribution to the debates this year, officers for their guidance, support and professional recommendations and I would particularly like to thank Carol and Sarah for organising the agendas and report packs and ensuring everything runs smoothly. Your help and support is really appreciated.