

Environment Policy Development Group

Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 5.30 pm
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Tuesday, 18 June 2024 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.

The meeting will be Hybrid and an audio recording will be made and published on the website after the meeting

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Membership

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

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 - 14*)
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on Monday 23 January 2024.
- 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 15 - 22*)
To receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and the Climate and Sustainability Officer
- 7 **Performance Dashboard Quarter 3** (*Pages 23 - 24*)
To receive a report from the Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager
- 8 **Review of Bin It 123**
To receive a verbal update from the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste following the revised deadline concerning the elimination of side waste deadline for district collections.
- 9 **Environment Enforcement Statistics - Quarter 3** (*Pages 25 - 30*)
To receive a report from the Environment and Enforcement Manager
- 10 **Work Plan** (*Pages 31 - 36*)
To receive the current work plan for the Environment PDG and consider subjects to be added to the work plan..
- 11 **Environment PDG Chairman's Annual Report**
To receive the Annual Report from the Chairman of the Environment PDG

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Monday, 4 March 2024

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

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

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

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

Tel: 01884 234311

E-Mail: dparker@middevon.gov.uk

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MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**
held on 23 January 2024 at 5.30 pm

**Present
Councillors**

B Fish (Vice Chairman), C Adcock,
M D Binks, G Czapiewski, B Holdman,
J Poynton and S Robinson

**Apologies
Councillor(s)**

C Harrower

**Also Present
Councillor(s)**

J Wright, D Broom, J Buczkowski, S J Clist, M Jenkins and
D Wulff

**Also Present
Officer(s):**

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), Luke Howard
(Environment and Enforcement Manager), Laura Woon
(Democratic Services Manager) and David Parker
(Democratic Services & Policy Research Officer)

**Councillors
Online**

M Fletcher and G Westcott
E Buczkowski, A Glover, S Keable, J Lock and L Taylor

Officers Online

45 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (0:03:42)

Cllr C Harrower sent her apologies, she was substituted by Cllr M Binks.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT (0:04:10)

Members were reminded of the need to make declarations of interest where appropriate. There were no interests declared under this item.

47 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (0:04:27)

The following member of the public asked questions:

Paul Elstone A Local Resident and Council Taxpayer .

My questions relate to Agenda Item 10 Renewable Energy in Mid Devon.

Question 1.

The briefing paper says there are 10 Anaerobic Digesters in Mid Devon.
What are their names and exact locations?

Question 2.

The paper also says these Anaerobic Digesters have an installed capacity of 5.3 megawatts.
What is the power generating capacity for each Anaerobic Digester?

Question 3

Is this the approved power generation output, or does it include spare capacity in the event of breakdown?

Question 4

How many solar farms are there in Mid Devon?

Question 5

Where are they exactly located?

Question 6

What acreage does each solar farm cover and what is their individual generating capacity?

Question 7

How many solar farms have planning approval and are still to be constructed and commissioned?

Question 8

Where are they?

Question 9

What is their power output?.

Question 10

Are Committee Members aware that:

Maize is the major feedstock for Anaerobic Digesters in Mid Devon

That annually an acre of solar panels can produce more electrical energy than 17 acres of Maize.

That a British Soil Association Report says that 75% of the land where maize is grown is badly or severely degraded and causing excessive water run off resulting in erosion ?

Question 11.

Are Committee Members aware that an Anaerobic Digester in Mid Devon.

Obtains feedstock and disposes of digestate from as far afield as Bow, Wellington, Wimple and Stoke Canon, a round trip distance of up to 46 miles.

Using weighbridge ticket information, it is believed the agricultural tractor mileage for this Anaerobic Digester can be estimated at 75,000 miles per annum or 3 times round the equator?

Question 12

Are Committee Members aware that it is believed that these same tractors are emitting as much as 600,000 Kilograms of Carbon annually? This not including other pollutants.

Hence the requirement for planning condition enforcement.

A general response to questions 1 to 9:

The source of data on renewable energy installations was government statistics published online by the [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#) - this material is freely available and links are contained within the report but it does not provide locations and details of individual installations. The Council is not responsible for keeping details of all privately owned operations and their power agreements / arrangements, and might not keep records of local energy installations, except perhaps in relation to larger scale installations where certain permissions are required. However, the Council does not hold all of this information as one data set and it is therefore not possible to address the questions raised.

Response provided by the Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

As questions 10 -12 were not submitted before the meeting, the Chairman indicated that a written response would be provided.

This is the written response to questions 10 – 12.

The Committee thanks the questioner for making this point.

Response provided by the Chief Executive.

48 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (0:08:51)

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on Tuesday 7 November 2023, were approved as a correct record and set aside for **SIGNING** by the Chairman.

49 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (0:09:31)

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

50 CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE (0:09:37)

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report* from the Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

The report highlighted green and healthier homes, parks and transport. Consideration was given to:

- The Council had received awards for the Z-Pod project – opening six Net Zero energy homes for tenants at Cullompton with more being installed at Tiverton and more on the horizon.

- Greener Taxis – consultation with taxi operators as to how we could support a cleaner and more efficient taxi sector in the District.
- More electric vans had joined the Mid Devon District Council fleet.
- The Council had switched over to green electricity at all of their sites.

The group had before it and **NOTED** the Cabinet’s Biodiversity Duty report*. Crucially this statutory obligation linked into but was NOT the same as Biodiversity Net Gain (being implemented Feb onwards), it was a pre-existing duty for local government to act. So Mid Devon District Council would produce an Action Plan. The Cabinet was asking PDGs to contribute ideas and feedback on how the whole Council could deliver on its Biodiversity Duty by the PDG’s next meeting in March.

Consideration was given to:

- Potential new actions outside statutory Planning Policy / Local Planning Authority (LPA) duties and powers that could contribute to the general biodiversity duty.
- Potential new actions within statutory Planning Policy processes and powers that could contribute to the general biodiversity duty.
- Could the Environment PDG consider what was realistic? – Did they want a new policy or to shape existing policy?
- The timetable for the policy to be placed before all PDG’s for their input before it went to Cabinet in April 2024 to enable a plan to be finalised.
- Whether the Council could influence land management apart from on their own estate? – There were no funds or grants that could be applied to go to other landowners, the Council could try to influence in other ways but these would not be using regulatory powers.
- The Towns and Parishes should have something to offer with their resources and opportunities. There should be a positive action plan in relation to policy with Community Engagement including the “Sustainable” groups such as “Friends of the Exe”.

Note: *reports previously circulated.

51 **MDDC DRAFT MTFP 2024 - 2029 - SECOND REVIEW (0:24:09)**

The Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change gave a verbal update regarding the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024 – 2029 which summarised the reports that went to the Cabinet both in December and January.

The following was highlighted:

:

- Savings had been reviewed and refined and an increase in savings of £307,000 had been identified bringing the total up to £1,644,000
- Savings had been made on Red/Amber/Green (RAG) status – Red £53,000, Amber £718,000 and Green £873,000.
- Savings on staff would only be made if a post became vacant. – There would be no staff redundancies.

- Since the December report the Finance team had undertaken a further review of service areas which established further savings of £41,000 to take the total savings to £1,685,000 out of the original £2,103,000 that the Council started with, leaving £418,000 of savings to be found.
- In December the Local Government Finances Settlement was announced and £85,000 more grant funding was made available and the increase to Council Tax was allowed at 3% and not 2%, with the implications of the uplifted Business Rates multiplier added that now enabled the Corporate Manager to announce that we had a balanced budget.
- Those managing the budget were now only looking at what savings may be made in readiness for the 2025/26 budget, and the officer encouraged members to highlight savings options for development over the summer.

52 ENVIRONMENT AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY UPDATE (0:27:52)

The Group had before it, a report* from the Environment and Enforcement Manager.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Services explained that this paper outlined the key environment enforcement policies that underpin key activities related to fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, littering, etc. There were no significant changes. The largest change was in the fly tipping policy which included an increase in the maximum fixed penalty to £1,000 with delegated authority being granted to the Environment and Enforcement Manager with regard to the issuing of those fixed penalty notices, and inclusion of greater detail with regard to the household duty of care.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- The “separation guidance” for recycling boxes, there was a debate around better explanation on the website regarding what to do with batteries or small electrical goods.
- The number of people against whom there had been enforcement action taken for litter dropping. The PDG were reminded by the Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste that Enforcement statistics are taken to the PDG on a quarterly basis.
- Whether litter dropping had increased since the three weekly bin collection policy had been introduced.
- Advertising to the voluntary litter collection groups that litter pickers and Hi-Viz vests were available for loan.
- Reporting those who drop litter and those who drop litter from vehicles.
- 7 year review of the fly tipping policy.
- The Bin-it 123 and Environment Policies had been successful and seen an increase in recycling rates and a reduction in the Council’s carbon footprint.
- A press release regarding three weekly collections that would state that the District would be expected to be fully compliant by 26 February 2024.
- Recycling Advisors were available to offer advice on how waste and recycling would be collected (and how it should be left out for collection).
- That too much waste that could be recycled was going into black bins and black bags. There would be a video to help illustrate this point.
- People across the district needed to understand that fly tipping and litter dropping were not acceptable hence the importance of these environment education policies.

- There were two employed Street Cleansers in Tiverton, one in Cullompton and one on Crediton High Street.
- “Make a Difference Days” where employers offer their employees days off to do voluntary work. Those voluntary groups complimented what Mid Devon District Council were able to do by working with “Clean Devon Partnership”.
- The Environment and Enforcement Manager was looking into a scheme to enable the Council to collect larger items and was seeking funding for this.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that

- (a) **That Litter Policy be implemented to reflect Defra guidance on Proportionate, Effective, Targeted, Transparent and Consistent approach to littering offences,**
- (b) **To amend the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for littering to include a 50% discount for a period of 14 days from the date of the offence**
- (c) **To review and approve wording simplification:**
 1. **Stray Dog Policy**
 2. **Littering from Vehicles**
 3. **Compulsory Recycling**
 4. **Fly Tipping minor wording amendment regarding FPN value.**
- (d) **To approve Abandoned Vehicle policy wording changes.**

Proposed by the Chairman

Note: *report previously circulated.

53 **GREEN STANDARDS IN PLANNING INCLUDING RENEWABLE AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MID DEVON (0:50:33)**

The Group agreed to deal with agenda items 9 and 10 together.

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, two updates* from the Climate and Sustainability Specialist.

The briefing paper tackled the subject of climate change as a material consideration in the planning process. The paper highlighted what Mid Devon was doing as a local authority covering a range of areas, energy efficiency standards, embodied carbon as a consideration and a list of what other authorities were doing.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- Local Authorities were not given the freedom to shape their policies to go beyond national standards (some exceptions are allowed when properly evidenced etc). Planning Officers would apply whatever legislation and Policy Guidance was in place at the time of the application.
- The Forward Planning Team asked that all Councillors engaged with the new Forward Plan and with the Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG) and Plan Mid Devon, to help shape policy.
- A new Written Ministerial Statement discouraged Local Planning Authorities from raising energy standards for new homes without strong evidence.

- If the Local Authority raised local building standards it could have an impact on Embodied Carbon (the impacts of materials, construction methods, transport etc.). An issue perhaps too complex an issue for Mid Devon to manage.
- The impact that increasing the cost of housing had on the number of houses that could be provided for communities.
- If Mid Devon tightened up on standards then they could put a lag into the economy. We probably needed these issues to be dealt with at a national level where it would drive the economy and await information from the research institutions.
- The latest written guidance from Central Government needed to be clarified as it would seem that local authorities cannot raise their own energy efficiency standards from new housing without doing a very difficult and time expensive calculation which may or may not prove the viability of what was being suggested.
- If so, could Mid Devon raise criteria for Embodied Carbon? Was there any scope that in the initial sustainability assessment of development applications, could we not validate planning applications which did not conform to certain sustainability criteria?
- Should the Council consider having two approaches; 1. Current guidance 2. Policies that the Council would really like to see if the National Planning Policy Framework was relaxed, so that they could be put into the local plan? This was an interesting challenge to put to forward planners – how could we do this?
- Exeter City Council is pulling it into their own planning policy a “just in case policy” anticipating future standards coming into place.
- Embodied Carbon – as there were no restrictions, there should be room to include this in the Council’s plan although it would need to be strongly evidenced.
- The Council had published [free resources](#) to help builders and developers identify affordable ways to achieve low carbon / Net Zero new build and retrofit. ([Net Zero Carbon Toolkit](#); [Net Zero Housing Assessment Tool](#).)
- PPAG, 15 years ago, tried to agree whether new build residences should have solar voltaic cells and heat pumps, the Council was told at that time that it was not possible to have its own separate non-national guidelines. Also it related to building control and not planning. Mid Devon is different to other authorities where the Council is such a large rural authority. The district doesn’t have the infrastructure to charge electric vehicles (ev’s). The district is a special case and should be allowed to improve their energy systems.
- Insulation, heat recovery, heat pumps.
- Could the Council get an assessment of what it was likely to cost to build in those higher standards because it would be much cheaper to build them in at the building stage than it would be to retrofit at a later stage. It would assist in demonstrating the through-life cost to the occupiers of these houses.
- Encouraging developers to adopt “Green Policies”.
- Promoting the “Z Pods” – the design and technology was fantastic.
- The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation - GOV.UK consultation was live. Central Government were consulting on future homes standards and future building standards, the Council could engage with that consultation.

- Retrofitting was a massive task even set against just new homes. However, there was also massive skills and investment potential. There were millions of homes in Mid Devon that would need retrofitting.
- The Climate and Sustainability Officer was asked to respond to the Government Consultation on “Future Homes”. Would it be possible for him to ask if the standards could be improved and the statement made that the Council would like to see more ambitious options so that our legal targets of meeting Net Zero by 2050 nationally could be met or moved towards.

Regarding Energy statistics

- A mixed story on Renewable Energy and Community Energy - big growth in solar; others e.g. wind power at a standstill.
- Would it be possible to calculate the current district requirement for energy and project a mix to enable the district to be self-sufficient in 2030?
- The Climate and Sustainability Officer had been joining a Devon local area energy planning group regarding future energy scenarios, they were trying to generate some investible projects with achieving net-zero in mind.
- Hydro Energy was a small element but it was always there. The Council had looked at this in the past but as solar power was a lower risk the Council had prioritised that. If there was a view that at community scale that Hydro Energy was something worth-while and could attract some kind of Community Partnership investment in that technology then it could be done in various ways, (it was a very complex area), but at a lower scale then the Climate and Sustainability Officer could look at that. An energy consultant had told him that hydro-electric was the most risky of all the renewable energy options not least, in the damage that it may do to the river system.
- What would be Mid Devon area’s energy needs? If the Council had a good estimate of that then they could plan energy supply over the next ten years. The Climate and Sustainability Officer was asked to request the data.
- Devon Climate Emergency were already tracking demand.
- What was the prospect for Wind Energy, it needed a change in the National Planning Policy Guidelines, public perception had already changed.
- A Local Energy Plan was about the whole mix of energy production.
- National Grid – could the Council put any pressure on them to increase the number of connections for power suppliers? – That was unlikely but the Council could keep National Grid informed.

Note: (1) *updates previously circulated.

(2) Cllr M. Binks left the meeting at 6.40pm

54 **RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MID DEVON**

This item was dealt with, within the item before.

55 **WORK PROGRAMME* (1:37:17)**

The group had before it and **NOTED** the Work Programme.

Bio Diversity Duty update has been added to the meeting in March 2024.

The Chairman called for items which could be considered at future meetings.

Note: * Work Programme previously circulated

(The meeting ended at 7.08 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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Report for: Environment Policy Development Group

Date of Meeting:	12 March 2024
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 which are Exempt from publication under paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
Wards Affected:	All.
Enclosures:	None.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

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

Recommendation(s):

- 1. That the Environment Policy Development Group (PDG) notes and accepts this report as an update on the Council's Climate and Sustainability Programme, and progress on its response to the Climate Emergency including the Climate Action Plan (CAP).**
- 2. That the Environment PDG notes that the Council's Planning Policy Advisory Group will be engaged with ongoing work for the new Local Plan for Mid Devon throughout the plan making programme.**

3. That the Environment PDG notes the Cabinet report and the requirements on the Council to act in relation to the Biodiversity Duty.

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council’s Corporate Plan places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability matters woven into all aspects of its work, from procurement to promoting nature recovery. 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.

1.2 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.

1.3 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;
- efforts to enable and facilitate actions across Mid Devon communities.

1.4 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.

1.5 This report emphasises activity and progress updates for brevity. For background details, please refer to previous reports, all [available online](#).

2.0 Performance

2.1 Aims, Priorities and Performance Indicators

2.1.1 Progress on Corporate Plan Performance Indicators (PI) is provided separately in [Performance reports to Audit Committee available online](#). Progress notes on our overall Corporate Plan aims and Climate Change priorities are also [available online](#). (<https://sustainablemiddevon.org.uk/our-plan/#aims-priorities>)

2.2 The Council's Carbon Footprint

2.2.1 Annual [carbon footprint reports](#) (greenhouse gas accounting) are published on the Council's [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website.

3.0 Community and partnership activities

3.1 Community engagement.

3.1.1 To promote achievements such as conservation management areas, Community Orchards and tree planting, we have published an article about how the Council is [Boosting Nature in Green Spaces](#).

3.1.2 Mid Devon Housing (MDH) will compile factsheets for tenants to increase environmental awareness. One example would be to explain HRA grounds maintenance practices such as avoiding hedge cutting during bird nesting seasons and how cutting the grass only 7 times per year helps biodiversity (compared with more frequent cuts elsewhere / previously). MDH will also do more to promote their environmental improvement budget. Working with the Tiverton Tree Team and Property Services, MDH plans to plant more trees at Westexe, followed by fruit trees in Uplowman, with local community support. Looking ahead MDH will seek to add a biodiversity section to web pages and also on Let's Talk Mid Devon.

3.1.3 The Council is encouraging Mid Devon residents to book bulky waste collections using the Council's new portal, [My Mid Devon](#), but also promotes upcycling and reuse with the message: "If you have any items that are still in a decent working condition, please think about ways of re-using or donating your items to local charities and reuse organisations."

3.1.4 Since the Council's Bin-It-123 waste collection cycles were launched in October 2022 the average recycling rate has increased by approximately 5%, and the tonnage of residual collected has reduced on average by over 100 tonnes per month. The projection for 2023/24 is each household will produce 315kg of residual waste, down from 364.5kg in 2021/22.

3.1.5 A series of measures have been taken by Officers to raise awareness of the public regarding the future tightening of restrictions regarding side waste and the need to use the appropriate containers and caddies for recycling. From 26 February, full compliance with the scheme is now expected from residents to help further improve performance.

3.2 Sustainability in the Local Economy, Planning and Development.

3.2.1 The Economy team has launched a new hub work space in Tiverton. The former Market Centre building has the potential to be converted into a work hub for freelancers, home-based businesses and remote professionals to use as an affordable collaborative workspace. Businesses were invited to a

drop-in event on Friday 23 February to find out more about a potential new work hub coming to Tiverton and identify their needs from a co-working space.

3.3 Sustainability in Local Housing.

3.3.1 Zed Pods are now in use at St Andrews, Cullompton. A further eight units are in their final delivery stage for Shapland Place, Tiverton, with an expectation of them being inhabited before the end of the financial year.

3.3.2 MDH continues work to monitor, assess and address health issues such as damp and mould with improvements that also reduce social tenant household bills and greenhouse gas emissions. A potential university project is being explored.

3.4 Partnership work.

3.4.1 Private sector housing. The Council has proactively established support for [energy efficiency grants and advice](#) and the [ECO4](#) grant schemes. To date 43 properties have benefited from the grant with a range of energy efficiency measures being installed. Properties often receive more than one measure so the numbers of measures installed are greater than the number of homes improved. So far the scheme has provided:

- 31 Air source heat pumps
- 18 loft/roof insulation
- 17 Cavity wall insulation
- 30 Solar PV
- And a range of other measures such as flat roof insulation, mains gas boiler, night storage heating, external solid wall insulation, smart heating controls and internal solid wall insulation.
- [Any updates, please?]

3.4.2 The private sector housing team also actively enforces the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard Regulations in domestic properties to ensure that private rented homes have an EPC of E and above.

3.4.3 Alongside this the team also inspect and assess homes for excess cold under the Housing Act 2004 and have served 9 notices requiring heating and insulation measures to be installed in the last year.

- 3.4.4 Loans are also available through our low cost loan provider Lendology CIC. Three loans specifically for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures have been approved this year.
- 3.4.5 We have shared [Trading Standards South West advice](#) with colleagues and residents to help avoid sub-standard retrofit traders. Also energysavingdevon.org.uk free guidance and resources.
- 3.4.6 The C&S Specialist has advised an emerging local energy fund.
- 3.5 Promoting local events, exemplars and projects.
- 3.5.1 Online promotion continues via social media channels, the [Let's Talk Mid Devon](#) engagement platform and the [Sustainable Mid Devon](#) website (e.g. grant pots).

4.0 Corporate activities

4.1 Sustainability in Corporate Culture and Operations

4.2 The C&S Specialist, Director of Place and Cabinet Member for Climate Change have begun work to build a Biodiversity Duty policy framework and action plan. This PDG received a [report](#) on the Biodiversity Duty and a briefing paper has been shared with colleagues and other PDGs.

4.3 The C&S Specialist has:

- Delivered 3 introductory workshops on Carbon Literacy for 21 Elected Members and 2 staff - full certification will be available to those who wish to complete the course. Staff training dates to be announced.
- Coordinated teamwork to deliver the first electric vehicle charge points in the Council's pay and display car parks. The first of 6 rapid chargers (50kW+) will go live in April. Managed by the owner-operator Wenea, these will run on renewable electricity supplies.
- Engaged ecology and soil carbon assessments to inform land management decisions.
- Coordinated energy data problem solving, monitoring and energy saving workshops for Property Services staff.
- Held monthly calls for all operations managers to support climate action.
- Fielded potential bids to the South West Net Zero Hub's [Local Net Zero Fund](#) in coordination with colleagues.
- Supported the Licensing Team's [draft Taxi policy consultation](#) events.

4.4 Further work is being done to facilitate policy development and to identify and register local 'biodiversity banks' to deliver [Biodiversity Net Gain](#) (BNG). Additional staff training was delivered as legislation came into force.

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. The Council's environmental sustainability duties are underpinned by legislation e.g. [Environment Act 2021](#). All local authorities have obligations under the [Climate Change Act 2008](#) with regard to climate change adaptation (resilience) and mitigation (emission reductions). [Full Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019](#).

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 Section 2, paragraphs 2.1 - 2.2.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off / mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett
Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151.
Date: 27 February 2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer.
Date: 27 February 2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director.
Date: 29 February 2024

Performance and risk: Dr Steve Carr
Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager.
Date: 27 February 2024

Cabinet member notified: Yes.

Report: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No.

Appendix: Exclusion of the press and public from this item of business on the published agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. No.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Jason Ball, Climate and Sustainability Specialist: Email: JBall@MidDevon.gov.uk Tel: 01884 255255.

Background papers: The previous report was provided to the [Environment Policy Development Group](#) on [23 January 2024](#).

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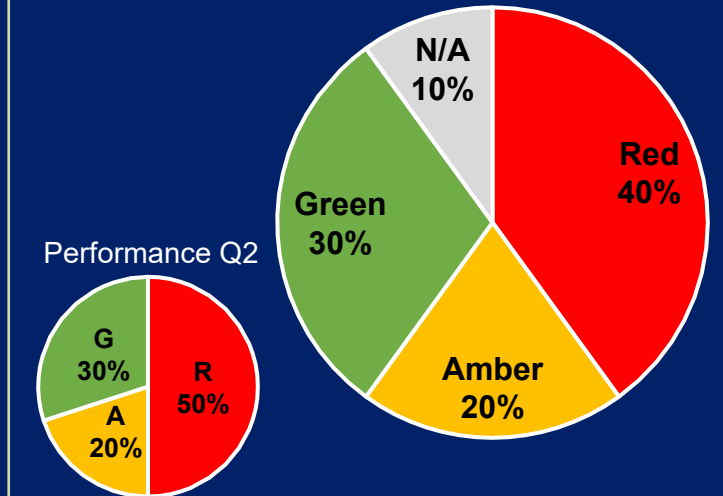
Environment PDG Performance Dashboard – Quarter 3 2023/24

Performance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	RAG
Household waste collected per household (YTD)	234.5 kg	330 kg	G
Household recycling rate (Average YTD)	58.4 %	56.5 %	G
Households on chargeable garden waste (Current)	12,030	11,800	G
Own fleet CO ₂ e avoided (YTD)	4.05 t CO ₂ e	10 t CO ₂ e	R
Solar panel performance – corporate estate (YTD)	44 t CO ₂ e	TBC	

Finance Measures	Performance	Annual Target	RAG
Environment PDG – Outturn	£5,673k	£5,496k	A
Income received from recycled material	(£381k)	(£496k)	R
Agency Spend 'v' Budget (Environment)	£331k	£97k	R
Environment PDG – Capital Outturn	£349k	£1,648k	A
Environment PDG – Capital Slippage % of projects (Current)	31%	0%	R

Corporate Risk	Risk Rating (Trajectory)
Failure to meet Climate Change Commitments by 2030	15 (No change)
Operation of a Waste Management Service	8 (Decreasing)

Overall Performance Q3



In Focus

During 2023, Recycling Advisors have been employed to audit and educate residents to comply with the Bin-it 123 scheme including side waste, wrong bins and non-permitted bins. This has seen non-compliance fall from 13% to less than 5%.

For the “Own fleet CO₂ avoided” measure, data is only available from August 2023. CO₂ avoided for Q3 was 2.245 tonnes.

Solar panel performance: The target has been removed from this measure. Data is not currently available for all sites. It is hoped that a target can be set in March 2024 when all data is available.

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Report for: Environment PDG

Date of Meeting:	12 March 2024
Subject:	Environment and Enforcement Quarter 3 Report
Cabinet Member:	Josh Wright- Cabinet Member for Environment and Services
Responsible Officer:	Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager
Exempt:	N/A
Wards Affected:	All
Enclosures:	N/A

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendation(s)

This report will provide members with an overview of performance from the Environment and Enforcement service during Quarter 3 of the financial year 2023/24

Recommendation(s): Report for note only

Section 2 – Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Quarter 3 (Q3) presented some challenges to the team but these were absorbed and the service continued to perform well under the circumstances. In particular, staffing resource presented the biggest issue with long-term sickness absence and jury service limiting the services ability to undertake duties as normal.
- 1.2 The service dealt with a significant number of fly tipping incidents during Q3, many of which were found to have evidence, thus allowing invites to be sent to the relevant individuals to account for the waste.
- 1.3 The service has also engaged in a funding application from Central Government to assist with highlighting household duty of care and fly tipping within the District. It is expected the outcome of the funding decision will be received in March 2024.

2.0 Quarter Three

- 2.1 Despite operating at a lower staffing level for a large proportion of the quarter, the service has maintained all statutory functions.
- 2.2 All cleansing inspections for Q3 were completed and the overall cleanliness of the District remains at a good standard. The service continues to monitor the cleanliness of the District and concerns relating to three weekly collections do not seem to have impacted this in any way. Grading functions remain the same with Grade A - No litter or refuse, Grade B - Predominantly free of litter or refuse, Grade C - Widespread distribution of litter and refuse and Grade D - Heavily littered with significant accumulations. There were none graded at D.

Town	Cleansing Checks	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C
Tiverton	2,105	932	1,137	36
Crediton	863	380	482	1
Cullompton	1,116	499	606	11

- 2.3 The team's investigations into reported fly tipping incidents resulted in 20+ interviews being arranged with individuals. Not all interviews were conducted in Q3 with some falling into the start of Q4. These interviews provide an opportunity for the individual to account for how their information was linked to the incident. Those individuals who were unable to provide a reasonable explanation were issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for the offences of fly tipping or littering.

3.0 Car Parking

- 3.1 There has been a significant move toward virtual payments for parking; this has seen a significant rise in user numbers for our Ringo cashless payment option.
- 3.2 User rates continued at a consistent rate throughout Q3 and show a slight increase in user numbers comparative to the same period last year.
- 3.3 Pay and display income for Q3

Quarter 3 Pay and Display revenue	Coins	Card	Ringo	Total
2023*	£81,176.15	£75,868.30	£86,374.00	£243,418.45
2022*	£89,014.10	£69,651.40	£43,862.45	£202,527.95

*All figures include VAT

3.4 The service also held its first parking consultation group meeting during Q3. The group is made up of community groups, members and officers, and is designed to merge the gap in the respect of decision making and options for parking in the Council's car parks. Initial discussions are promising and the group are about to, at the time of writing, put forward suggestions to the Economy PDG in Q4.

4.0 Environmental Enforcement

4.1 The service continues to monitor reports of fly tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, PSPO related issues and littering from vehicles. The service heavily relies on feedback from the public to inform us of problematic areas. The service does undertake proactive patrols to tackle these issues; however, public reporting enables the service to focus resource on areas that are identified as particularly problematic.

4.2 Due to the reduced staffing resource, the service has focused on high priority issues during Q3. This has been particularly pertinent to fly tipping and PSPO related reports. The service has been proactive in assisting communities with stickers and posters in relation to dog offences.

4.3 Abandoned Vehicle Statistics Q3

Total Reported	108
Not Abandoned/Gone	76
Action Required	32
Moved by owner after notice	26
Removed by MDDC	5
Fixed Penalty Notices issued	2
Action not Taken	0

4.4 Environmental Enforcement Statistics Q3

Q3	2022	2023
Patrols Conducted	64	51
FPN's Issued	10	6
Dog Fouling/PSPO	3	0
Littering	5	3
Fly Tipping	2	3

5.0 Street Cleansing

5.1 The street cleansing service has been focused on litter picking the A361 link road between J27 and Bolham during October. This litter pick is focused on removing litter disposed of by users of the link road during the summer period. Operatives work in compliance with Chapter 8 highway working procedures and do not operate along live carriageways without protection barriers or compliant distance.

5.2 Fly tipping has been consistent throughout the quarter, with reported incidents showing continued decline

5.3 Fly tipping collections Q3

Fly Tipping Collections	Time Spent	Cost of disposal (Tyres and Asbestos) £s
115	69 hrs 30 mins	£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: 4 March 2024

Statutory Officer:

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date:

Chief Officer:

Agreed by Stephen Walford on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 29th February 2024

Performance and risk: Steve Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 04 March 2024

Cabinet member notified: (yes/no)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager

Email: lhoward@middevon.gov.uk

Telephone: 01884 255255

Background papers:

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ENVIRONMENT PDG WORK PLAN 2024-2025

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
12th March 2023				
12.03.24	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
12.03.24	Review of Bin It 123 To receive a verbal update following the revised deadline concerning the elimination of side waste deadline for district collections.		Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	
12.03.24	Quarter 3 Environment Enforcement Statistics		Environment and Enforcement Manager	
12.03.24	Performance Dashboard Quarter 3		Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager	
12.03.24	Work Programme			
12.03.24	Chairman's Report for 2023-2024 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Environment PDG on the work of the Group for 2023-2024			
18th June 2024				
18.06.24	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
18.06.24	Performance Dashboard Quarter 4		Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager	
18.06.24	National Assistance Burial Procedure		Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
18.06.24	Formal Review of Bin It 123		Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	
18.06.24	Options paper on the future of recycling including Pots and Pans and Coffee Pods		Corporate Manager for People, Governance and Waste	
18.06.24	Work Programme			
13th August 2024				
13.08.24	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
13.08.24				
10th October 2024				
10.10.24	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
08.10.24	Performance Dashboard Quarter 1		Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager	
8.10.24	Climate Strategy Action Plan		Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	
8.10.24	MDDC Draft MTFP 2025-30 First Review To review the draft MTFP for 2025 - 30		Deputy Chief Executive (S151)	
5th November 2024				
5.11.24	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
5.11.24	Bereavement Services Fees and Charges		Corporate Manager for Finance, Property and Climate Change	

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Theme	Officer Responsible	Comments
5.11.24	Performance Dashboard Quarter 2		Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager	
5.11.24	Work Programme			
Thursday 9th January				
9.01.25	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
09.01.25	MDDC Draft MTFP 2025-30 Second Review To review the draft MTFP for 2025 - 30		Deputy Chief Executive (S151)	
11th March 2025				
11.03.25	Climate and Sustainability Update		Climate and Sustainability Officer	
11.03.25	Performance Dashboard Quarter 3		Corporate Performance and Improvement Manager	
11.03.25	Chairman's Report for 2024-2025 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Environment PDG on the work of the Group for 2024-2025			

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Environment PDG

List of ideas that the group may wish to add to the work plan

- The option of community municipal bonds as a way to increase revenue for renewable energy projects (i.e. EV Charging Points, wind farms, etc.).
- Workplace parking levies to encourage car sharing in the district / more use of public transport.
- Working with the communications team to create local guides of accredited local business with strong green credentials (carbon neutral / B Corp).
- Increased Solar PV at Council-owned buildings. Reduction in business rates for those that wish to install clean energy solutions.
- Feasibility of community composting schemes.
- Lower cost/free parking for electric vehicles at district owned sites.
- Feasibility of becoming a zero food-waste district. This is something that is happening in Bristol, with campaigns to support education ([here](#) & [here](#)) and updates in relation to what happens to food waste (biogas for green buses, etc.).
- Food redistribution schemes through the council.
- Repair cafes and green markets / free business workshops on reducing waste.
- Working with local businesses (i.e. Pipers Farm) on local food growing workshops for residents (reduction in food waste from supermarkets).
- Small electrical donation schemes.
- Facilitation of the rolling out of EV chargers, like the DELETTI programme in Devon and Somerset.
- Feasibility of cross-county co-operation on recycling centres.
- Rolling out of refillable water stations in town highstreets / at council buildings.

Additionally:

- What is our current tree planting strategy? Is there a target in mind?
- Do we have a green procurement policy? Should we?

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