

**FULL COUNCIL
24 FEBRUARY 2021:**

**9 MONTH PROGRESS REVIEW AGAINST THE CORPORATE PLAN FOR
2020/21**

Cabinet Member Cllr Bob Deed
Responsible Officer Catherine Yandle Operations Manager for Performance,
Governance and Data Security

Reason for Report: To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council reviews the progress set out in the report and provides feedback on any areas of concern.

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

Financial Implications: None identified

Legal Implications: None

Risk Assessment: If performance is not monitored the Council may fail to meet our corporate and local service plan targets or to take appropriate corrective action where necessary.

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

Impact on Climate Change: No impacts identified for this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan approved by Cabinet on 16 January 2020 runs from April 2020 until March 2024.
- 1.2 Progress is monitored throughout the year by reporting against the declared Aims for each Priority identified. The reporting framework was approved by Cabinet on 2 December 2020.
- 1.3 Please note that for all areas of the Council the results have been understandably impacted by the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic during which a large part of the workforce has been engaged in support measures. There are specific comments on the attached appendices reflecting this.

2.0 Environment PDG

Increase Recycling and Reduce the Amount of Waste - Appendix 1A

- 2.1 Covid 19 had an impact on the amount of waste created by households particularly for Q1. The recycling rate is very slightly below the target of 54%. The number of garden waste customers has conversely benefited from the “Stay at Home” guidance so the target for the year was increased which has also been exceeded.
- 2.2 Kerbside Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling commenced in September.
- 2.3 A campaign was undertaken before Christmas to promote recycling called “Make Your Metal Matter” the Council teamed up with Devon County Council and AluPro (an industry funded, not-for-profit organisation) to launch this campaign.
- 2.4 Mid Devon District Council’s fleet of recycling vehicles, which were scheduled to be replaced in 2020, started to be delivered from the manufacturers in September. The new vehicles have been designed to accommodate a greater range and weight in the materials put out by residents.
- 2.5 On 3 December Cabinet voted to approve a new waste collection trial. The trial is part of a process to improve recycling rates as well as reduce emissions from collection vehicles. It will also help the Council to meet with Government guidelines to recycle 65% of household waste by 2035 and Devon’s proposed 60% target rate by 2025. The trial, which will include both rural and urban areas, should begin in early summer and will last for a minimum of three months.

Climate Change - Appendix 1B

- 2.6 Progress is being made on the Climate Change agenda; a set of proposed measures is included as appendix 1B to this report. These are all new measures reflecting the new corporate plan aims so there are no comparatives with last year.
- 2.7 The Council are part of the tactical group for the Devon-wide carbon plan; Devon Climate Emergency (DCE). DCE put out a call for evidence to contribute to the Devon Carbon Plan - the group received almost 900 submissions, mostly from individuals. Some of the suggestions have been reviewed and incorporated into our own emerging plan and others will need to be discussed as part of our Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) and our “Mid Devon Climate Conversations”.
- 2.8 MDDC’s push towards its own carbon reduction target received a boost with the installation of solar panels at its Carlu Close depot. The depot now has panels covering 250m² of its roof space, meaning the 147 panels can produce almost 50kwp (Kilowatt Peak) of energy per hour (enough to supply

approximately 14 houses). The initial investment should be paid back in less than six years due to the electricity generated to power the site, meaning less reliance on the National Grid as an energy source, and the ability for the Council to sell back some of the unused power.

- 2.9 In October 2020 the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) launched the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (referred to as the Grant Scheme) which will be delivered by Salix Finance (a non-departmental public body).
- 2.10 The Property Services team have been successful in securing £310,821 towards reducing our carbon emissions across our three leisure sites that includes an air source heat pump for reducing gas consumption and both external and internal LED lighting that over the life of the assets will reduce CO2 emissions by 520t with annual reduction of over £60k in electricity charges as well as reduced maintenance costs.
- 2.11 The new Climate and Sustainability Specialist has been appointed and starts with us on 1 March.

3.0 Homes PDG – Appendix 2

- 3.1 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Deliver Housing: The targets for annual housing completions of most types have been updated to reflect the Local Plan targets. The Council has been successful in meeting the requirements of the Government's Housing Delivery Test 2020 and in the last monitoring year 19/20, 31% of the 425 homes completed were affordable.
- 3.2 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Private Sector Housing: Bringing Empty homes into use is well above target.
- 3.3 Drivehall Ltd, the owner of 1B Brook House, in Cullompton has been fined £18,000 plus costs for breaches in regulations pertaining to the Housing Act 2004, following a hearing on 7 August 2020. The case was put forward for prosecution by the Council's Legal and Public Health teams following an inspection of the flat in January 2020. Private Sector Housing Officers found that the four-bedroomed flat was occupied by up to 16 migrant workers.
- 3.4 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Council Housing: all measures are either at or just below target. In terms of gas servicing compliance this has been affected by Covid 29 and we currently have 12 properties with expired Landlords Gas Safety Records. First time access continues to be difficult.
- 3.5 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Support and grow active tenancy engagement: The tenant census had a good response. Work has commenced on analysing the results, this will be completed by the end of February.

4.0 Economy PDG - Appendix 3

- 4.1 During the Covid 19 pandemic the Growth and Economic Development service have been heavily involved with processing the business support

grants (with the Revenues service) and co-ordinating community voluntary groups, they have also taken the lead in the Council's shielding response.

- 4.2 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Identify strategic and tactical interventions to create economic and community confidence and pride in the places we live. This includes a continued focus on Town Centre Regeneration: Empty shops; we are now giving data on retail units owned by MDDC, occupancy rates are reasonable.
- 4.3 There has been positive movement on the number of Business rate accounts and empty NNDR properties despite the Covid pandemic.
- 4.4 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Work with local stakeholders to initiate delivery of the new garden village at Culm: Engagement with the various stakeholder groups has re-started with two Stakeholder Forum events on the subjects of Building with Nature, held on 11 August and Connecting the Culm project on 9 September. The project team will be focusing on preparing a draft masterplan over the next 6-12 months, and considering the planning policy context.
- 4.5 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: Work with developers and DCC to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations: Walking and cycling provision needs to be prioritised as set out in the Culm garden village vision and objectives.

5.0 **Community PDG – Appendix 4**

- 5.1 The KPIs identified are mostly new PIs and performance on most has been affected by Covid 19. It is unlikely that much progress will be seen over the next few months. Several of the corporate plan aims will require partnership working with Devon County Council, the NHS and Town and Parish Councils and lobbying activity. Targets for these remain to be developed.
- 5.2 However the play area at West Exe Recreation Ground had a make-over in September. Mid Devon District Council invested around £75,000 to fund the exciting improvements.
- 5.3 Regarding support through the Covid pandemic the Council paid grants totalling over £30M for the first lockdown with further payments of £10M expected in total for the January lockdown. The vast majority of this was to retail, hospitality and small businesses but we have £534,410 funding specifically to help adversely affected individuals through Hardship Funding and the Self Isolation payments. For the latter we have had 234 applications so far; 94 have been paid, 125 rejected and 15 are awaiting assessment.
- 5.4 Member Services continue to send a monthly newsletter to parish and town council clerks. The Monitoring Officer is regularly called on to provide advice to clerks and their councils with regard to governance and standards matters.

6.0 Corporate - Appendix 5

- 6.1 The Council received a report from the Planning Inspectorate confirming that the Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 provides an appropriate base for the planning of the District and, with a number of main modifications, was sound and capable of adoption. The Council formally adopted the Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033 on 29 July 2020. Work is now commencing on the next Local Plan. Work is also being programmed to produce an East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge joint strategy on a non-statutory basis following work ceasing on the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.
- 6.2 Working days lost due to sickness is better than expected for the first 2 quarters of 2020 despite the Covid 19 pandemic, it has been suggested that this is due in part to the number of members of staff working from home.
- 6.3 The Response to FOI requests have been 100% on time since April 2019.
- 6.4 The % total Council Tax collected and % total NNDR collected are both slightly below target. This has deteriorated due to the pandemic. Staff concentrated on processing small business grants and the council tax relief hardship fund for the first 6 months of the year and again since Christmas.

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Circulation of the Report: Leadership Team and Leader