

Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 15 August 2023 at 5.30 pm
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 5.30 pm

Please Note: This meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the Public and Press are able to attend via Teams. 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.

To join the meeting online, [click here](#)

Membership

Cllr M Fletcher
Cllr B Fish
Cllr C Adcock
Cllr G Czapiewski
Cllr C Harrower
Cllr B Holdman
Cllr M Jenkins
Cllr J Poynton
Cllr S Robinson

A G E N D A

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

- 1 **Apologies and substitute Members**
To receive any apologies for absence and notices of appointment of substitute Members (if any).
- 2 **Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct**
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 - 10)*
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 20 June 2023
- 5 **Chairman's Announcements**
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 6 **Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Update**
(Pages 11 - 22)
To receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and the Climate Sustainability Officer
- 7 **Environment and Enforcement Policy update/review report**
(Pages 23 - 36)
To receive reports from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste on Environment and Enforcement Policy
- 8 **Review of Bin It 123 Scheme** *(Pages 37 - 44)*
To receive a report from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste as to the Bin it 123 scheme and the future Waste Service provision.
- 9 **Work Programme** *(Pages 45 - 46)*
To receive the current work plan for the Environment PDG and to identify items for the work plan for the Environment PDG.
- 10 **Quarter 1 position and Further Financial Training specific to the PDG**
To receive a verbal report from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151) regarding the Quarter 1 position and to receive further Financial Training relevant to the Environment PDG

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Monday, 7 August 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 Teams.

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on 20 June 2023 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors

M Fletcher, B Fish, C Adcock, G Czapiewski, C Harrower, B Holdman, J Poynton and S Robinson

Apology

Councillor

M Jenkins

Also Present

Councillors

N Bradshaw, D Broom, E Buczkowski, J Buczkowski, R Gilmour, S Keable, F W Letch, J Lock, L Taylor, G Westcott, J Wright and D Wulff

Present

Officers:

Maria De Leburne (District Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Matthew Page (Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste), Paul Deal (Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change), Jason Ball (Climate and Sustainability Specialist), Andrew Seaman (Member Services Manager) and David Parker (Member Services & Policy Research Officer)

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (0:03:42)**

Cllr M. Fletcher was duly elected Chairman of the Environment PDG for the municipal year 2023-2024.

(Proposed by Cllr B. Holdman, Seconded by Cllr C. Adcock)
no other nominations – Carried unanimously.

2 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (0:06:12)**

Cllr B. Fish was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Environment PDG for the municipal year 2023-24.

(Proposed by Cllr G. Czapiewski, Seconded by Cllr J.Poynton)
no other nominations – carried unanimously.

3 **MEETING MANAGEMENT**

The Chairman stated that he would take the Climate and Sustainability Update next.

4 **CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE (0:09:07)**

Cllr Natasha Bradshaw (Cabinet Member for Climate Change) addressed the PDG. She said that Climate Change affected all departments across the Council and all Councillors and everybody had a part to play. The Council was committed to get to Net Zero by 2030, she had been impressed at how far the Council had come already and wanted to thank the officers. There was an enormous task on the Council's hands, however, she was aware of the great enthusiasm throughout the Council. Partnership working would be a key to achieving this and the Council was looking at

Climate Action in two ways; within Council Services and also across the District. The latter was extremely challenging but progress included two extremely impressive projects to decarbonise heating and cooling systems at Exe Valley and Lords Meadow Leisure Centres.

Following this the Group was presented with, and **NOTED**, a *report to update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.

Consideration was given to:

- The Corporate Project Manager had applied for funding for Culm Valley Leisure Centre for a detailed design for decarbonised heating and cooling.
- Passive House Social Housing and Affordable Housing at Post Hill.
- Working with community groups was very productive and inspirational, for example the Mural at the Pannier Market, tree planting and other various initiatives.
- The Climate and Sustainability Specialist has been running training workshops and getting officers up to date with energy use and data. The Council has cut electricity usage at some of its key buildings by about 21% since 2018/19, unfortunately gas usage had not gone down so there is still work to do there. The decarbonisation project would hit that figure very squarely.
- Officers would be running workshops on various projects and topics such as planning policy and decisions, renewable energy, Energy Champions etc.
- The Net Zero Advisory Group will be reconstituted. The Clerk observed that Member Services awaited parties to put names forward for that group.

The Officer then answered questions from Councillors:

- Carbon footprint. The Annual GHG Emissions by Category (Annexe A figure 1) – the orange dashed line was the “hoped for” trajectory i.e. what we need to achieve to hit net zero by 2030. The black line showed how we were actually doing including a rise in emissions for the year 2021/22.
- Item 3 on table 3 of Annexe A to the report – The Climate and Sustainability Specialist was arranging a project group update for the relevant Cabinet members on renewable energy e.g. the hydroelectric scheme. An update would follow that.
- Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (3.4.1). The Council were working in partnership with other agencies such as Exeter Community Energy, the peoples path to free advice about retrofitting of insulation etc. On the Council’s Climate and Sustainability Website there were a whole range of links to places where you can get information. Of the 149 home installations, councillors asked what percentage of the properties that equated to? The Officer replied that the figure was being tracked, at the moment it was a low percentage, but they hoped to scale it up.
- Would closer dialogue with Town and Parish Councils assist?
- At Table 2 (H02) Modern Methods of Construction and Self Build Opportunities, Councillors asked if we could track how the Council was doing as a district to encourage more self-build? The officer answered that it was being tracked and the Council had run workshops (Forward Planning).
- Could the Council look for Case Studies and for good and best practice from other housing authorities so that could can learn and look to be the best it can? The Climate and Sustainability Officer said that was already being done and that they worked with developers, giving them check-lists of a whole range of things that they should / could consider and that was their preferred

way of getting feedback on how they were addressing climate change etc. (Reference: [MDDC Climate Emergency Planning Policy Statement and resources](#)) The Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change observed that the Planning Team had been on an “Away day” to a fellow Council to learn about self-build, property and planning practices.

- Single Use Plastics at Phoenix House – Councillors asked if there was a policy? What was the update? Was the Council avoiding single use plastics? The officer replied that there was a policy, the previous update had looked at our use of single use plastics at places like our leisure centres. Some things were external and that was more difficult. When it came to enforcement then Trading Standards would be monitoring the new rules coming from Central Government. Matthew Page - Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste - commented: The Council were awaiting forthcoming national guidance from Central Government regarding future practice and funding arrangements.
- National Grid Energy Distribution (NGED) power infrastructure, a councillor asked if there was a Cabinet member responsible for looking at this matter. The Climate and Sustainability Specialist said that he tried to keep abreast of the situation; officers such as Forward Planning feed into NGED consultations.
- Retro-fitting measures (Table 2) ENV01 – Councillors asked where the Council was and what were the barriers? The Climate and Sustainability Specialist answered that with regard to renewables it depended upon the ambition the Council had in this direction. He said that the Council were increasing the solar array hosted on the Leisure Centres and on Phoenix House and that these ideas were looking a long way into the future.
- Councillors asked if Electric Vehicle charging could raise funds for the Council? Property Services need a response here.
- Recycling rates and Education of the Public – a Councillor asked about recycling rates and how the Council were doing and mentioned Cllr Taylor’s plans relating to recycling of pots and pans and coffee pods etc. The Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste mentioned that at the next meeting of the PDG there would be a review of the Bin it 123 scheme and it would make comparisons between April/May 2022 and April/May 2023. Councillors commented that some members of the public were putting food waste into black sacks which were then being accessed by seagulls and creating a mess – how do we deal with that? Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste commented that when Bin it 123 was introduced they had shown some leniency to help embed the scheme, but now there needs to be further education and if necessary the Council would need to enforce good practice with regard to waste and recycling. Councillors commented that allowances needed to be made for those in flats who did not have access to storage facilities.
- The Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste said that they were still getting requests for recycling containers so that was encouraging in terms of the public being committed to supporting the scheme and increasing our recycling rate.
- A member mentioned that the [consultation for developing local partnerships for onshore wind](#) was closing on 7th July, REGEN has information [online](#).

Note: *update previously circulated and attached to the minutes

5 **START TIME OF MEETINGS (0:43:35)**

The Chairman proposed a start time of 5.30pm – carried unanimously

6 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0:44:00)**

Apologies were received from Cllr M Jenkins. Cllr A Glover attended via Teams.

7 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0:44:16)**

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations where appropriate
Cllr C. Adcock declared a personal interest, he is a Director in South Somerset Community Energy Society, (a Community Benefit Society).

8 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0:44:57)**

There were no questions from members of the public.

9 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0:45:19)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2023 were NOTED

10 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0:45:48)**

The Chairman thanked the PDG for electing him as Chairman and said he was looking forward to working collaboratively with all members of the PDG across the board.

11 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT FOR 2022/23 (0:46:10)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a * report from the Deputy Chief Executive presenting the Revenue and Capital Outturn figures 2022/23 for both the General Fund (GF) and Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The contents of the report were outlined and a high level summary provided specific to this PDG as follows:

- On the General fund the Council overspent by £190,000 and on the Housing Revenue Account it underspent by £312,000 both of which should be regarded as a good achievements in the current economic circumstances and pointed to a good level of Budget Management.
- The cost of living crisis had impacted the Council with a higher pay award for staff, staff turnover, vacancies and higher than normal sickness levels requiring hiring of temporary staff.
- There had been some investment during the year for example Bin It 123.
- There had been significant levels of grant funding to run the energy rebate schemes.
- With regard to the report the specific page numbers in the pack to refer to were pages 34 Grounds Maintenance, 41-42 Property Services & 45-46 Waste.
- There was minimal variance with regards to Grounds Maintenance. With regard to Property Services the underspend was due to some planned maintenance not being needed and some not being done due to staff

vacancies, those funds would go back into the Reserves so that the funds are there to do the work when needed.

- The notable variance in Waste was due to the funding of the Bin It 123 scheme which was funded out of reserves, increases in fuel costs and additional costs in terms of salaries and agency staff to cover vacancies. That increase in costs had been offset by increased income in things like Green Waste, Trade Waste, the money the Council gets from, for example, recycling materials.
- The Council had also received a higher refund from Devon County Council due to its higher recycling, there was less to put into landfill so DCC could share the saving with Mid Devon DC. – the refund is part of the service budget and so becomes a variance which went into reserves.

Discussion took place regarding:

- In relation to paragraph 3.63 relating to General Fund Housing and how the Council could make its own housing stock more sustainable? – The Climate and Sustainability specialist stated that there was a constant allocation of capital funds to maintain and improve Council stock – they wouldn't be able to retrofit to Passive House but depending upon the type of house, each one would have the potential to retro fit to a certain standard. Some of them have been insulated and then retro fitted with air source heat pumps for example. Some residences are not suitable because they cannot be insulated and draught proofed to the relevant standard, but each archetype has opportunities identified and depending upon what money is in the budget or what funds can be accessed by bidding from Central Government, then the Council is able to invest in those properties. There were a list of projects the Council have for investment in when the funds were available. With regard to new housing stock, the Zed Pods will be capable of Net Zero carbon performance.
- The Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change mentioned the Capital section of the report (pg51) Play Areas (very little variance against the budget), Shops (there has been some slippage as the planned maintenance was deemed not necessary at this time, funds would still be there for the following year) and in terms of other projects – there was a major expense that had not been expected in that they had to purchase a new mini excavator.
- In relation to the refurbishment of a Park – Were any further 106 funds earmarked to help play parks? Also could we plant trees using s.106 funds. – The Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change would reply in writing.

Note: *report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

12 WORK PROGRAMME (0:57:27)

It was asked if the PDG could look at the fee for the Garden Waste Bin and whether the fee could be paid in instalments? The Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste would provide an update at the next meeting in August.

The Clerk reminded the PDG of their Thematic area as set out in the Constitution at page 22, Article 8 – policy Development Groups, in order that the PDG could consider what areas they might want to build into their work programme.

Items suggested were:

- The Data Processing Centre at the Exmouth Swimming Pool.
- Hydro Electric Power
- Linking the Planning Policy Advisory Group and Environment PDG to discuss the subject of Anaerobic Digesters
- Looking at a robust form of green support for all future planning applications. – Planning couldn't insist on very much when it comes to "Green" considerations. Cllr Holdman feeds these issues into the Planning Policy Advisory Group. – Perhaps we could link this PDG with that group?
- Developments around Cullompton and Air Pollution
- The Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste said that with regard to Fly Tipping, the Annual Review and First Quarter Enforcement figures will be on the Agenda for the next PDG meeting in August.
- Was there a tree planting plan? – The Climate and Sustainability Specialist answered that we hadn't got a fund but we did have a target of the number of trees to be planted. – A tree planting event was a good idea, he would work with the open spaces officers.
- Observation of Planning policies – people bought properties with large trees in the garden and then apply for them to be removed altogether rather than being pollarded – perhaps more trees need TPO's to be applied to them.
- The Climate and Sustainability Specialist informed the PDG that the Biodiversity duty to the Council has been upgraded and work is required this year. There may again be an overlap with the Planning Policy Advisory Group.
- The Scrutiny Committee would be looking at Motion 583 Protecting Rivers and Seas, where there may again be overlaps with Planning and the Environment PDG. – This PDG may want to look at that motion.
- Do we want to have a specific managing process as a specific focus group on ensuring that we can deliver net zero by 2030? The Climate and Sustainability Specialist said that this information was already included within the report that he would produce for each meeting of the PDG.
- Strengths and obligations on biodiversity net gains – The Climate and Sustainability Specialist responded that there are two main elements. Firstly the obligation for a 10% minimum biodiversity net gain on new developments. Local Authorities if they wish, could write in a higher obligation. Secondly nature conservation and enhancement of biodiversity – Government though the Environment Act 2021 requires plans to set out what local authorities will do and how – the Council needs to set some targets etc. The Climate and Sustainability Expert will pull a report together over the next six months.

The following areas were added to the Work Plan for this PDG:

- Garden Waste (the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste will provide an update at the August PDG meeting)
- Renewable and Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency including Community Energy Projects
- Green Standards in Planning
- Nature Recovery and Conservation within Planning

(The meeting ended at 6.57 pm)

CHAIRMAN



Report for: Environment Policy Development Group

Date of Meeting:	15 August 2023
Subject:	Climate and Sustainability Update
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Natasha Bradshaw - Cabinet Member for Climate Change.
Responsible Officer:	Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist. Paul Deal - Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change.
Exempt:	None.
Wards Affected:	All.
Enclosures:	None.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

To receive an update on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) and the wider Climate and Sustainability Programme.

Recommendation(s):

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.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 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.
- 1.2 The Climate and Sustainability (C&S) Specialist leads development of the Council's Climate and Sustainability Programme, working inclusively with all colleagues and Councillors, particularly the Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change; and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change.
- 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 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 Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) is provided separately.
- 2.2 Climate Action Plan (CAP).
- 2.2.1 The C&S Specialist has run team meetings for all Operations Managers / Service Leads and Corporate Managers; and hosts a monthly support call. Updates requested from all. Totals updated below.
- 2.2.2 The CAP comprises both Corporate and Community work stream items**.
- 2.2.3 ***Estimated costs identified thus far total £117,155,857 split as follows:
- 2.2.4 For the Internal Structures and Processes strand, £643,138.

- 2.2.5 For the Housing Energy and Assets strand, £108,515,689. (This includes HRA planned works and estimates for the Council's facility buildings.)
- 2.2.6 For the Transport and Vehicles strand, £6,405,030.
- 2.2.7 For the Community and Wider Context strand, £1,511,000.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The "estimated total tCO₂e saved 2020-2030" (tCO₂e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent) indicates proposals could save 2,134 tCO₂e per year via Corporate projects and 11,837 tCO₂e per year in the Community work stream.
- 2.5 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 of e.g. new installations or vehicles, or disposal costs. Embodied carbon is not considered. 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 Community Groups.
- 3.2 The C&S Specialist and the Cabinet Member for Climate Change are liaising with local groups to understand their priorities and to seek partnership opportunities such as events, projects or community engagement.
- 3.3 Mid Devon Show.
- 3.4 The C&S Specialist joined the Communications team, the waste and recycling team, Councillors and other staff, to engage the public on sustainability topics.
- 3.5 Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) Partnership
- 3.5.1 The C&S Specialist is involved in a new working party to establish a partnership approach for a Devon local energy action planning. The purpose is to facilitate local / regional preparedness and development of Net Zero energy systems. The project emerged from DCE discussions but will sit independently of the DCE, involving a broader range of stakeholders such as community bodies and energy network operators.

4.0 Corporate activities

4.1 The Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG).
(CS priority: 1.)

4.1.1 NZAG will meet 22nd August. An advisory group of the Environment PDG.

4.2 Sustainability appraisals for decision-making and reports.
(CS priority: 1.)

4.2.1 Cabinet endorsed Environment PDG recommendations, for the PDG and NZAG to liaise with Corporate Management Team (CMT) to:

- formulate a method for a Climate and Sustainability Statement that can be consistently applied to all business cases
- devise a consistent approach to climate change impact statements noted on committee reports

4.2.2 Final draft guidance has been circulated to this PDG and all PDG Chairs. Environment PDG may now wish to recommend it to Cabinet. The guidance would be a 'living' corporate reference document for the Council.

4.3 Sustainability in Planning.
(CS Priority 1.)

4.3.1 The Director of Place, Corporate Manager and Principal Managers worked with the C&S Specialist to deliver a detailed Member Briefing about Sustainability in Planning. Members are encouraged to participate in the Local Plan review and policies via the Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG).

4.4 Project: Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).
(CS priority: 2, 3. CP aims: env01, env02, ec01.)

4.4.1 A new bid for PSDS funding for Culm Valley Sports Centre is being prepared for autumn submission. MDCC submitted a PSDS bid to fund a detailed design in advance of the capital bid, but this did not succeed due to over-subscription for PSDS on a national level.

4.4.2 The £2.8m PSDS funded project to decarbonise heating at Exe Valley and Lords Meadow leisure centres used combined arrays of ground-source and air-source heat pumps (and wood biomass heating at Lords Meadow) with extra power from new solar photovoltaic panels.

4.5 Bin-it-123.
(CP aim: env06.)

4.5.1 Since the change to Bin-it-123 collection cycles, Mid Devon's domestic recycling rate improved by circa 5%, with a considerable cut in residual waste.

4.6 Renewable Energy for Council Consumption
(CS Priority 2 and 3. CP aims: Env02, Ec01.)

4.6.1 [Cabinet 04 July 2023](#) decided to renew the Council's contract with LASER for gas and electricity for four years (01 October 2024 to 30 September 2028), based on factors such as the soundness of the procurement route, framework

performance track record, and its compatibility with achieving Net Zero. Cabinet also agreed a commitment to renewable electricity tariffs, seeking to achieve 100% renewable electricity supply within 2 years. A move to 100% renewable can avoid carbon emissions circa 560 tCO₂e annually.

4.7 The Council's 2022-2023 Carbon Footprint.

4.7.1 The Council's [annual Carbon Footprint reports](#) from 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 estimate the organisation's climate change impact from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, measured in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e).

4.7.2 The annual independent GHG inventory is carried out by the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter. The latest inventory produced standard Scope 1-3 categories, and a set of alternative categories (based on the internationally recognised Greenhouse Gas Protocol and BS EN ISO 14064 1 standard). The summary report includes a method statement - an improved method was used this year and applied retrospectively to all assessed years in order to provide consistently comparable analysis.

4.7.3 Explaining Scopes 1, 2, 3 for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- **Scope 1** (direct emissions). Activities owned or controlled by your organisation that release emissions directly into the atmosphere. Scope 1 emissions typically include fuel combustion by vehicles or on site e.g. gas fired boilers, and also include escaped/fugitive refrigerant gases from air conditioning or heat pump systems.
- **Scope 2** (energy indirect). Emissions linked to purchased electricity, heating and cooling. These indirect impacts are a consequence of the organisation's activities but the emissions occur at sources you do not own or control.
- **Scope 3** (other indirect). Emissions in Scope 3 also arise from your organisation's actions and purchases, and occur at sources that you do not own or control, but are outside Scope 2. Typically these encompass supply chains and/or delivery chains of goods and services, such as waste disposal, equipment, materials, or fuels. Also business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation.

4.7.4 Charts below illustrate the figures split by Scope, then by alternative categories. The results show growth overall, despite real progress in certain areas. Annual net emissions increased circa 700 tCO₂e between 2018-2019 and 2022-2023.

4.7.5 Since the 2018-2019 baseline year:

- Scope 1 impacts (direct emissions e.g. fossil fuel use) rose by circa 2%.
- Scope 2 impacts (indirect energy emissions e.g. linked to electricity) reduced by c.37% with a clear downward trend.
- Scope 3 impacts (indirect other e.g. good and services) dipped in 2020-2021 but rose by c.31% overall.

Table 1 - Annual GHG Emissions in Tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)

Tonnes of CO2 equivalent	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Scope 1	6,535	6,887	7,026	7,077	6,655
Scope 2	3,625	2,705	2,460	2,367	2,270
Scope 3	6,872	6,440	5,238	7,213	8,985
Offset Carbon	-	(9)	(8)	(241)	(181)
TOTAL (net)	17,032	16,024	14,717	16,415	17,730
TOTAL (gross)	17,032	16,033	14,725	16,656	17,911

4.7.6 Scope 3 impact can be difficult to estimate and to interpret. Each spend category is assigned an 'Emissions Factor' (EF) and this scoring system is linked to price as kgCO2e per £ spent. The university report states:

"...whilst emission factors have been reduced to account for inflation, any wider decarbonisation from supply chains would not have been captured."

"The current spend based method should therefore only be used as a guide."

4.7.7 Some key expenditure items that made an impact in Scope 3 will actually help to reduce future GHG emissions in Scopes 1 and 2, particularly the leisure centre decarbonisation projects, through which the Council has invested to improve energy efficiency and to cut carbon. (noted later)

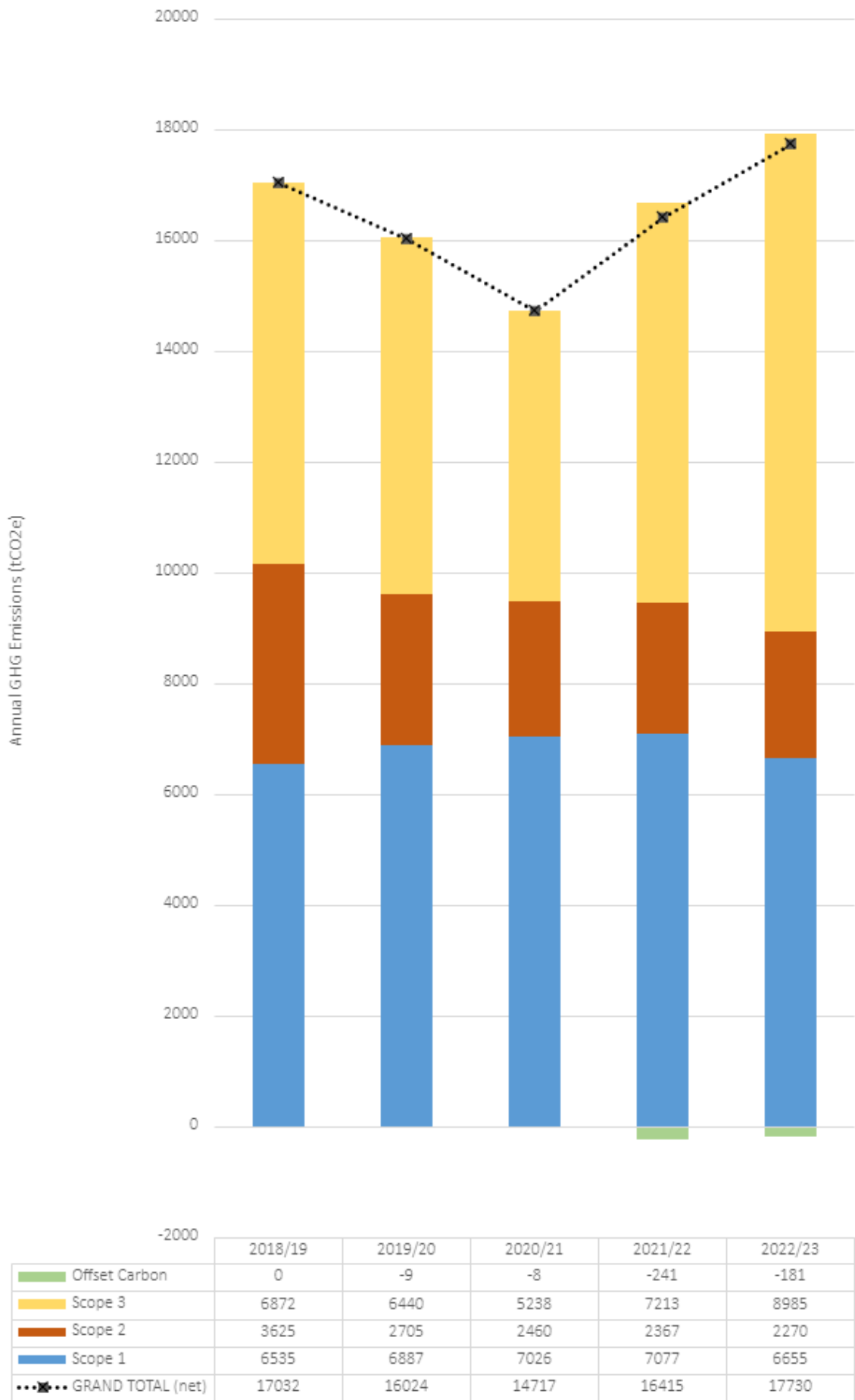
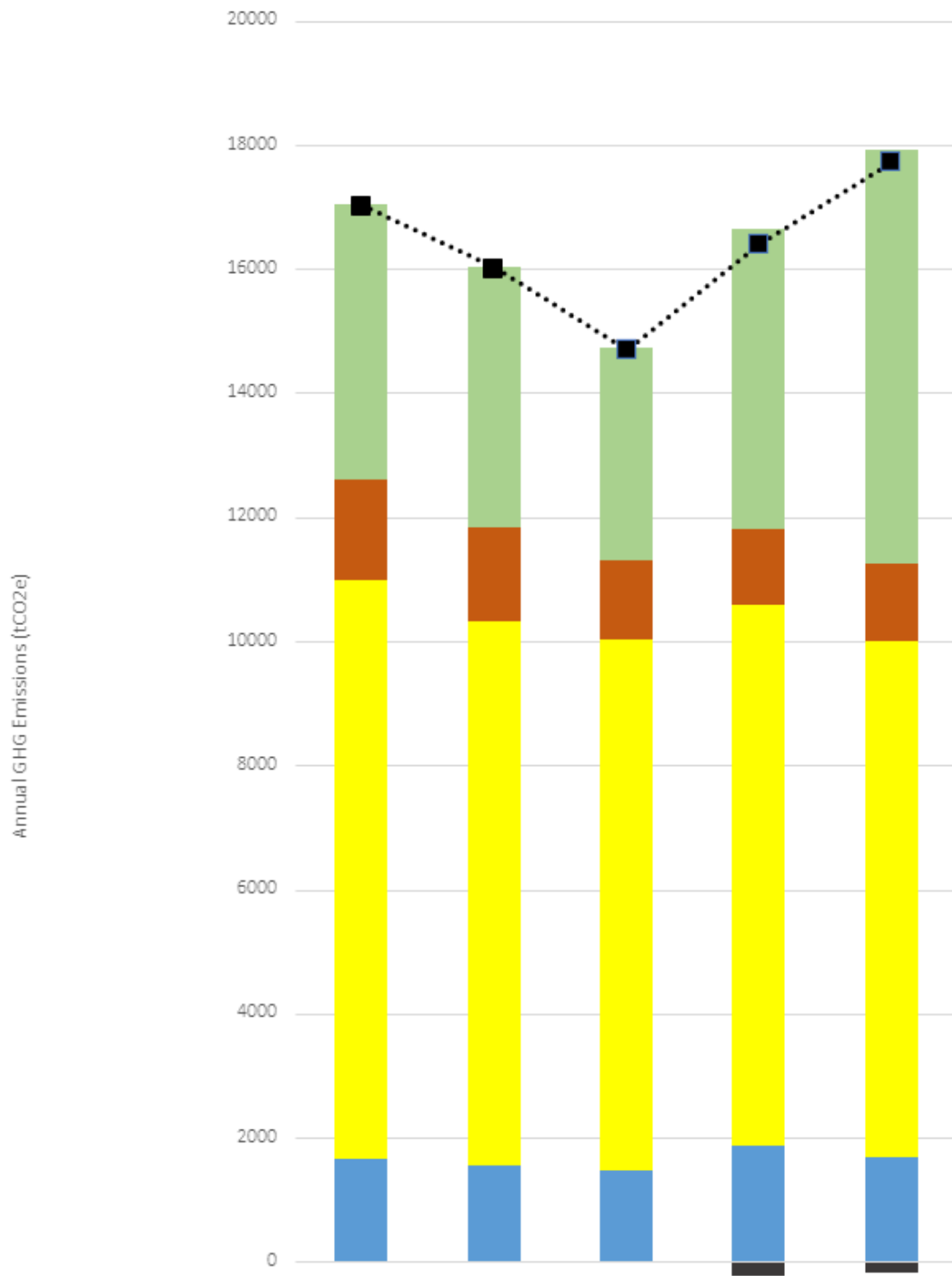


Figure 1 - Carbon Footprint figures split by Scope
Page 17



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
5. Offsets	0	-9	-8	-241	-181
4. Procurement	4425	4207	3420	4858	6659
3. Transport	1626	1513	1289	1222	1238
2. Social Housing	9326	8758	8547	8711	8319
1. Buildings (exc. housing)	1654	1554	1469	1865	1694
Series5	17032	16024	14717	16415	17730

Figure 2 - Carbon Footprint figures split by alternative categories.

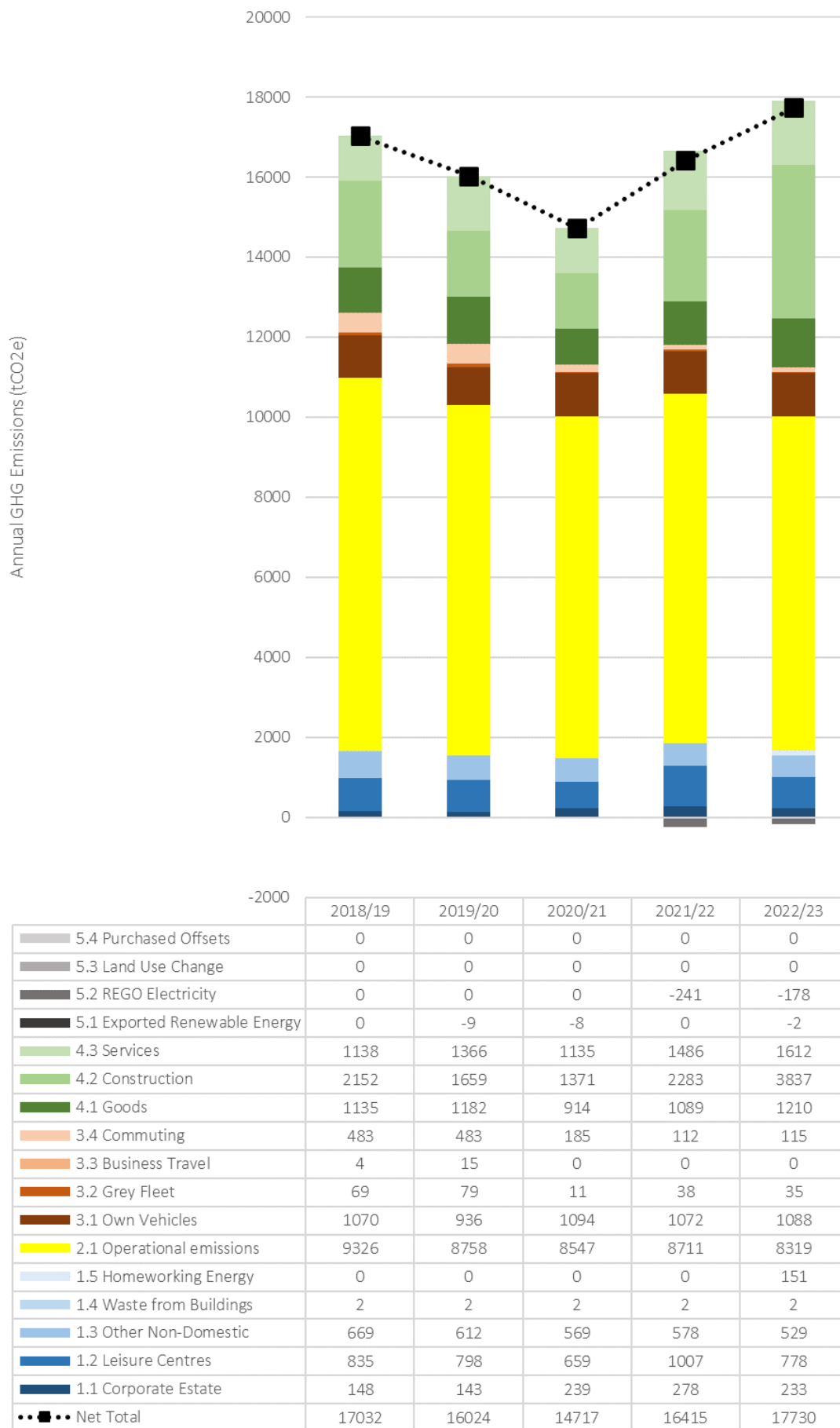


Figure 3 - Carbon Footprint figures split by alternative categories - in more detail

4.7.8 Reflecting on the Council's position will help to prioritise options for investment in the Climate Action Plan and shape strategy looking forward.

4.7.9 Progress 2021-2022.

Much of the increased emissions seen post-pandemic were linked to a significantly greater procurement spend (Scope 3). A phased and partial return to the workplace meant we switched heating back on but at the same time we had to comply with guidance to keep windows open, ventilate leisure facilities, etc.

Positives in 2021-2022 included:

- Hybrid working made a difference. Since 2018/2019 we have cut down on commuting, business travel in staff cars (grey fleet) and Councillor travel.
- Council facilities made only 13% of the climate impact linked to buildings.
- Buying renewable electricity for circa 53% of supply saved 241 tCO_{2e}.

4.7.10 Progress 2022-2023

The Council has rapidly reduced emissions from lighting, heating and cooling, with significant moves to green tariff electricity, and over £4million spent on *Salix funded* invest-to-save projects, most notably to decarbonise heat and cooling systems at Tiverton and Crediton leisure centres (circa £3m) with new solar arrays, heat pumps and building management systems. These projects build on the success of previous upgrades at MDDC facilities e.g. more energy-efficient lighting systems, and improvements will take effect in the 2023-2024 carbon footprint.

The latest leisure centre renewable energy projects are a massive achievement and a transformational milestone, set to save 572 tCO_{2e} of greenhouse emissions and over £130k in costs annually.

4.7.11 Priority Action Ahead

- We have just added our first electric vans to the Council fleet.
- Our new wave of Council-owned Zed Pod housing will be capable of Net Zero carbon energy performance.
- Cabinet has agreed to increase commitment to renewable electricity tariffs. Buying 100% renewable power can avoid circa 560 tCO_{2e} annually.
- Cabinet portfolio holders support further investment in solar power.
- The Council has a new Procurement Strategy, staff training has begun and improvements will be made to ensure procurement delivers on policy.

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.

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.

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.

Equalities 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 [Our Plan - Sustainable Mid Devon](#) which outlines the progress on Corporate Plan aims and Climate Strategy priorities.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Cabinet member notified: Yes.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jason Ball - Climate and Sustainability Specialist: Email:

JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk Tel: 01884 255255.

Background papers: Related papers: The previous report was provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [20 Jun 2023](#).



Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	15 August 2023
Subject:	Environment and Enforcement End of Year report 2022/23
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officer:	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	N/A
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report provides members with an overview of the Environment and Enforcement service for the financial year 2022/23.

Recommendation(s): Report for note only

Section 2 – Report

1.0 The aim of this report is to provide a transparent overview and review of the work carried out by the Environment and Enforcement service during the financial year 2022/23. It also identifies improvements the service has made during that time.

2.0 Car Parking

2.1 During the financial year of 2022/23, the car parking service has undergone varying changes. This has included a new rota system, evening patrols, clear standard operating procedures, uniform rebranding and the introduction of body worn video cameras for District Officers. The team have embraced these changes and the service has produced its best statistics since 2017.

- 2.2 The introduction of standard operating procedures provided the service with clear ways of working and created uniformity in the application of enforcement action. This has meant officers have dealt with enforcement issues in the same manner, removing ambiguity and differing practices, which reduces conflict and provides better understanding for our customers.
- 2.3 Body worn video has been introduced to provide an added layer of health and safety for District Officers. During the spring of 2022, a project to procure body worn video was undertaken within the Environment and Enforcement service. This exercise led to Reveal D5 cameras being procured and rolled out to the team. The introduction of this technology has enabled the team to capture situations where their health and safety may be compromised. The technology has the ability to capture both sound and video even in low light, urban areas.
- 2.4 During the summer of 2022, the service underwent a rebrand of uniform. This provided officers with varying options of uniform items for different weather conditions as well as their personal needs and comfort. Utility vests were also procured to provide the District Officer team with additional storage options and a professional image when on patrol.
- 2.5 The new rota and evening patrols allow the service to better respond to the requirements of car park users. It has been identified that out of hours parking in some areas impacts on permit holders and other paying users. Through the introduction of evening and early morning patrols, the service is able to tackle this issue and provide reassurance to users that enforcement action is taken against those contravening the guidance.
- 2.6 The team have undertaken a variety of training courses over the year including Level 3 Notice Processing, Conflict Management and a wide variety of in-house training. This training ensures the service is considered a leader in its field when compared to statistics of neighbouring authorities.

3.0 Penalty Charge Notices

3.1 The service has focused on ensuring a uniform approach to enforcement, thus helping to remove ambiguity for our users. The addition of evening patrols and focused car parking patrols has seen a significant increase in the service tackling vehicles in contravention during the night-time economy. This approach has helped to amend user behaviours to ensure payment via pay and display.

3.2 PCNs Issued 2017-2023

Year	PCN issuance
2017/18	1452
2018/19	2260
2019/20	2124
2020/21	897
2021/22	1745
2022/23	2540

3.3 PCNs Issued 2022-2023

Month (2022/23)	PCN's	Successful Appeals	Financial (recovered)
April	115	16	81 (£ 2749.00)
May	167	26	126 (£4172.00)
June	195	23	142 (£5010.00)
July	233	40	156 (£5416.00)
August	205	37	146 (£4905.00)
September	226	46	154 (£4679.00)
October	264	32	191 (£6173.00)
November	264	38	197 (£6531.00)
December	210	23	160 (£5110.00)
January 23	232	48	148 (£4400.00)
February 23	209	33	134 (£3805.00)
March 23	220	26	134 (£3630.00)

4.0 Pay and Display

4.1 Recovery from COVID-19 saw a slow start for users returning to car parks, this was fuelled in part through public apprehension regarding mixing with others as well as COVID-19 restrictions. However, the summer months saw a strong recovery and this continued into quarter 3 and 4 during the autumn and winter months. Vends were higher than predicted which can be largely attributed to the team providing a more visual presence and therefore, users less likely to risk not purchasing a pay and display.

4.2 Parking Outturn 2016-2023

Year	Expenditure	Income Type	Income	Variance
2016/17	579,763.36		- 843,875.82	- 264,112.46
		Pay & Display	- 684,982.60	
		Permits	- 78,443.16	
		PCN	- 43,635.00	
		Other	- 36,815.06	
2017/18	651,828.97		- 796,489.91	- 144,660.94
		Pay & Display	- 643,972.01	
		Permits	- 69,108.89	
		PCN	- 47,731.00	
		Other	- 35,678.01	
2018/19	639,831.29		- 760,062.26	- 120,230.97
		Pay & Display	- 636,219.84	
		Permits	- 57,480.28	
		PCN	- 44,338.00	
		Other	- 22,024.14	
2019/20	708,218.42		- 797,055.23	- 88,836.81
		Pay & Display	- 648,134.10	
		Permits	- 90,775.03	
		PCN	- 46,397.70	
		Other	- 11,748.40	

Year	Expenditure	Income Type	Income	Variance
2020/21	690,204.33		- 382,173.84	308,030.49
		Pay & Display	- 271,958.28	
		Permits	- 72,057.36	
		PCN	- 30,522.24	
		Other	- 7,635.96	
2021/22	781,191.37		- 737,621.61	43,569.76
		Pay & Display	- 583,634.89	
		Permits	- 96,411.33	
		PCN	- 49,939.43	
		Other	- 7,635.96	
2022/23	801,068.98		- 844,541.55	- 43,472.57
		Pay & Display	- 659,695.28	
		Permits	- 113,839.47	
		PCN	- 62,450.83	
		Other	- 8,555.97	

5.0 Environmental Enforcement

- 5.1 There has been a strong emphasis on creating robust procedures along with building confidence and knowledge within the team over the last financial year. The team attended a 2-day course on Legislation and Application of Fixed Penalty Notices, which greatly improved understanding across the officer team. The team has gradually built a sound and solid understanding surrounding environmental enforcement, backed by clear and descriptive procedures. This has led to effective enforcement in all areas within the environment and enforcement remit. The service has also been working with local primary schools to highlight the impacts of environmental crime. The idea behind this is to provide knowledge and understanding at a young age in order to shift public behaviour.
- 5.2 A significant backlog of 38 abandoned vehicles were cleared during May 2022. These consisted of reports dating back to June 2021. A consistent approach to managing these has seen the team taking proactive enforcement action to remove such vehicles. A clearer and more defined procedure and application was also introduced, removing any previous ambiguity regarding our approach.
- 5.3 Fly tipping is a significant issue for many local authorities and continues to present issues for MDDC. However, there has been a significant improvement in the team's confidence to tackle these issues. There is now a clear procedure for interviewing under caution and a refined investigation approach. There has been an emphasis on better statement writing, with the team adopting the 5-part statement approach used by Police. The service is also leading on a task group of several local authorities to share best practice and ways of tackling fly tipping.

- 5.4 The team is challenging littering and Public Space Protection Order offences. Many residents have welcomed a significant rise in patrols relating to these offences. Littering from vehicles presents significant problems throughout the district. The service has been able to adopt, at no additional cost, the Patrol portal for generation of PCNs for this offence. This has provided the team with the means of tackling such offences. The service is continually exploring ways of how we can better interact with communities to identify problematic areas.
- 5.5 District Officer Patrols – comparison 2021/22 with 2022/23

	2021/2022	2022/2023	Improvement
Patrols Conducted	67	224	100%
FPN's Issued	0	28	100%
Dog Fouling/PSPO	0	8	100%
Littering	0	12	100%
Fly Tipping	0	8	100%

- 5.6 Abandoned vehicles 2022/23

Abandoned Vehicles Reported	Number
Not Abandoned/Gone	162
Action Required	70
Moved by owner after notice	52
Removed by MDDC	18
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	9
Action not Taken	0

6.0 Looking forward to 2023/24

- 6.1 The service is looking to build on the solid foundations made in the financial year 2022/23. Just a few of the things we are looking to deliver in 2023/24 include:
- Procurement of new handheld devices
 - New electric vehicle fleet
 - Patrol short report submission for shortlisting
 - Work towards the Park Mark Scheme
 - Attendance at Parking forum in Birmingham
 - PACE training
 - Task Group Lead on Fly Tipping
 - Back Office User Flowcharts
 - Multi service working with housing and waste teams
 - Yearly Team event
- 6.2 2023/24 promises to be an exciting year for the service with some exciting opportunities as above, to further develop our service and deliver an even better service to the public.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a direct result of 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 are in place. No further risk assessment required.

Impact on Climate Change

The report is focussed on advising how the service is actively working to reduce environmental crime. This will have a positive impact on climate and the corporate strategy relating to this.

Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equality issues identified in this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The service development is designed to align with the corporate plan on reducing environmental crime issues within the district.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 28/07/2023

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard, Environment Enforcement Manager
Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers: N/A

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Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	15 August 2023
Subject:	Environment and Enforcement Quarter 1 Performance Update
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officer:	Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	N/A
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report will provide members with an overview of performance from the Environment and Enforcement service during Quarter 1 of financial year 2023/24.

Recommendation(s): Report for note only

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Quarter one has seen the service continue with the same high performance as financial year 2022/23. The quarter has been a busy one for the service, not only continuing with the work the team continually deliver, but further developing the approach to issues.
- 1.2 The service is now leading on a task group designed to share best practice and strategy in relation to fly tipping. This group comprises of many district councils in the Devon region as well as Torbay and Plymouth Council. This group, which is chaired by the Environment and Enforcement Manager from MDDC, enables best practice to be shared throughout the County, to ensure efficient procedures and data sharing.

2.0 Quarter One

2.1 The statistics for quarter one of this year show strong improvement against similar statistics for last year. The depth of knowledge within the team, combined with clear procedural direction, enables the service to perform at the highest level.

2.2 Cleansing inspections have been completed for Cullompton, Crediton and Tiverton. These inspections have shown a high proportion of highways and footpaths being graded at A or B. This indicates that the introduction of three weekly refuse collection has not significantly impacted on the cleanliness of towns and industrial areas. There were no highway inspections that were categorised as C or D standard. Gradings are determined as Grade A- No litter or refuse, Grade B- Predominantly free of litter or refuse, Grade C- Widespread distribution of litter and refuse, Grade D- Heavily littered with significant accumulations.

Town	Cleansing Checks	Grade A	Grade B
Tiverton	561	335	226
Crediton	418	369	49
Cullompton	438	247	191

2.3 The team's focus on investigating fly tipping has resulted in several successful Fixed Penalty Notices being issued to individuals. Moving forward, it is hoped the publicity in relation to this will deter fly tipping and there will be a visible reduction in the number of reported fly tipping incidents as a parallel, see table in 5.2.

3.0 Car Parking

3.1 The closing statistics for quarter one show a similar trend to the close of the last financial year, with a strong and consistent volume of users in MDDC car parks.

Quarter 1 pay and display	Coins	Card	Ringo	Total
2023	£78,309.05	£67,931.50	£55,586.35	£201,826.90
2022	£86,580.05	£65,024.81	£41,182.30	£192,787.16

3.3 After agreement at the 4 April Cabinet meeting, new pricing tariffs were introduced within Mid Devon. The agreed charges were successfully implemented on 27 June 2023. It was felt that a consultation group, set up to review and include communities, would be beneficial for future reviews. Cllr Guy Cochran is chairing this group with Cllrs Andy Cuddy and Matt Fletcher representing Tiverton and Cullompton. The consultation group will invite town partnerships, business groups and members of communities to explore how car parking space can be best utilised to the greatest benefit of the communities they serve.

3.4 The service has performed well to achieve a strong return following the COVID-19 pandemic. Greater presence from District Officers, combined with early and late patrols, has encouraged users to purchase a pay and display session rather than risk a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). There has also been a noted increase in the volume of users opting to pay using our pay by phone method, Ringo. This could be a demographic reflection on users, as it provides an easy and efficient method of payment; the likelihood is a combination of both, see table 3.5.

3.5 Q1 PCN Statistics

Quarter 1 (April-June) PCN Issuance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PCN's issued	550	1	466	447	682

4.0 **Environmental Enforcement**

4.1 The service has performed exceptionally well during quarter one with regard to investigations and prosecutions for fly tipping, littering, PSPO breaches and abandoned vehicles.

4.2 One highlight point was the prosecution of an offender for a substantial fly tip located off the A361 North Devon link road.

4.3 The service continues to engage with local primary schools, arranging visits to provide education on the climate impacts of littering and fly tipping. We are currently in discussion with Heathcoat and St Johns primary schools to arrange a visit in the new term.

4.4 The service has also arranged regular walk-arounds with the Housing team to address issues in a multi-service approach. These enable both services to actively tackle issues which are directly affecting MDDC residents.

4.5 Abandoned Vehicle Stats Q1

Total Reported	92
Not Abandoned/Gone	73
Action Required	19
Moved by owner after notice	15
Removed by MDDC	4
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	1
Action not Taken	0

4.6 Environmental Enforcement Statistics Q1

Q1	2021/2022	2022/2023	Improvement
Patrols Conducted	38	73	35
FPN's Issued	2	15	13
Dog Fouling/PSPO	0	0	0
Littering	0	12	12
Fly Tipping	2	3	1

5.0 Street Cleansing

5.1 The street cleansing service has recently procured a walk-behind mechanical sweeper. The sweeper will be regularly used to clean and maintain the MSCP in Tiverton. Alongside this, a rota schedule has been drawn up for its use in Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton town centres. One cycle has already occurred and a significant difference could be noticed in the cleanliness of the towns. Positive feedback has been received by members of the public and elected members regarding the positive impact the sweeper has had on the overall appearance within town centres.

5.2 Fly tipping disposals have been maintained at a steady rate throughout the quarter. Collections for May and June are shown below.

Fly Tipping Collections	Time Spent	Cost of disposal (Tyres and Asbestos) £'s
112	65 Hrs	£0.00

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a direct result of 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.

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.

Equalities 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.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 01 August 2023

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Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 28/07/2023

Cabinet member notified: (yes)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard, Environment Enforcement Manager

Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers: N/A

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Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	15 August 2023
Subject:	Waste Service Provision
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Josh Wright, Cabinet Member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officers:	Darren Beer, Operations Manager – Street Scene and Open Spaces Matthew Page, Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste
Exempt:	NA
Wards Affected:	All – District wide
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report considers the following:

- The effectiveness of the council’s waste and recycling scheme, known as the Bin-it 123 scheme, as implemented in October 2022
- Improving operational efficiency of collection crews, increasing recycling rates and limiting CO2 emissions
- A review of recycling frequency following the Cabinet decision on 29 Nov 2022 to complete a weekly recycling trial in the District during the financial year 2023-2024

Recommendation(s):

- 1. To cease collecting side waste from 1 October 2023 and deliver a comprehensive communications programme in advance of this to minimise the need for enforcement.**
- 2. To postpone the trial scheduled for 2023-2024 to allow for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the current scheme against the metrics of recycling % achieved, residual tonnage reduction, and overall cost to the authority.**

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Mid Devon District Council commenced three weekly residual waste collections through the implementation of the Bin-it 123 scheme on 10 October 2022. The purpose of this scheme was to increase the level of recycling and reduce the level of residual black bin collections, which in turn reduces the waste to be collected. A combination of these two factors enables the District to reduce its carbon footprint and puts it in a stronger position to meet both its carbon net zero commitment and the national recycling targets as set out in the national Environmental Improvement Plan (2023), which aims for a municipal recycling rate of at least 65% by 2035.
- 1.2 During the first eight months of the scheme’s implementation, Street Scene Operatives have carried out multiple extra activities to ensure the new Bin-it 123 scheme would have a successful transition into practice. This included the collection of additional side waste put out by residents, the delivery of extra bins and containers to households, regular patrolling of town centres and other key areas of the District by our Environment and Enforcement team, visits to households from our Recycling Officers and the sending of letters and communication to the residents of Mid Devon.
- 1.3 The purpose of this paper is to review the performance of the Bin-it 123 scheme to date and outline a way forward in terms of raising further awareness of good recycling practice to maximise the reduction in our carbon footprint.
- 1.4 It also includes a request for policy clarity in light of the existing arrangements with respect to side waste and the recommended postponement of any further trialled changes to the waste and recycling scheme until such time as the effectiveness of the current scheme can be fully evaluated.

2.0 Bin-it 123 Performance

- 2.1 Chart 1 below shows that the recycling rate for the months of April and May compared to the same months in 2022 (pre 3 weekly roll out) has gone up between 4 and 5 percentage points. This represented an increase or improvement in recycling figures of approximately 8% to 9%. While this reflects positively on the scheme’s trial, design and implementation, it should be remembered that these performance figures represent the actions and behaviour of Mid Devon’s residents. This improvement represents a real and significant shift in behaviour, and correlates well to informal assessment of feedback both before and during the early period of implementation, when much of the negativity on social media was challenged by other residents who were positive advocates of the need for change and the environmental imperative for doing so.
- 2.2 Chart 2 below shows that in the year to May 22, 13429 tonnes of residual waste was collected whereas for the same period in 22-23, 11938 tonnes were collected. This is a reduction of 1491 tonnes; again a significant positive change.

Chart 1: Recycling Rates 21-22 and 22-23

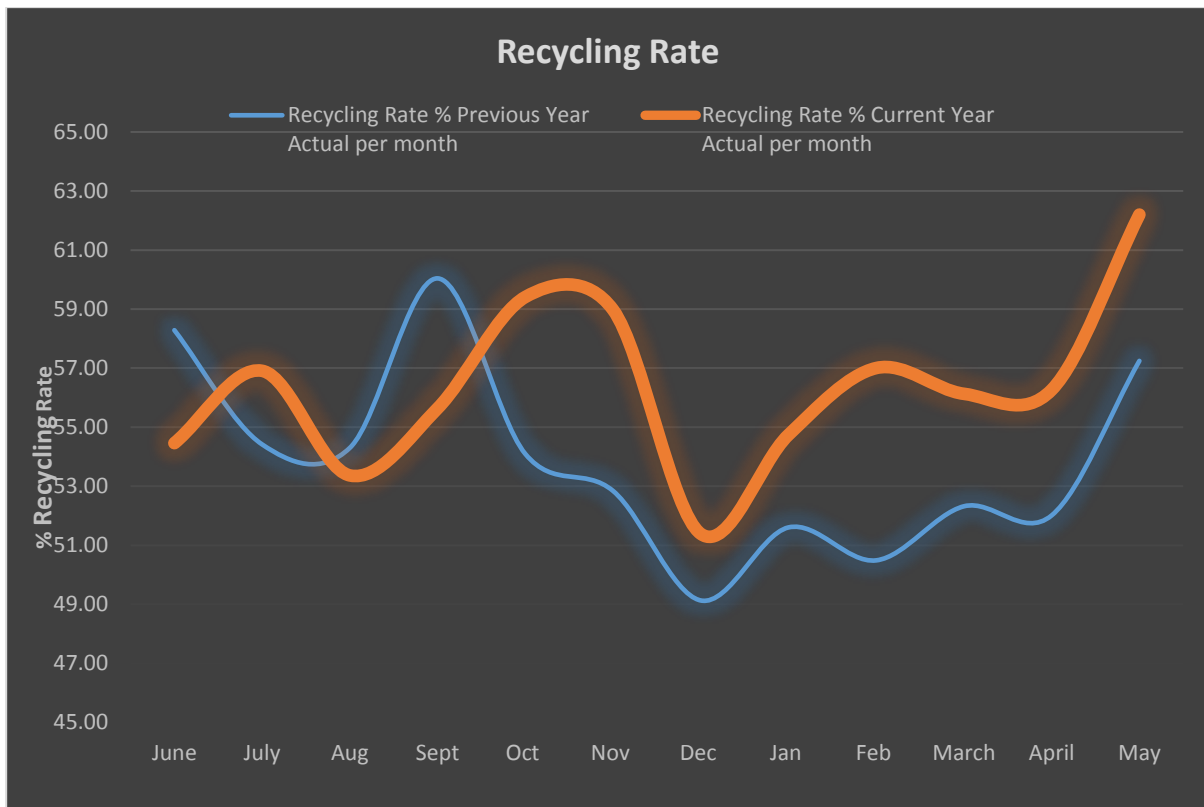
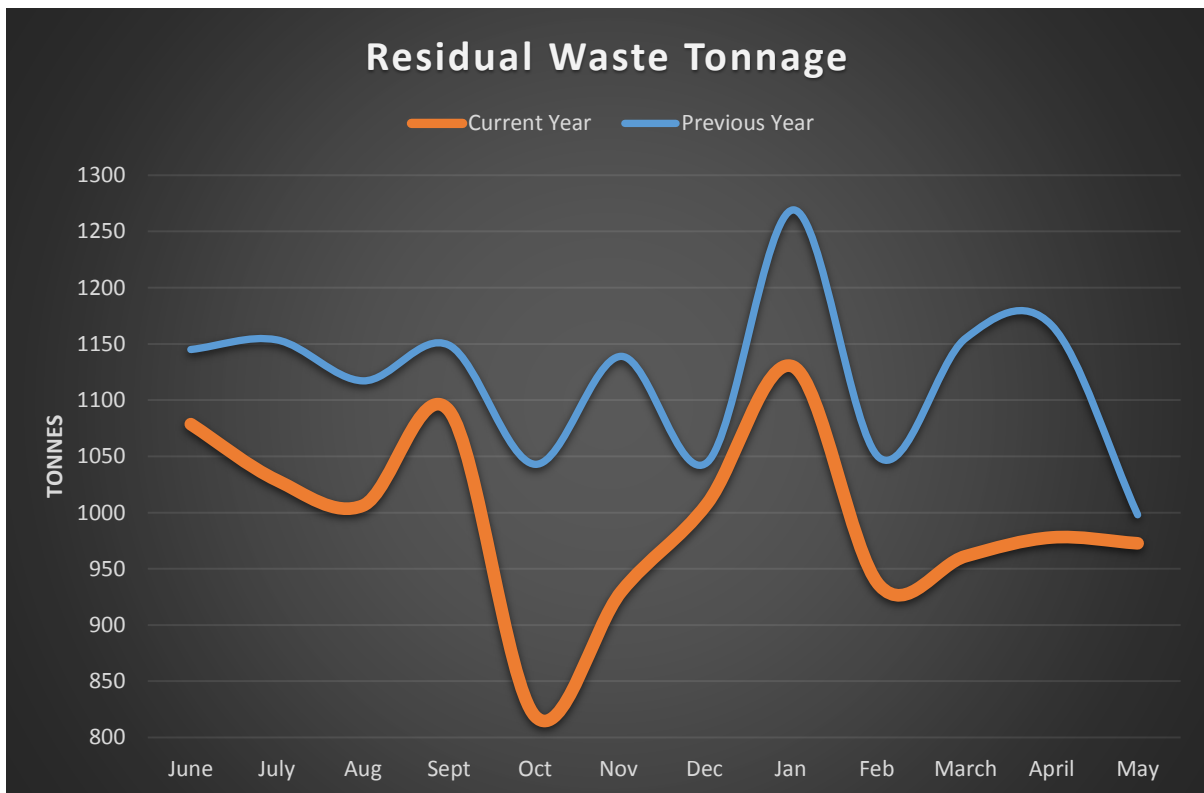


Chart 2: Residual Waste Collected (Tonnes)



3.0 Side waste

- 3.1 The waste and recycling crews have collected side waste from households for the past nine months to help embed Bin-it 123 and to start the implementation period from the perspective of helping residents with this significant change and utilising tools at the education end of the spectrum.
- 3.2 The proactive performance and pre-empting of issues by both the crews and the environment enforcement team have helped keep the District clean and tidy during the first nine-month implementation period.
- 3.3 This practice, while well-intentioned, has also had negative consequences for both the perceived and actual effectiveness of the Bin-it 123 scheme, but also the Council. In addition to the issues associated with persistent non-recyclers, many households are still putting recycling out for collection in black bin liners and bins instead of using the appropriate recycling containers, which is slowing down rounds. Where no kerbside sorting is done by the resident, it is limiting our recycling collection rate, and ultimately the scheme is not reaching its full effectiveness.
- 3.4 The practice of continuing to pick up extraneous residual waste (black bags) outside of the approved container is also taking up unnecessary resource and additional expenditure to ensure side waste collections take place. In looking at other local authorities bin collection schemes, very few (if any), collect side waste as the practice directly contradicts the policy of increasing recycling. This is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: The top performing authorities (by recycling rate 21-22); not one commits to collecting side waste.

Authority	Unitary/ District-	Recycling Rate	Side Waste collected	Collection Frequency (weeks)		
				Waste	Re- cycling	Food
Three Rivers District Council	District	63.5%	No	2	1	1
South Oxfordshire District Council	District	62.7%	No	2	2	1
St Albans City and District Council	District	62.4%	No	2	2	1
Vale of White Horse District Council	District	61.9%	No	2	2	1
East Devon District Council	District	61.0%	No	3	1	1
Stockport MBC	District	60.3%	No	2	2 & 4	1
Rochford District Council	District	59.9%	No	2	2	1
Tandridge District Council	District	59.9%	No	2	2	1
Guildford Borough Council	District	59.3%	No	2	2	1
Cotswold District Council	District	59.2%	No	2	2	1
Surrey Heath Borough Council	District	59.2%	No	2	2	Yes
Waverley Borough Council	District	58.9%	No	2	2	1
Trafford MBC	District	58.8%	No	2	4	1
Maldon District Council	District	58.3%	No	2	2	1
Stroud District Council	District	58.2%	No	2	2	1

Authority	Unitary/ District-	Recycling Rate	Side Waste collected	Collection Frequency (weeks)		
				Waste	Re- cycling	Food
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Unitary	60.1%	No	2	2	2
South Gloucestershire Council	Unitary	59.9%	No	2	1	1
Dorset Council	Unitary	59.8%	No	2	2	1

3.5 The waste and recycling team have carried out side collections for the past nine months, however it is proposed to now stop collecting side waste so that the policy can complete its full implementation and the council can then accurately evaluate its effectiveness in achieving the necessary improvement in our recycling rates achieved and residual tonnages collected.

4.0 Weekly recycling options

4.1 Mid Devon is currently awaiting details of the Government's future funding plans for waste and recycling, how these will affect the authority and how it will legislate for future recycling practice to be carried out across the country.

4.2 It is possible that Government will mandate how recycling collections are completed in the future including garden and food waste collections along with the types of materials required to be recycled and how the public can recycle some of these items under Defra legislation (Consistency in Household and Business Recycling, Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Return Scheme).

4.3 The previous administration voted for a trial of weekly recycling to take place during the 23-24 financial year once the implementation of the three weekly bin collection scheme had been achieved.

4.4 Many of the top recycling authorities do not have weekly recycling schemes in place (see Table 1 above), which shows that excellence in recycling performance is not dependent on having weekly recycling (3 of the top 4 best in the country have not required a weekly recycling collection to achieve this). This would suggest that people's willingness to recycle is not being limited by a fortnightly collection. Mid Devon's recycling performance has significantly improved since introducing three weekly bin collections through raising education and awareness of the scheme with the public.

4.5 Given the government is potentially about to announce national changes to how waste and recycling is carried out, with recycling practice bound to be a central feature of this announcement, it makes sense to postpone any pilot of the weekly recycling scheme until two conditions are met; firstly that we have the detail of how future collections as mandated by central government will be made and funded; and secondly, that the council has had the opportunity to fully evaluate the implementation of the Bin-it 123 scheme, including the ceasing of side waste collection, in order to establish the upper limits of what can be achieved by the current scheme. Without such a baseline, it is unclear how the potential gain from any further trial could be robustly proven.

5.0 Future waste provision

- 5.1 Mid Devon District Council will continue to raise education and awareness of the Bin-it 123 scheme with residents to further increase our recycling rate and reduce the residual waste put out for collection.
- 5.2 This is happening through a number of different measures including regular press announcements and communication, household visits from Recycling Officers and visits to schools and other institutions to help raise awareness of good collection practice.
- 5.3 It should be noted publicly and via council communications, that the residents of Mid Devon have done an excellent job in responding to the need to increase recycling rates. The council's current performance is a reflection of their significant efforts and the measures outlined above are seeking to address the issues related to the behaviour of a persistent minority, which is holding our collective environmental performance back from where it could be if the current scheme was fully complied with.

Financial Implications

None in relation to the report. If a trial was to be conducted at some point in the future, the costs of a three-month trial are likely to be around £30K. However, if the service was asked to proceed with the roll out of weekly recycling on a permanent basis there would be substantial costs of circa £1.4m. Provisional estimates suggest that the delivery of weekly recycling collections would require the relocation of the Waste and Recycling service to a larger site with additional capacity to accommodate the extra vehicles and the potential extra recycling.

Legal Implications

Under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act Waste Collection Authorities may by means of notice specify how householders present their waste for collection.

Risk Assessment

The risks associated with the recommendations in this report relate mainly to the handling of appropriate education and enforcement activity – both areas where the current team have significant experience. This report recommends a tightening up of the policy in this space, and as such the risk of not addressing these issues are that the policy does not achieve its full effectiveness. In the event that any future changes are trialled (or mandated by government) a register of risks would need to be compiled in advance of those proposed service changes. There are potential risks, including impacts on; carbon emissions, the carbon footprint, operational costs and other resources required (from containers to personnel).

Impact on Climate Change

An increase in recycling would further enable the Council to reduce its carbon footprint and hit its carbon net zero commitment. Recycling is one of the most 'mainstream' concepts of addressing overarching sustainability goals, therefore it is vital to make sure that the council is maximising the effectiveness of both its scheme design, but also its

operational implementation. Being a large rural district, our waste and recycling vehicles cover a lot of mileage annually, and there are opportunities to potentially reduce fuel usage with the future types of vehicles Mid Devon would be looking to procure.

Equalities Impact Assessment

The service will continue to provide assisted collections according to the current policy; considerations for residents residing in HMOs, flats and properties with no outside space will be included in any proposed project plan. The service would review the lessons learnt and best practice from recent changes along with a review of other councils who have successfully implemented strategic changes to their waste collections operations.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

This report identifies with the 'Environment' priority area of the Corporate Plan for 2020-2024 '*increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of residual waste generated*'. Supporting and enabling customers to recycle and reduce residual waste contributes to Mid Devon District Councils' commitment to the Devon Climate Emergency.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Chief Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 01 Aug 2023

Performance and risk: Dr Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 28/07/2023

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Darren Beer, Operations Manager – Street Scene and Open Spaces

Email: dbeer@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers:

<https://democracy.middevon.gov.uk/documents/s26160/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20Recycling%20Options%20Nov%202022.pdf>

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ENVIRONMENT PDG WORK PLAN 2023-2024

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Officer Responsible	Comments
15.08.2023	Environment and Enforcement Policy Update/review report	Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	
15.08.2023	Waste Service Provision	Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	
Every Meeting	Climate Change Action Plan update To receive an update on actions taken for the Climate Change Action Plan	Climate and Sustainability Specialist	
Page 45	Environment Educational Enforcement Policy To receive the 3 yearly review of the Environment Educational Enforcement Policy and if appropriate make recommendations to Cabinet.	Corporate Manager for People Governance and Waste	Awaiting Input from Cabinet member – Not ready for the PDG until probably Autumn 2023
	Renewable and Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency including Community Energy Projects	Climate and Sustainability Specialist	
	Green Standards in Planning	Director of Place	
	Nature Recovery and Conservation within Planning	Director of Place	

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