

ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

13 JULY 2021

ANNEX A- CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

1.0 Performance

1.1.1. Progress on Performance Indicators (PI) have been provided separately.

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

Table 1 - Relevant Aims from the Corporate Plan (CP)

ref	Aim	Notes on actions taken
	Environment	
env 01	Encourage retrofitting of measures to reduce energy usage in buildings.	<p>Forward planning: The Climate & Sustainability Specialist (C&S Specialist) will work with teams to develop interim statements and policies to sit alongside Local Plan.</p> <p>Planning and Regeneration: The C&S Specialist will work with teams to review Plans and Strategies e.g. Culm Garden Village.</p> <p>Housing: archetypes project; retrofit projects; ongoing solar PV generation; bids for funds.</p> <p>Property: PSDS projects to decarbonise; ongoing solar PV generation; bids for funds.</p>
env 02	Encourage "green" sources of energy, supply new policies and develop plans to decarbonise energy consumption in Mid Devon.	<p>Electric Vehicle charging points. Solar PV for householders - the Council is part of the Solar Together Devon project.</p> <p>The Council has facilitated the Green Homes Grant and others.</p>
env 03	Identify opportunities to work with landowners to secure additional hedgerow planting, biodiversity and reforestation.	<p>The C&S Specialist has approached Devon County Council (DCC) to be part of the county LATF bid.</p> <p>Consulting members, staff, and parishes, for LATF and UTCF proposals.</p>
env 04	Consider promoting the designation of the Exe Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	<p>The C&S Specialist will liaise with Policy Development Groups and officer teams e.g. Planning and Regeneration to examine this.</p>

<p>env 05</p>	<p>Encourage new housing and commercial developments to be “exemplars” in terms of increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon use.</p>	<p>The C&S Specialist has commented on the Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan.</p> <p>The C&S Specialist will continue to work on this aim with Forward Planning (statements and policy guidance) and others in the Planning and Regeneration section (e.g. input to Town Centre Plans, Neighbourhood Plans and Master Plans).</p> <p>The C&S Specialist will help to develop the Culm Garden Village Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p>The C&S Specialist will work with others to explore opportunities based on exemplars e.g. Cornwall Council, Eastleigh Borough Council.</p>
<p>env 06</p>	<p>Increase recycling rates and reduce the amounts of residual waste generated.</p>	<p>The C&S Specialist will work with Street Scene etc.</p>
<p>env 07</p>	<p>Explore large-scale tree-planting projects and re-wilding to enhance biodiversity and address carbon pressures.</p>	<p>The C&S Specialist proactively asked members, staff and parishes for planting site proposals (ongoing).</p> <p>The C&S Specialist will work with others to seek external funding and partnership work to support nature recovery and habitat enhancements.</p>
<p>env 08</p>	<p>Promote sustainable farming practices in partnership with local farmers, district and county councils; including research into best practice re better soil management and animal husbandry.</p>	<p>The C&S Specialist will work with others to seek external funding and support partnership work with land managers.</p>
<p>env 09</p>	<p>Work with parish and town councils to promote the development and retention of parks and play areas across the district.</p>	<p>Primarily a responsibility outside the C&S Specialist role, but relevant to e.g. healthy lifestyles, green infrastructure, nature recovery, climate adaptation.</p>
<p>env 10</p>	<p>Support community activities that improve the environment</p>	<p>The C&S Specialist is working with groups, partnerships and at parish level to support activity.</p> <p>Met with Sustainable Tiverton; conversations with parish councillors and clerks; plans to meet others.</p>

env 10	CONT Support community activities that improve the environment	<p>The C&S Specialist will enable community groups to promote sustainability activities and resources on the new climate and sustainability website.</p> <p>The Housing team is giving plug-in electricity monitors to all of the Council's social housing tenants.</p>
Homes		
h01	Introduce zero carbon policies for new development.	<p>The C&S Specialist has worked with the Housing Strategy team to embed and respond to Council's aim for Net Zero and to help deliver on this corporate plan priority.</p> <p>The C&S Specialist is working with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this priority.</p> <p>Agreed to work with Forward Planning on an interim statement to support the Local Plan (climate and sustainability). Agreed to work with colleagues on e.g. sustainability strategy for Culm Garden Village.</p>
h02	Encourage the piloting of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and self-build opportunities.	<p>The C&S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to realise this priority.</p> <p>The Council's Building Services team are commissioning modular housing units with excellent SAP 'A' scores (Standard Assessment Procedure) with renewable energy installed to achieve Net Zero emissions.</p> <p>The Council is a supporter of the National Custom and Self Build Association and continues to invite proposals for custom and self-build projects.</p>
h03	Use new development as opportunities to help communities to become increasingly sustainable and self-sustaining at neighbourhood level (district heating, energy use, recycling / re-use systems etc.).	<p>The C&S Specialist will work with others e.g. Planning and Regeneration to help realise this.</p> <p>The C&S Specialist will work with others to realise opportunities based on exemplars.</p>

Economy		
ec 01	Promote zero carbon exemplar sites within commercial settings.	The C&S Specialist will work with others in the Property team and colleagues in Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
ec 02	Use car park pricing mechanism to effectively balance the needs of vehicular access with those of reducing car use.	This seems a natural next step after the 2021 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging units project.
ec 03	Promote the development of the farming economy and local food production.	Local sourcing and networks. (as above)
ec 04	Working in partnership with farmers to develop and grow markets on the principle of reducing carbon emissions and sustainability.	The C&S Specialist will work with others to seek funding, partnership work, and promote good practice exemplars. The Environment PDG March 2021 had a talk on sustainability in farming.
Community		
c 01	Work with developers and Devon County Council to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations.	The C&S Specialist will work with others in Planning and Regeneration to realise this.
c 02	Secure decent digital connectivity for all of Mid Devon.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.
c 03	Work with education providers to secure appropriate post-16 provision within the district to minimise the need to commute out for A/T level studies.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.
c 04	Promote new, more integrated approaches to promoting good health and healthier living especially in the context of planned new developments.	The C&S Specialist will encourage this via Planning and Regeneration teams.

Table 2 - Climate Strategy (CS) 2020-24 Key Priorities

	Key Priorities	Notes on actions taken
1	Increase climate knowledge, literacy and capacity at Mid Devon District Council.	Net Zero Advisory Group (NZAG) active. The C&S Specialist consulted NZAG on 15 April 2021 and will work with the learning and communications teams on a programme of learning and engagement.

2	Identify schemes that will put us on track for net zero carbon by 2030.	A timeline for reviewing and costing the Council's Climate Action Plan was submitted to Scrutiny Committee 15 March 2021. The Council has decided to procure greener electricity to reduce its climate impact.
3	Enable and encourage the use of renewable energy locally.	EV chargers. Solar PV scheme.
4	Create a 'Community Climate & Biodiversity Support Fund'.	The C&S Specialist will seek funding from internal and external sources. The NZAG has begun to consider how best to set up a grant.
5	Identify cycling and walking priorities and opportunities	TBC. The C&S Specialist will seek funding and partnership opportunities. Must link into Devon county level activities / plans.
6	Review and update MDDC Procurement strategies.	Topic raised at NZAG 15 April 2021; once the procurement post is filled, strategies can be discussed and implemented.

1.2. Monitoring the Council's Carbon Footprint.

- 1.2.1. The Council reports its 'Greenhouse Gas Inventory' or 'Carbon Footprint' which is an assessment of its climate change impact as an organisation, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). The tCO₂e is based on the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of different greenhouse gases over a 100-year period in comparison to carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- 1.2.2. Carbon Footprint assessments were carried out by the University of Exeter using internationally accepted methods, and cover Scopes 1, 2, and 3.
- 1.2.3. For the reporting period inclusive of April 2018 to March 2019: gross emissions were 20,372 tCO₂e. This was the 'baseline' year.
- 1.2.4. For the reporting period inclusive of April 2019 to March 2020: gross emissions were 19,754 tCO₂e and nett emissions were 19,439 tCO₂e.
- 1.2.5. Work for the reporting period April 2020 to March 2021 is in progress. Results will be reported as soon as available. (We are aware the 2019-2020 carbon footprint was 439 tonnes higher than the next 2020-2021 target of 19,000 tonnes or less - with at least 439 tonnes to cut.)
- 1.2.6. Net emissions are calculated based on reductions in greenhouse gas emissions linked to e.g. the generation of renewable energy. Net emissions will be estimated in retrospect for 2018-2019.

Table 3 - Mid Devon District Council - Carbon Footprint

Year	Gross (tCO₂e)	Net (tCO₂e)
Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	20,372	(TBC)
Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	19,754	19,439

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